This global, local and multidisciplinary program is your voyage into the unknown, ill-conceived and dynamic world of the peoples and landscapes of African descent.

As a student in the Africana studies, you and your faculty will be actively engaged with local community organizations or residents. You will gain practical experience in helping communities solve problems by applying knowledge gained in the classroom.

Program Overview
• Minor
The Africana studies program is the examination of and critical reflection about the experiences, history and civilizations, intellectual and economic development, social organization and cultures of the peoples of Africa on the continent and in the Diaspora. Multidisciplinary and global in nature, Africana studies provides you with access to Afrocentric and other cultural studies perspectives that inform research and teaching about African and Diasporan peoples. You will have the chance to explore a wide range of African and African-American texts and gain an appreciation for the development and awakening of peoples throughout the Diaspora.

Program Highlights
While the program offers a minor, you may take any AFST courses. Perhaps, the greatest benefit involves an understanding of the peoples of African descent: their past, present, and hopes and dreams for the future.

Africana gesticulates Stetson University’s mission to tackle complex global and local challenges in innovative ways. An inquiry into the peoples and landscapes of Africans and those in the diaspora necessarily leads to an investigation into one’s own society and landscape; it leads inevitably to personal growth, intellectual development and global citizenship.

Career Significance
Recent students have gone on to complete their Ph.D.’s in such areas as comparative politics and have gone to schools internationally, including:
• American University
• University of Westminster
• University of Florida

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Faculty
Our Africana studies program faculty is primarily focused on teaching and the success of their students. The program has three members who are Fulbright Scholar Grant recipients, one member of the National Council for Black Studies Board of Trustees, one former executive committee member of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium and one member who received the Stetson University Hand Award for Scholarly Achievement and the Stetson University Hand Award for Community Impact.

Ranjini Thaver, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame
William Nylen, Ph.D., Columbia University
Patrick Coggins, Ed.S., University of Connecticut
Shawnrece Campbell, Ph.D., Kent State University
Peter Smucker, Ph.D., University of Chicago
Shahram Amiri, Ed.D., College of William and Mary
Margaret Venzke, Ph.D., Columbia University

Success Stories
Vanessa Petion ‘18
Vanessa graduated from Stetson University with a B.A., cum laude, in communication and media studies, with minors in management and Africana studies.

“T really enjoyed my minor in Africana studies and found that it helped me incredibly with my on-campus activities at Stetson. I will currently be using my knowledge that I acquired from the minor towards my master’s degree in strategic communication with a concentration in social advocacy at American University. I will be pursuing an AmeriCorps position as a community liaison for a Title I DC elementary school. As a woman of color, I believed that my perspective could not be anymore broadened, but this minor connected very well with my major and provided me with interesting insight that I had not yet thought of.”

Emily Madison ‘18
Emily graduated from Stetson University with a B.A., cum laude, in history, with minors in Spanish and Africana studies.

“I’m very pleased to say that in September, I’ll be moving to London, England, to study at the University of Westminster! I’ll be working towards my master’s degree in museums, galleries and contemporary art curation and studies. While there, I’ll be studying and working at a number of museums across London. My internship at the African American Museum of the Arts of DeLand with my Africana studies minor was actually what helped me decide on this path!”

Sarah Hollman ‘18
Sarah graduated from Stetson University with a B.A., magna cum laude, in political science, with minors in gender studies, Africana studies and anthropology.

“I will be pursuing a Ph.D. in comparative politics with a Grinter Fellowship at the University of Florida. My AFST minor was integral in informing my comparative perspective.”