Emmie Mediate ’15
Africana Studies major
Rhodes Scholar
Master’s degree candidate, University of Oxford
“I wanted to find a program that covered different narratives about Africa and how they reconcile with one another. In Africana Studies, we explored the history, sociology, and culture of the continent, all informed by research.
“My senior thesis combined my experience in Africana Studies and Pre-Health by looking at HIV/AIDS interventions in Africa. I went to Uganda to do field research, speaking with health officials, individuals working in aid organizations, and beneficiaries.
“I couldn’t have done the same research at any other university. The opportunities that are available and the support of departments like Africana Studies provided the funding and guidance I needed to complete my thesis project. With every research project I undertook, I was able to find a professor who was willing to sit down, talk about my idea, read several drafts of proposals, and help me through the process. That’s really special.”

Lauren Pate ’16
Africana Studies major
Paralegal specialist, Department of Justice Antitrust Division
“I chose to major in Africana Studies because it was a great way to learn and read more about a community that has such an impact on the world but is not studied to the extent it should be. I wanted to learn how to talk about the different issues people throughout the African diaspora face in the world today and how to effect change in my community.
“An Africana Studies is a variety of Arts and Letters majors combined into one — art, history, sociology, political science, literature. If you enjoy learning about how lots of different elements come together, Africana Studies is for you. Every class I took outside of Africana Studies related back to my major in some way.
“In Africana Studies, we were required to be on top of the news and give our opinions about relevant issues in class. Now, working for the government, our attorneys are constantly talking about similar issues, and I feel confident coming into the office and being able to discuss the latest DOJ investigation or White House correspondence. I hope to go to law school soon, and that experience will be even more relevant there.
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“ONE cannot understand modern society without studying the effect Africana people, past and present, have on the world. In Africana Studies, you learn how to identify and challenge unfair elements in society and work to make it more equitable for all.”

55% find full-time jobs
Audit assistant, Deloitte
Business sales leadership development program, AT&T
Fellow, New York City government
Program associate, Results for Development Institute
Researcher, CBS
Research associate, Reilly Partners
Revenue cycle specialist, Ahead

11% enter service programs
Center for the Homeless
Peace Corps

4% launch independent projects
Source: Notre Dame Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Research reports, 2013-2016

Study Africana Studies. Do anything.

Curriculum requirements
**Africana Studies major**
Introduction to Africana Studies
1. Africana Studies course each related to the social sciences, fine arts or literature, and history
4 upper-division electives
Senior thesis or internship

**Africana Studies supplementary major**
Introduction to Africana Studies
1. Africana Studies course each related to the social sciences, fine arts or literature, and history
4 upper-division electives

Study everything. Do anything.

Department of Africana Studies
574-631-5628 africana.nd.edu

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Maria McKenna mmckenn9@nd.edu