RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES, B.A.

Begin Campus: Any Penn State Campus
End Campus: Abington

Program Description
The Race and Ethnic Studies major is an interdisciplinary liberal arts degree that prepares students to think critically about complex issues, become informed and engaged citizens, and thrive in the diverse workplaces of the 21st century. Students in the major complete several courses that will provide them with a comprehensive introduction to key concepts, theories, and debates that inform the study of race and ethnicity in the United States and beyond. In addition, they select supporting courses that are distributed equally across two areas, a Social Group Area and a Thematic Area. The Social Group Area includes courses that focus on major ethnic and racialized groups, while the Thematic Area includes courses drawn from three broadly defined fields, including History, Culture, and Society; Communication, Media, and the Arts; and Gender and Sexuality. This distribution enables students to focus on a particular social group and issue while ensuring that their studies have thematic and disciplinary breadth.

This interdisciplinary major provides students with excellent preparation for careers and graduate school in fields that include education, law, history, communications, government, sociology, psychology, social work, and business.

You Might Like This Program If...
- You are interested in examining race and ethnicity across disciplines
- You want to gain an understanding of race, racialization, and racial inequalities in the United States and beyond
- You would like to study the experiences of diverse people and communities from various perspectives
- You want to develop skills to lead and advocate for social change

Entrance to Major
In order to be eligible for entrance to this major, a student must:

1. attain at least a C (2.00) cumulative grade-point average for all courses taken at the University; and
2. have at least third-semester classification (https://www.registrar.psu.edu/enrollment/semester-classification.cfm).

READ SENATE POLICY 37-30: ENTRANCE TO AND CHANGES IN MAJOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/37-00-entrance-to-a-college-or-major/)

Degree Requirements
For the Bachelor of Arts degree in Race and Ethnic Studies, a minimum of 120 credits is required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>17-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements
Requirements for the Major 33:34

3 of the 24 credits for Bachelor of Arts Degree Requirements are included in the Requirements for the Major, General Education, or Electives and 0-12 credits are included in Electives if foreign language proficiency is demonstrated by examination.

Requirements for the Major
A grade of C or better is required for all courses in the major. To graduate, a student enrolled in the major must earn at least a C grade in each course designated by the major as a C-required course, as specified by Senate Policy 82-44 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#82-44).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Prescribed Courses: Require a grade of C or better
| AMST 432   | Ethnicity and the American Experience       | 3       |
| SOC 119N   | Race, Ethnicity and Culture                | 3-4     |
| SOC/CRIM/J/EDUC 205N | Critical Race Theory in the Humanities and Social Sciences | 3 |

Supporting Courses and Related Areas
Supporting Courses and Related Areas: Require a grade of C or better

In consultation with adviser, select 12 credits from departmental lists of approved courses in Social Group Area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Black Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Asian American Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Eastern/Arab American Studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Native American/Indigenous Studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish Studies</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In consultation with adviser, select 12 credits from departmental lists of approved courses in Thematic Area:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>History, Culture, and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications, Media, and the Arts</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Sexuality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Within each Area, no more than 9 credits may be in any single discipline.
2 Within each Area, no more than 9 credits may be from courses in any one of the listed topics/fields.

Additional Information:
- At least 12 credits from Supporting Courses and Related Areas must be at the 400-level.

General Education
Connecting career and curiosity, the General Education curriculum provides the opportunity for students to acquire transferable skills necessary to be successful in the future and to thrive while living in interconnected contexts. General Education aids students in developing intellectual curiosity, a strengthened ability to think, and a deeper sense of aesthetic appreciation. These are requirements for all baccalaureate students and are often partially incorporated into the requirements of a program. For additional information, see the General Education
University Degree Requirements

First Year Engagement
All students enrolled in a college or the Division of Undergraduate Studies at University Park, and the World Campus are required to take 1 to 3 credits of the First-Year Seminar, as specified by their college First-Year Engagement Plan.

Other Penn State colleges and campuses may require the First-Year Seminar; colleges and campuses that do not require a First-Year Seminar provide students with a first-year engagement experience.

First-year baccalaureate students entering Penn State should consult their academic adviser for these requirements.

Cultures Requirement
6 credits are required and may satisfy other requirements

• United States Cultures: 3 credits
• International Cultures: 3 credits

Writing Across the Curriculum
3 credits required from the college of graduation and likely prescribed as part of major requirements.

Total Minimum Credits
A minimum of 120 degree credits must be earned for a baccalaureate degree. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 credits. Students should consult with their college or department adviser for information on specific credit requirements.

Quality of Work
Candidates must complete the degree requirements for their major and earn at least a 2.00 grade-point average for all courses completed within their degree program.

Limitations on Source and Time for Credit Acquisition
The college dean or campus chancellor and program faculty may require up to 24 credits of course work in the major to be taken at the location or in the college or program where the degree is earned. Credit used toward degree programs may need to be earned from a particular source or within time constraints (see Senate Policy 83-80 (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/82-00-and-83-00-degree-requirements/#83-80)). For more information, check the Suggested Academic Plan for your intended program.

B.A. Degree Requirements

Foreign Language (0-12 credits): Student must attain 12th credit level of proficiency in one foreign language. See the Placement Policy for Penn State Foreign Language Courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-information/academic-information/advising-planning-degree-program/course-placements/placement-policy-world-language-courses/).

B.A. Fields (9 credits): Humanities, Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts, Foreign Languages, Natural Sciences, Quantification (may not be taken in the area of the student’s primary major; foreign language credits in this category must be in a second foreign language or beyond the 12th credit level of proficiency in the first language)

Other Cultures (0-3 credits): Select 3 credits from approved list. Students may count courses in this category in order to meet other major, minor, elective, or General Education requirements, except for the General Education US/IL requirement.

Academic Advising
The objectives of the university’s academic advising program are to help advisees identify and achieve their academic goals, to promote their intellectual discovery, and to encourage students to take advantage of both in-and out-of class educational opportunities in order that they become self-directed learners and decision makers.

Both advisers and advisees share responsibility for making the advising relationship succeed. By encouraging their advisees to become engaged in their education, to meet their educational goals, and to develop the habit of learning, advisers assume a significant educational role. The advisee’s unit of enrollment will provide each advisee with a primary academic adviser, the information needed to plan the chosen program of study, and referrals to other specialized resources.

READ SENATE POLICY 32-00: ADVISING POLICY (https://senate.psu.edu/policies-and-rules-for-undergraduate-students/32-00-advising-policy/)

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Suggested Academic Plan

The suggested academic plan(s) listed on this page are the plan(s) that are in effect during the 2023-24 academic year. To access previous years’ suggested academic plans, please visit the archive (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/) to view the appropriate Undergraduate Bulletin edition (Note: the archive only contains suggested academic plans beginning with the 2018-19 edition of the Undergraduate Bulletin).

Race and Ethnic Studies, B.A. at Abington Campus

The course series listed below provides only one of the many possible ways to move through this curriculum. The University may make changes in policies, procedures, educational offerings, and requirements at any time. This plan should be used in conjunction with your degree audit and the Undergraduate Bulletin edition (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/archive/1819) to view the appropriate University Requirements and General Education Notes:

- US and IL are abbreviations used to designate courses that satisfy Cultural Diversity Requirements (United States and International Cultures).
- W, M, X, and Y are the suffixes at the end of a course number used to designate courses that satisfy University Writing Across the Curriculum requirement.
- Bachelor of Arts Requirements:

  Bachelor of Arts students must take 9 credits in Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Fields (Humanities; Social and Behavioral Sciences; Arts; World Languages) and Integrative Studies (Inter-domain) requirements. N or Q (Honors) is the suffix at the end of a course number used to help identify an Inter-domain course, but the inter-domain attribute is used to fill audit requirements. Foundations courses (GWS and GQ) require a grade of ’C’ or better.

  Bachelor of Arts students must take 3 credits in Other Cultures. See your adviser and the full list of courses approved as Other Cultures courses (https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/course-lists/ba-other-cultures/).

  Advising Notes:

  - Global/Transnational requirement: At least 6 credits from Supporting Courses must be for courses that have a focus that is transnational or outside the United States.
  - Gender/Sexuality requirement: At least 3 credits from Supporting Courses must be for courses that have a focus on gender or sexuality.
  - A single course may not be used to meet both the Global/Transnational and Gender/Sexuality requirements.
  - 400-level requirement: At least 12 credits from Supporting Courses must be at the 400-level.

Career Paths

The Race and Ethnic Studies major is an interdisciplinary liberal arts degree that prepares students for careers in fields that include education,
communications, government, social work, community advocacy, and business. It serves as excellent preparation for graduate programs in areas such as law, history, psychology, sociology, social work, or business.

Professional Resources

- Association for Ethnic Studies (https://ethnicstudies.org/)

Contact

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https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/race-ethnic-studies (https://www.abington.psu.edu/academics/majors-at-abington/race-ethnic-studies/)