

**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE, ARTS, AND HUMANITIES**  
**REQUESTING TO OFFER A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM**  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS**  
**IN**  
**PAN AFRICAN STUDIES**

Submitted to the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education  
May 1, 2012

  
James F. Barker, FAIA  
President  
Clemson University

Program contact:

Dr. Abel A. Bartley  
Department of History  
[abartley@clermson.edu](mailto:abartley@clermson.edu)  
864-656-5373

University Contact:

Dr. Debra B. Jackson  
Vice Provost  
Clemson University  
[dbj@clermson.edu](mailto:dbj@clermson.edu)  
864-656-4592

## Bachelor of Arts in Pan African Studies

Academic Unit: College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities

Name of Program: Pan African Studies with concentrations in education, history, sociology, political science, language, and literature

Name of Degree: Bachelor of Arts

CIP Code: 500201

Implementation Date: August 2013

Number of Credit Hours: 120

Program Length: 4 years

STEM Applicability: No

Site: Clemson University campus

**Contact Person:** Dr. Abel A. Bartley, [abartley@clemson.edu](mailto:abartley@clemson.edu), 864-656-5373, Department of History, CAAH.

### **Justification of need for proposed program:**

The Pan African Studies Program provides a framework to encourage intellectual discourse on the African and African American experience. Utilizing a multidisciplinary approach, Pan African Studies grounds students in the histories, cultures, and traditions of Africans and how they impacted the various regions where they came to reside since the sixteenth century. The program will offer a broad spectrum of courses, such as history, theater, sociology, nursing, and political science, which will help students shape their major to fit their particular future interest. More so than African American Studies, Pan African Studies helps students gain an awareness of the lifestyles of Africans and African Americans, while preparing them to meet the challenges of an increasingly diverse world in which people of African descent play a major role. We want to enhance our students' ability to think critically about African and African American issues, develop a sense of responsibility, and become agents in promoting economic and cultural ties throughout their various communities. Using models already developed by international companies like Michelin, BMW, and Fluor Daniel, students will learn to integrate their skills with the world marketplace.

As South Carolina integrates into the global economy, the demand for students trained to work in culturally diverse environments will increase. Through Pan African Studies, Clemson University can provide students and scholars with new and innovative ways to study the African Diaspora and the ways Africans have influenced areas where they have lived. Africans have affected the history, culture, and society of the western hemisphere like no other group. For those wishing to enter the business world, Pan African Studies provides a general understanding of the economic impact of African descendants in various world regions. For those wishing to become educators, a multicultural education will have obvious benefits as our nation continues to diversify.

Many students who have graduated from African American Studies programs have gone on to successful careers: Mae Jemison was the first African American woman in space; Angela Bassett is a world renowned actress; and Grant Hill is an acclaimed athlete and philanthropist. All of these figures and many more like them have used their African American Studies degrees to make their marks on the world.

The curriculum being developed will make use of the campus' unique blend of faculty with global interests and connections in addition to those with local interests. Above all, the major will provide students with critical thinking and writing skills developed as they progress through their coursework in comparative, cross-cultural studies. Students can go on to a variety of careers, in private industry, in public service, equipped with skills that will enable them to deal with diverse populations. Students can pair the Pan African Studies major with a carefully chosen minor or even a second major, as well as a choice of a modern language, that will yield professional, historical, cultural, and linguistic tools.

**Anticipated program demand and productivity:**

The existing minor accommodates about ten students from diverse majors. The number of course offerings has remained steady across five departments. We anticipate that a full Pan African Studies major will attract at least ten new students initially. This number will grow as the program is advertised in recruitment materials, once formally approved.

Temple University's student brochure does an excellent job of addressing the question of, "What can students do with a PAS degree?" Included below is a section from the university's brochure.

*"7. What can one do with a major in African- American Studies?"*

Like Temple Owls, Temple's AAS majors are *everywhere!* The cultural and socio-historical focus of the curriculum makes our majors prime candidates for positions in teaching, social research, social work, law, law enforcement, civic service, municipal and federal government, and cultural-historical societies. As with any major, strong communication and technical skills are major assets. Of course, some AAS majors opt to attend graduate and professional schools, and so Temple's AAS majors are now represented among attorneys, businesspersons, counselors, educators, engineers, pharmacists, physicians, program administrators, psychologists, social researchers, social workers/administrators and many other professions. See the online DAAS Undergraduate Handbook for suggestions for making the most of the AAS major and of your college career in general. <http://www.temple.edu/aas/ug/what.htm>"

**Assessment of program duplication:**

At present, the University of South Carolina has an African American Studies program which has a forty-one year track record of scholarly success. Working through a series of directors, they have established themselves as an integral part of the university's academic structure. In recent years they have expanded their program and increased the number of faculty to eleven while also increasing support staff. Though they also offer courses on Africa and the African experience, they are nevertheless overly committed to African Americans and their experience. A proposal has also been put forth recently by the College of Charleston for an African American Studies program.

Clemson proposes a broader curriculum that will include traditional African American history and culture, as well as Africans in Latin America, the Caribbean, and other regions of the

world. By understanding all of the regions where Africans have impacted the world, our students will have a much broader sense of what role Africans have played in shaping the history and culture of the western hemisphere.

Students will learn of very different experiences of Africans, in and out of slavery, in different linguistic and religious communities, in differing economic circumstances. With the extraordinary recent economic growth in Brazil, coupled with the increasing significance of the Caribbean, and the enduring role of Africa as a worldwide source of raw materials and consequent economic and political problems, students who can connect their knowledge to those cultures will have an advantage. They will understand how they can combine their coursework in Pan African Studies with their knowledge in computer science, education, engineering, theater, architecture, literature or whatever they are studying to make themselves a much more valuable citizen and potential employee.

**Relationship of proposed program to existing programs at Clemson:**

Academic departments have pursued teaching and research in areas of Pan African Studies and Diasporic matters for years. Their collaboration has made the existing minor possible, and all are eager to increase their course offerings. Pan African Studies faculty will also collaborate with others in departments involved in offering a Global Studies program. In addition, Clemson's program of directed undergraduate research, known as Creative Inquiry, provides a platform for projects that can be local, regional, or global in their approach, encompassing everything from oral history interviews with local figures to comparative international research.

At Clemson University, the primary focus of our investigation into Africans is centered in history, culture, language, politics, religion, music, education, dance, and economic development. Clemson currently has twenty-eight (28) courses that will be incorporated into a Pan-African Studies major (see suggested curriculum outline below). We also currently have 17 professors who teach courses that would be part of a Pan-African Studies curriculum. Though many of these courses are currently being taught by professors housed in the College of AAH, there are also courses taught in Education, Political Science, Agriculture, and Sociology.

**Relationship of proposed program to other institutions via inter-institutional cooperation:**

At this time, Clemson has not approached other institutions regarding collaborations. However, we are open to working with other institutions and, where appropriate, developing articulation agreements that serve the students of South Carolina. Where possible, sharing faculty resources through on line course delivery would reduce costs and broaden course offerings.

**Total new costs associated with implementing proposed program:**

An administrative assistant, possibly shared with the Global Studies program, will eventually be necessary as both programs grow. (At the moment the administrative staff of the history department provides support for the minor.) There is sufficient operating budget, though a library budget will be needed to augment the existing resources. A full-time faculty member will be needed to co-ordinate and cover additional world areas as well as to advise students.

- Existing Reallocation of expenses: \$28,000 (program coordinator and administrative support; 25% of two positions)
- New faculty position: \$60,000 (shared with Global Studies)
- Operational expenses: \$7,000