ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT
Graduates receive a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in African and African American Studies (AFR). A minor is also available. The department’s central mission is to offer students a deeper understanding of the cultural contributions and legacies of peoples of primarily African descent. Students take a multidisciplinary approach to their degree through disciplines of history, literature, music, psychology, women’s studies, sociology, economics, religion, and political science. This major is often paired with minors in history, political science, communications, peace and social justice, women and gender studies, and child and family studies.

OPPORTUNITIES & INTERNSHIPS
• AFR majors have the opportunity to conduct research with student grants and assist in faculty led research. Students currently collect the Oral History of African Americans associated with the Lincoln Institute and Lincoln Foundation.
• The Blount County Black History Project is a major research endeavor where students collect and study oral history of African Americans from Blount, Co. Tennessee that played a major role in the community during the integration of schools in 1969.
• AFR students have interned with the National Park Service at the home of Carter G. Woodson, the great African American scholar who graduated from Berea College in 1903. In February 1926, he launched the celebration of “Negro History Week”, the precursor to the modern Black History Month.
• Berea College is a member school of the Shepard Higher Education Consortium on Poverty (SHECP). SHECP supports poverty studies through integrated internship programs. Berea AFR majors have completed SHECP internships sending them to regions around the country.

CAREERS & OUTCOMES
African and African American Studies graduates begin their careers or continue their education in a broad range of fields including:
• Public Health
• Business and Economics
• Secondary Education
• Higher Education Administration
• Social Work
• Politics
• Law
• Psychology
WHY IS A LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION VALUABLE?

A liberal arts education at Berea College, combined with our work study program, equips students with highly employable skills like communication, problem-solving, and teamwork. Beyond offering a degree program, we help our students develop social responsibility and prepare them to successfully navigate diversity, change, and the complex demands of a modern workplace.

80
percentage of employers who want colleges to emphasize critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and oral and written communication.

#1

75
percentage of employers who believe successful college graduates should have both liberal arts training and experience in the field.

90
percentage of Berea students who credit liberal arts and work study for developing their communication, critical thinking, & problem-solving skills.

“People with a liberal arts education are able to think and view the world from several different perspectives . . . This ability to understand and adapt is very valuable in today’s workplace.”

Edward B. Rust Jr.
Chairman and CEO, State Farm Insurance Companies