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# Expand Your Horizons with American Ethnic Studies

Special to the Major Guide

You've chosen your major carefully and envision a career applying it. You're carefully picking your path through the UW, adding credits, knowledge and experiences to your resume. You're confident you're doing everything you can to secure your future.

Still, perhaps you wish you could be better prepared to work in a diverse, challenging work place. You want to be treated with respect, and think you're prepared to treat others with respect, too. You think knowing more would give you more confidence and improve your job opportunities.

For students who want insights and knowledge about understanding, navigating and succeeding in a world of cultural differences, consider majoring in American Ethnic Studies, or minoring in Diversity.

According to the website: "The Department of American Ethnic Studies is an innovative unit dedicated through the UW, adding to the critical study of race and ethnicity in relation to power. Our academic commitments are grounded in social justice values and practices that seek to eradicate systems of racism and other social, economic, environmental, and political inequalities."

It's the top program in the Pacific Northwest, and has started the process to offer a graduate degree. And great news for current students: you can get in. There's space for you.

Students who want to study the complicated intersectionality of race and ethnicity as it relates to power, can choose from one of four concentrations under the umbrella of American Ethnic Studies: Comparative

American Ethnic Studies, African American Studies, Asian American/Pacific Islander Studies, or Chicano/a Studies. The program also offers a minor in Diversity. Additionally, several AES courses can count for multiple areas of requirements like writing credit, diversity, arts and humanities, and social sciences.

For students interested in a double major, or even double degrees, the AES bachelor of Arts degree pairs well with all other degrees. It helps students understand culture and how it relates to society. And it supports working together to build a better world, whether that world is a single community, workplace, company or nation.

The AES degree leads to jobs across a wide spectrum of employers. UW graduates

with AES majors and minors have found employment at Amazon, Boeing, Nike, museums, universities and non-profits. The Department chair Dr. Rick Bonus has been with the department since 1999, joining just after graduate school. He recalls one recent student who wanted reassurance that her Diversity studies would be valued by prospective employers. He assured her that good employers are looking for candidates who can imagine and help build relationships among different groups, cultures, and societies. He's thrilled she found a good job working in Human Resources.

The department traces its roots to student protests more than 55 years ago, when the Black Student Union and its allies stormed administrative offices in Gerberding Hall,

demanding that students be allowed to study their history and culture. Ethnic studies programs were formed in response, then consolidated and evolved a couple decades later to combine and leverage resources.

Today, AES has more than 15 faculty members plus a wide range of guest lecturers, representing a broad spectrum of social disciplines and humanities programs at UW born out of student demand.

Spend some time on the AES website: <https://aes.washington.edu/>, then follow the links to read more about the program, the outstanding faculty and staff, and inspiring alumni.

## EARN YOUR UW DEGREE IN

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE BA

**THE ONLY UW DEGREE IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE IS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA.** Our innovative Criminal Justice major emphasizes social justice, diversity, community partnerships, systems thinking and skill development. A social justice lens is adopted, with a focus on harm reduction, rehabilitative and restorative approaches to crime and justice.

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE ONLINE BA

**THE ONLINE DEGREE FOLLOWS A COHORT, SEQUENCED MODEL.** All 65 credits required for the CJ major are completed online, alongside other online UW courses to help fulfill degree requirements.

### SOCIAL WELFARE BA

**AN EXCELLENT UW OPTION\* FOR SOUTH PUGET SOUND STUDENTS** UW Tacoma's strength is its commitment to the community. Our faculty conduct collaborative research with community partners and students complete field education placements in local agencies and organizations.

\* The BA in Social Welfare at University of Washington Tacoma is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education as a program option of the University of Washington Seattle School of Social Work.

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