



African American Studies Program

How does the experience of African American people inform one's understanding of contemporary societal interactions and conditions? Why is an interdisciplinary approach to knowledge, such as the African American Studies approach, fundamental to critical thinking? What African American voices, experiences, events, communities, policies, and cultural components are under-interrogated, yet essential for active and informed citizens of the world to understand?

African American (AFAM) Studies is interdisciplinary, with focal fields such as history, sociology, English studies, communication studies, political science, psychology, social theory, art, music, economics, education, and even natural sciences, such as environmental science with a social justice lens. In AFAM, students cultivate transdisciplinary skills, develop informed perspectives, and engage with their communities with the guidance of professors.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Students may get involved with the Race & Pedagogy Institute (RPI) through its Community Partners Forum or the Student Association for the Race & Pedagogy Institute (SARPI). RPI aims to educate students and teachers at all levels to think critically about race, to cultivate terms and practices for societal transformation, and to act to eliminate racism. The Community Partners Forum plans and executes strategic action on a range of issues surrounding race and pedagogy.

AFTER PUGET SOUND

Graduates may pursue further research or employment in fields such as K-12 or higher education, cultural arts, diversity leadership, social work, media, public administration, state and local government, civil service work, and community urban planning.

For more information on courses and major requirements, visit pugetsound.edu/afam or contact Margaret Birmingham at mbirmingham@pugetsound.edu.



SPOTLIGHT ON CURRICULUM

AFAM 101—Introduction to African American Studies

This course provides an examination of intellectual and creative productions, developments, and events that have come to be recognized as the discipline of African American Studies. Students investigate historical African American-based organizations within the Tacoma area, and begin the process of learning about everyday people, organizations, and leadership.



AFRICAN AMERICAN
STUDIES PROGRAM
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