

**ACCELERATED INTEGRATED UNDERGRADUATE/GRADUATE PROGRAM (IUG)
B.A. IN AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES –
MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY (MPP) DEGREE**

What is the IUG?

The IUG provides an opportunity for academically strong students to complete a bachelor of arts degree in African American Studies and a master's degree in Public Policy in approximately five years of study.

How does the IUG prepare students for the job market?

The IUG curriculum provides students the opportunity to integrate strong critical thinking skills, in-depth substantive knowledge in the student's policy specialization, and state-of-the-art public policy knowledge that will place them at a competitive advantage for jobs and additional graduate-level study.

Does the IUG increase earning potential for graduates?

Employers highly value a Master of Public Policy degree. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, MPP graduates earn an average of \$19,000 more than their counterparts with bachelor's degrees. Prodigy Finance reports that MPP grads can expect a 31 percent increase in salary.

What is the admissions process?

Applicants should generally have a minimum overall GPA of 3.2 at the time of application. Admission to the IUG is based on good progress in the student's undergraduate studies, faculty recommendations from the Department of African American Studies, GPA, and a two-page statement of purpose. Students must also apply to, and be accepted into, the Graduate School at Penn State. Internal IUG students are **NOT** required to take the GRE.

ACCELERATED IUG AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES B.A. MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY (MPP) DEGREE OPTION

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Government
- Think tanks
- Consulting firms
- Nonprofits
- Lobbying firms
- Private-sector organizations

PROGRAM SPECIALIZATIONS

- Criminal Justice
- Data Science/Analytics
- Education Policy
- Environmental Policy
- Gender Equity and Policy
- Health Policy
- Information Technology
- International Public Policy
- Labor and Employment Relations
- Racial Justice and Equity
- Social Policy

*Option to design a specialization
with Penn State faculty*

COMPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS

The substantive knowledge and analytic abilities that students acquire as African American Studies undergraduates will complement the more advanced understanding of policy design, implementation and evaluation, and technical analytic skills, obtained in the MPP program.

A DEGREE FOR THE JOB MARKET

African American Studies students understand how racial and social inequities are sustained by historical legacies and systems that repeat patterns of exclusion. The MPP IUG helps students apply the knowledge and skills they gain from their undergraduate degree to identify, analyze, and implement policy change to drive larger systemic impact. The MPP program will help students translate the knowledge and skills into secure jobs with good incomes.

CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

- All major requirements for the undergraduate B.A. degree in African American Studies.
- MPP coursework (43 credits).
- Four courses during the fourth year of study will count for both the African American Studies B.A. and MPP degrees.

CURRICULUM

- Required courses in public policy substance, methods, and analysis.
- Students may complete their elective specialization with policy-relevant courses in African American Studies.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Email publicpolicy@psu.edu or visit our website, publicpolicy.psu.edu/undergraduate, to learn more about our IUG programs.

YOUR
UNDERGRAD
CREDITS WILL
COUNT
TOWARD YOUR
MPP DEGREE!

