



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... **AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES**

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

“Focusing on Africa, the Caribbean, South America, Latin America, Europe, and North America, African-American Studies is the multidisciplinary study of the literature, history, and culture of the African or Black Diaspora. It offers students a global perspective on issues faced by the individual communities that constitute the Diaspora. Upon successful completion of the degree, students are prepared to begin graduate studies, enter professional schools (e.g., law, business), or begin careers in the public or private sector” (*from African American Studies website*).

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required, and is excellent preparation for occupations that require excellent writing skills, competency in research, and strong interpersonal skills. However, depending upon the student's career interests, some occupations may require a graduate degree (master's, Ph.D., J.D.).

EMPLOYERS/INDUSTRIES & SUGGESTED STRATEGY:

Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Government: Historian – Public information coordinator – Public affairs – Census/survey work – Public program administrator for the National Endowment – Cultural affairs office – Regional/urban planner – Peace Corps volunteer – Public opinion pollster – Foreign Service Officer – Urban renewalist – City manager – Policy analyst advocate – Community development

Suggested Strategy: Maintain a high GPA and develop relationships with professors to prepare for graduate school applications, which may be required for advanced positions or competitive areas. Gain related experience working in a governmental agency in area of interest through internships, volunteer positions, or part-time work.

Education: K-12 teaching – College/university teaching – Counseling/advising – Admissions officer – Director of African-American Student Services – Librarian/archivist – Researcher – Curator – Missionary – Affirmative Action Officer

Suggested Strategy: As an undergraduate obtain internship or volunteer positions to gain related experience. State licensure will be required for K-12 teaching positions (consult the College of Education). For university student service or counseling positions, obtain a graduate degree in student affairs, college student personnel, counseling, or a related field. An advanced degree is also required for university-level teaching or research positions, or librarianships.

Business/Industry: Cross-cultural communication specialist – PR writer – Employment counselor – Sales representative – Banking associate – Foundation representative – Grants specialist – Consultant – Marketing assistant – Campaign planner – Management trainee – Human Resources director – Fundraising director – Creative director

Suggested Strategy: Get involved in campus organizations to develop leadership abilities and interpersonal skills. Gain related experience in area of interest through internships, research, volunteer, or part-time positions. Focus coursework on area of interest. A graduate degree may be required for entry into certain occupations, or for advancement (e.g., counseling).

Communications: Public opinion analyst – Researcher/technical advisor – Editor (for textbooks, newspapers) - Journalist

Suggested Strategy: As an undergraduate obtain internship or volunteer positions to gain related experience. Supplement coursework with classes in Communication & Journalism and English. Gain experience with campus media outlets.

Human Services: Public relations – Human resources – Youth counselor – Case worker – Social worker

Suggested Strategy: Gain relevant experience through internships, volunteer positions, or part-time work in your area of interest. Consider earning a second degree, minor, or pursuing additional coursework in a complementary field of study. Volunteer or intern with a social service agency. Positions in counseling or social work will require a graduate degree for entry into the profession.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:



<http://online.onetcenter.org>



<http://www.bls.gov/oco/>