

RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES, B.A.

Seven Penn State campuses are scheduled for closure after Spring 2027: DuBois, Fayette, New Kensington, Mont Alto, Shenango, Wilkes-Barre, and York. New students are not being admitted at these campuses.

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