



What can I do with a Major in... Pan-African Studies

What is Pan-African Studies at U of L?

The Department of Pan-African Studies (PAS) traces its origins to the campus unrest of the late 1960s. The first "Black Studies" courses were offered in Summer 1969 in response to the "demands" of African American students and their community allies. After hiring a small complement of faculty, the Department itself was established formally in 1973. Although many "Black Studies" programs soon disappeared, PAS survived as a small Department through the 1970s and 1980s due to the dedication of its faculty, students, and community supporters. In 1990-1991, then President Donald C. Swain approved a "Plan to Enhance the Department of Pan-African Studies" which enabled the Department to expand its faculty and strengthen its programs. Today, PAS is the only *Black Studies* Department in Kentucky with a comprehensive undergraduate curriculum, evolving graduate programs, and a strong commitment to research and service. As a result, an April 1997 external evaluation concluded that PAS ranked in the top 10 percent of "Black Studies" programs in the nation. The richness, breadth and depth of the multidisciplinary field of Pan-African Studies are reflected in the curriculum and programs of the Department. The PAS core curriculum focuses on Africa and the African Diaspora (i.e., persons of African ancestry in the United States, the Caribbean and Latin America). In addition, PAS offers field study and internship experiences, and special courses on research methods, race, gender, diversity and inter-cultural education.

Degrees in Pan-African Studies at U of L:

Bachelor of Arts

Bachelor of Science

And minor programs with concentrations in:

African American Studies

Race and Gender Studies (with the Department of Women's Studies)

Cultural Performance (with the Department of Theatre Arts)

The Master of Arts in Pan-African Studies

The Department of Pan-African Studies has developed a Master of Arts program to provide an opportunity for structured graduate study in the multi-disciplinary field of Pan-African Studies. Students will have the option of choosing between two concentrations:

African American Studies; or
African and Diaspora Studies



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These broad concentration areas reflect sub-disciplines within the larger field of Pan-African Studies and will enable students to focus more intensively on their particular area(s) of interest. Each will be offered with a thesis or examination option.

Graduate Certificate in Pan-African Studies

The graduate certificate in Pan-African Studies is open, potentially, to any student who has completed at a minimum a baccalaureate degree.

Occupational Overview

The department of Pan-African Studies (PAS) fosters the multidisciplinary study of the societies and cultures of Africa and persons of African ancestry past and present, throughout the world. To this end, PAS offers an extensive program of study, including undergraduate major and minor and, ultimately, graduate programs focusing on Africa and the Diaspora. This program of study seeks to:

1. give students a broad understanding of the history, societies and cultures of the African world;
2. equip students to apply Pan-African scholarship to the analysis of and engagement with contemporary social and cultural issues;
3. prepare students for the workforce or for graduate work in Pan-African Studies and/or related fields; and
4. add an inter-cultural dimension to other academic programs.

Ten faculty members hold full or joint appointments in the Department of Pan-African Studies with areas of specialization that include the art, religion, literature, popular culture, geography, health, history, anthropology, education, sociology and political science of the African world. As scholars, the faculty of the Department contributes to the creation of new knowledge and the development of new methodologies emerging from Pan-African experiences and formulations of meaning. The Department is committed to sharing this knowledge through teaching and research, and applying it through service in the local, state, regional, national and international communities. PAS aspires, as its ultimate goal, to become a Department of national and international distinction.

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.).

Career Opportunities in Pan-African Studies:

PAS majors have career options quite similar to those of students with baccalaureate



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degrees in the humanities and social sciences and a PAS minor often enhances the employability of students who major in other fields.

Increasingly, PAS majors are also finding career opportunities specific to the discipline itself. Such opportunities are most common in social, cultural and educational agencies/organizations, and in business and international affairs initiatives that concern people of color. Other PAS graduates choose to pursue graduate degrees. Programs in Education, Social Work, Law and the liberal arts, including advanced work in Black Studies, are the most common choices.

Employers/Industries and Success Strategies:

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.



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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.

Related Links in the Pan-African Studies Discipline:

PAS Research in the U of L Library

The Kentucky African American Heritage Commission

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center

JSTOR: Journal of Black Studies

The Black Scholar

Africana.com

Library of Congress Resources Guide for the Study of Black History and Culture

University of Louisville Resources:

University Honors Program

University of Louisville International Center

International Service Learning Project

Service Learning (UofL Campuslife)

Ideas for Volunteer/Internship/ Co-op

The mission of the Department emphasizes the historical and cultural kinship of persons of African ancestry throughout the world and, consequently, the faculty of PAS believe that direct exposure to the people and cultures of the larger African community is essential. While the Department does not make international travel a requirement for its majors, it does strongly encourage students to take advantage of such programs as are available and will assist students in identifying possible options. In keeping with this commitment, the Department has inaugurated the PAS Center for International Programs and students are advised to contact the center for information on international study.

PAS Students have benefitted from participating in the annual field study trips to the Caribbean through the International Service Learning program (which is found under the Division of Student Affairs.). Other students have taken advantage of the Department's new short term winter and summer term programs in South Africa on the African continent and Trinidad & Tobago in the Caribbean. Other options can be found in the Cooperative Center for Study Abroad and Kentucky Institute for International Study programs. Students can find out more about these programs by contacting the Director of the PAS Center for International Programs.



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<http://online.onetcenter.org>



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