WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... AFRICANA STUDIES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
The UNM Africana Studies Program (2013) describes the program as, “an interdisciplinary approach to uncover and examine the historical, political and cultural experiences of peoples of Africa and of African descent in the American Southwest, and across the globe! We are committed to encouraging students of all races and ethnicities to think critically about the function of race within individuals, institutions and societies and simultaneously facilitate heightened awareness of issues surrounding social justice and community/service.” Employers in many industries, including business, education, and government, seek out graduates with the multicultural understanding and skills developed in an Africana Studies program. The UNM Africana Studies program also highlights that Africana Studies students tend to have a better understanding of what they want to accomplish with graduate studies.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required and is excellent preparation for occupations that require excellent writing skills, analytical skills, and interpersonal skills. Some industries, such as counseling or social work, require a graduate degree for entry into the profession. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for this career.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The UNM Africana Studies Program offers a Bachelor’s of Arts in Africana Studies as well as an Undergraduate Minor. You can find further information on the UNM Africana Studies’ website.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Government
- Public affairs, cultural affairs, city manager, foreign service officer, census work or surveying, public opinion pollster, policy analyst, regional/urban planner, community development, AmeriCorps or Peace Corps volunteer

Education/Student Affairs
- K-12 teaching/administration, college preparation, counseling/advising, adult/GED education, missionary, University/college teaching/administration, research, advising/counseling, multicultural affairs, residence life, Greek affairs, student activities, admissions officer, affirmative action officer, librarian, archivist, curator

Business/Industry
- Multicultural communication specialist, public relations, employment counselor, management, human resources, training and development, sales representative, advertising, consulting, marketing, entrepreneur, customer service, non-profit director, grants specialist, foundation representative, fundraising director, campaign planner

Communications
- Public opinion analyst, research/technical advisor, public relations, editor, publishing, writing, journalism

Human Services
- Public relations, human resources, community organizer, case worker, social worker, counselor, mental health services, rehabilitation

Public Health
- Health education/counseling, research, occupational health and safety, community health workers, nurse, physician, physician assistant

Law/Politics
- Law, lobbying, government relations, public policy, research, immigration services, Campaign management, elected/appointed civil servants

Performing/Creative Arts
- Artist management, teacher, marketing, musician, performer, playwright
SUGGESTED STRATEGIES:

- Consider specializing your skill set through a double major or minor in another area.
- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Shadow professionals in your field of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. One related student organization is African Studies Leadership Opportunity Team (ALOT). Find more organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
- Attend career-related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and/or career workshops.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

UNM Africana Studies  
National Association of African American Studies  
Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society  
African American Resources  
Black Collegian Online  
Idealist.org  
National Urban League  
http://africanastudies.unm.edu/  
http://www.naaas.org/  
http://www.aahgs.org/  
http://www.aawc.com/aar.html  
http://www.black-collegian.com/  
http://www.idealist.org/  
http://www.nul.org/  
http://onetonline.org  
http://www.bls.gov/  

REFERENCES