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.
“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.
“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.”

Study everything. Do anything.

Department of Africana Studies
327 O’Shaughnessy Hall
africana.nd.edu
574-631-5628

Director of Undergraduate Studies
Maria McKenna
mmckenn9@nd.edu

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
2-course senior thesis or
internship sequence

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 Africana Studies. Do anything.

of recent Notre Dame Africana Studies majors and minors
started full-time jobs, enrolled in graduate schools, entered
service programs, or launched independent projects within
six months of graduation.

Curriculum requirements
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Africana Studies supplementary major
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Source: Notre Dame Office of
Strategic Planning and Institutional
Research reports, 2013-2016