Africana Studies exposes students to an intellectual appreciation of the life and culture of peoples of Africa and the worldwide African diaspora. The program expands students’ critical understanding of their own heritage in interaction with other cultures.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Africana Studies program engenders and cultivates in students an intellectual and interdisciplinary appreciation and study of the life and culture of people of Africa and the African diaspora, especially in the United States. Africana Studies at Lehigh University pays particular attention to the role of migration, slavery, identity, culture formation, politics, diaspora, gender, class, literature, and sexuality, among a host of other domains, in the critical and constructive study of black people, locally, globally and transnationally. The major and minor in Africana Studies constitute an interdepartmental and comparative program of study for undergraduates who wish to integrate the insights and methods of several disciplines to understand the history, culture, social, racial, economic and political experience of people of African descent globally. The Africana Studies curriculum encompasses two intended lines of inquiry: (1) the diverse influences in Africa that have shaped African cultures in the Americas, Europe, Asia and others; and (2) the variety of ways that the African American experience has shaped and been shaped by both African and American cultures.

**WHY AFRICANA STUDIES**

The trans-Atlantic slave trade has permanently shaped many aspects of life in Africa and in the societies where people of African descent have settled. Any attempt to understand globalization, modern capitalism and the histories of Africa, the Americas and the world must include study of the African diaspora.

At Lehigh, Africana Studies compliments and increases the relevance of the university’s curriculum through its sustained focus on and attention towards a culturally diverse world and society. In the best tradition of a liberal arts education, Africana Studies expands Lehigh students’ critical understanding of their own heritage in interaction with other identities and cultures. Students are offered robust opportunities to interact and work closely with a diverse, interdisciplinary, world-class and cutting-edge faculty who are committed to close mentorship and faculty/student engagement. Study abroad opportunities extend learning outside the classroom. More than 80 Lehigh students have benefited from Africana’s internationalization initiatives since 2014. Africana Studies at Lehigh University provides unique and hard-to-come-by research and programming opportunities that enable student interaction and participation with leading figures, worldwide, in the field today.

For more information on Africana Studies, go to [aas.cas2.lehigh.edu](aas.cas2.lehigh.edu).
CAREER OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFRICANA STUDIES GRADUATES

- History
- Law
- Education
- Business/Entrepreneurship
- Advanced Research
- Medical School
- Journalism/Communication
- Politics/Social Policy & Practice
- Public Humanities
- Archives/Museums
- Nonprofit

STRENGTH IN DIVERSITY

Our faculty are internationally renowned scholars, media experts, and practitioners from a wide diversity of disciplines. Across disciplines we offer strengths in:

- Pop Culture
- The Environment
- Media and Communication
- Documentary Film
- Public Humanities
- Social Justice Issues
- History and the African Diaspora
- Community Engagement
- Culture and Ideas
- Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

CONTACT

Interdisciplinary Programs
aas.cas2.lehigh.edu
incasip@lehigh.edu