

The Black Studies Department offers a strong grounding in the African-American community's past and present. We study the unique cultures, collective experiences, and connections within the African Diaspora so that students gain a better understanding of American society and the world we live in. We are committed to promoting and encouraging scholarship that challenges multiple forms of oppression within the U.S. and globally. Black Studies at PC engages in activities that encourage students to critically think of knowledge production and to arm them with the necessary tools to critique such production, such as movie series, guest speakers, and an array of community activities.

B.A. Black Studies

Student pursuing a Black Studies major will be among a pioneering cohort of the first to graduate with this degree from Providence College. The program has two required courses, BLS 101: Introduction to Black Studies and BLS 480: Seminar in Black Studies. Students are also required to take eight additional Black Studies electives with at least two each in each of three areas of concentration, Culture, Language, Literature and the Arts; Historical Inquiry; and Social and Structural Analysis. These electives cover the history of Black peoples in Africa, the African Diaspora, including the U.S., the Black cultural expression of those peoples, and the social structures that have oppressed and/or represented a path to liberation of those in Black communities around the world.

Minor

Students in the program are required to take an Introduction to Black Studies course and five additional elective course from three thematic tracks: Culture, Literature, Language, and the Arts; Historical Inquiry; and Social and Structural Analysis.



Explore Courses
of Study
and More





ENGAGED LEARNING

The Black Studies department provides a variety of opportunities designed to support students' intellectual needs within and beyond the classroom.

Students also have the opportunity to have their voices heard by contributing to the college-sponsored Heritage Journal.

Black Studies students have participated in campus-wide events such as the Black Women and Girls Symposium and the student-driven African Community Colloquium, which takes up various issues related to the African Diasporic peoples as experienced in Rhode Island.



Fartun Abdulle

“I will always be grateful for minoring in Black Studies because I found the knowledge that I gained in race relations, the construction of race, and the history of the Black Diaspora useful throughout the course of my academic career. The faculty members in the Black Studies department are incredibly supportive and created a safe environment to become familiar with material that we were really learning for the first time.”

Fartun graduated from PC with a degree in Health Policy and Management and minors in Black Studies and Sociology. She went on to enroll in a graduate program at Boston College.

88%

of interdisciplinary program graduates are employed or attending graduate school

(Providence College classes of 2019 – 2023)

black-studies.providence.edu