

# BLACK STUDIES

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## Program Guidelines

The Black Studies Program invites students to investigate the Black experience as it manifests in Africa, North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, and other parts of the African diaspora. While the Program's primary focus is the study of the Black experience in North America, fundamental to this enterprise is a recognition of the triangular relationship between Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, and the United States.

The Program seeks to serve the general needs of the college by providing course offerings across the full range of academic divisions. At the same time, it is designed to meet the specialized interests of students through an interdisciplinary major and minor. Therefore, many appropriate courses are found under the rubric of other departments. Black Studies majors and minors are encouraged to complete some portion of their undergraduate education abroad; many off-campus study opportunities available through Denison are relevant to Black Studies and help majors and minors gain global perspectives and experiences.

Through our courses, we teach students to write using various disciplinary frameworks to place Black life, experiences, and culture at the center of their analyses or to interrogate societal dynamics that shape, and are shaped, by Black life and culture. To do this, our students' writing might include personal narratives, formal essays, or theoretical discourses. Our aim is to support students in selecting the mode of written expression and developing the tools to utilize those modes of expression in ways that reveal, articulate, and analyze Black life and culture and the relevant dynamics of society.

The Black Studies curriculum is administered by a faculty committee and the director of the Center for Black Studies. This committee reviews and approves the educational plans developed by majors in consultation with the director of the Center for Black Studies. Students wishing to major or minor in Black Studies should contact the director of the program.

## Mission Statement

Black Studies is an interdisciplinary program designed to investigate the varied experiences of persons of African descent globally. The Program draws on the expertise of faculty members in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, fine arts, and interdisciplinary programs rooted in the epistemologies, theories, and methods of Black intellectual, scholarly, and artistic traditions. The Program interrogates and advances knowledge-production within theoretical frameworks on race and racialized discourses, class, gender, sex, and sexuality, and the thematics of the geo-social and political location of Black lives and Black experiences. Majors are expected to engage a rigorous and broad approach to the discipline of Black Studies, aligned with the liberal arts philosophy of exploring practices fundamental to the development of a broadly educated person and the creation of a humane spirit.