

AFRICAN *and* AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

What drew me to AFR is that it is interdisciplinary, so I intended to get this foundation, find the field within AFR that resonates most with me (Psychology), and utilize that foundation to do research while serving populations in the African American community. The knowledge I gain in AFR would help me bring something new and important and incorporate it in the discipline I chose. - Morgan Guess, '21 (Major)

“Once I took the first class, I was hooked!” - Deajah Baskin, '21 (Minor)

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

Graduates receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in African and African American Studies (AFR). A minor is also available. The department's central mission is to offer students a deeper understanding of the intellectual, political, and cultural contributions of people of primarily African descent. The interdisciplinary approach of African and African American Studies provides students with the opportunities to engage in critical thinking across a spectrum of fields, including history, psychology, environmental and agricultural science, gender and sexuality studies, peace and social justice studies, transnational migration, political science, economics, health, media and technology, art, literature, music, theater, and other forms of expressive culture.

OPPORTUNITIES & INTERNSHIPS

- AFR majors have the opportunity assist in faculty-led research as well as conduct their own research using a variety of student grants. Independent research and outstanding capstone projects are honored at the end of each year.
- AFR students are granted internships that match a wide range of intellectual and career interests – from history to political science to the arts. Among other experiences, students have interned at the Lexington Neighborhood Youth Council, the home of Carter G. Woodson (operated by the National Parks Service), and the Heir Property Information Project supporting African American family land retention.

- AFR students also gain educational enrichment, professional development, and networking opportunities through conferences, learning excursions, study abroad, and other interactive experiences. Beyond exclusive encounters with speakers in AFR's Hieroglyph series students also get one-on-one career guidance from African & African American Studies graduates across multiple institutions. Other professional development and enrichment experiences include trips to the Making and Unmaking Mass Incarceration Symposium, the Carter G. Woodson Center's Civil Rights Tour, and participation in the Southwestern Black Leadership Conference.
- Berea College is a member school of the Shepard Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (SHECP). SHECP supports poverty studies through integrated internship programs. Berea AFR majors have completed SHECP internships sending them to regions around the country.

CAREERS & OUTCOMES

African and African American Studies graduates begin their careers or continue their education in a broad range of fields including:

- Public Health
- Business and Economics
- Education
- Faculty and Higher Education Administration
- Social Work
- Politics
- Law
- Psychology
- Art and Museum Practice
- Communications and Media Strategy



WHY IS A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION VALUABLE?

A liberal arts education at Berea College, combined with our work study program, equips students with highly employable skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Beyond offering a degree program, we help our students develop social responsibility and prepare them to successfully navigate diversity, change, and the complex demands of a modern work place.



80

percentage of employers who want colleges to emphasize critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and oral and written communication.

#1

Berea College's ranking as "Best Liberal Arts College" by Washington Monthly Magazine, 2018.

75

percentage of employers who believe successful college graduates should have both liberal arts training and experience in the field.

90

percentage of Berea students who credit liberal arts and work study for developing their communication, critical thinking, & problem-solving skills.



"People with a liberal arts education are able to think and view the world from several different perspectives . . . This ability to understand and adapt is very valuable in today's workplace."

Edward B. Rust Jr.
Chairman and CEO, State Farm Insurance Companies