

# ETHNIC STUDIES

## UNDERGRADUATE FACT SHEET

The Ethnic Studies Institute, established in 1975, is a University-wide academic and cultural initiative to promote the appreciation of peoples and their diversity. The Ethnic Studies Institute oversees a minor in ethnic studies that is interdisciplinary in nature, drawing on faculty and resources of many disciplines, including anthropology, education, English, history, philosophy, political science, public administration, religious studies, social work, and sociology.

The goals of the program are to enhance appreciation and understanding of ethnic diversity through ethnic studies courses, research, scholarly conferences, and cultural endeavors.

### Career Opportunities

West Chester University's 18-credit-hour minor in ethnic studies will prepare students to work with minority, diaspora, and transnational groups. The ethnic studies minor provides an avenue for students to gain knowledge, skills, and perspectives that are fundamental to civic participation, employability, and life. Critically examining the richness of America's historical and contemporary ethnic heritages offers an understanding of minority groups' experiences, in particular, and of social diversity, in general. This inquiry is well suited for working in the reality of our present global workforce. Our graduates do well in a host of diverse careers, such as policy analysis, counseling, social services, law and government, journalism, marketing, community and housing development, radio and television, health and medicine, and teaching.

Graduates of the program have gone on to advanced degree programs at Bryn Mawr College, Marywood College, Temple University, Indiana University, the University of Michigan, and the University of Pennsylvania. Others have attended law school at Dickinson College, Rutgers University, Temple University, Villanova University, and William and Mary.

### Ethnic Studies Minor and Its Concentrations

The following are concentrations within the ethnic studies minor. Ethnic Studies Institute's steering members, who are faculty from a range of departments, have

oversight of these areas. A full list of faculty appears in the Undergraduate Catalog (see link below).

African American  
Jewish-American  
Asian-American  
Native-American  
Hispanic and Latino

Students who wish to participate in the ethnic studies program should register for the minor with the Ethnic Studies Institute. The program includes 18 semester hours of ethnic studies courses, including a core course in ethnic studies and five courses in a concentration of your interest.

### Typical Courses

African American History  
American Indians  
Ethnic Cultures in America  
Ethnic Cultures Workshop  
Global Perspectives  
The Holocaust  
Intercultural Communication  
Introduction to the Islamic World  
Introduction to World Literature  
The Jew in History  
Language and Culture of Puerto Rico  
Modern China  
Modern India  
Philosophies and Religions of India  
Philosophies and Religions of the Far East  
Race Relations

### Special Study Opportunities

A minor in ethnic studies will allow you to work on oral histories projects and participate in the planning of scholarly conferences and special programs. In conjunction with the Department of Anthropology, you will have the opportunity to attend seminars and work on archaeological excavations. In conjunction with the Department of Languages and Cultures, you can receive individual instruction in a number of languages. Several departments offer internships that have an ethnic component. In addition, the University offers opportunities to study abroad.

*Learn More*

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## Related Student Activities

Asian American Association  
Black Student Union  
Hillel Jewish Student Union  
Indo-American Association  
International Student Association  
Latin American Students Organization  
Clubs for anthropology, international languages, history, political science, social work, and sociology

## How to Register

Students who wish to declare an ethnic studies minor should register by filling out the undergraduate studies application for the program. Please make sure that you include Q-049 in the space for “Minor Plan”, get the necessary signatures, and submit the completed form to the Office of the Registrar.

## Ethnic Studies Program Website

Students seeking further information and up-to-dates, should check the following:

Ethnic Studies website: [http://www.wcupa.edu/\\_academics/sch\\_cas/eth\\_stu/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_academics/sch_cas/eth_stu/)

Undergraduate Catalog: [http://www.wcupa.edu/\\_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/](http://www.wcupa.edu/_information/official.documents/undergrad.catalog/)

## For More Information

Dr. Bonita Freeman-Witthoft, Director, Ethnic Studies Institute  
Department of Anthropology  
West Chester University  
Old Library 201  
West Chester, PA 19383  
610-436-2725

Dr. Frank J. Hoffman, Associate Director, Ethnic Studies Institute  
Department of Philosophy  
West Chester University  
Anderson Hall 108 E  
West Chester, PA 19383  
610-436-2361

## About West Chester University

A comprehensive, public institution, West Chester University offers high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs in more than 100 subject areas, as well as certification and certificate programs. As one of the largest members of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education, West Chester offers a full and rewarding educational experience as well as reasonable tuition.

With a rich heritage dating back to the 19th century, West Chester University was founded in 1871 as West Chester Normal School for the purpose of training teachers for the Commonwealth's newly established public schools. In 1960, West Chester State Teachers College expanded its programs to include liberal arts and graduate degrees and, as a result, dropped “Teachers” from its name. In 1983, West Chester State College became one of the 14 institutions in the State System of Higher Education. Along with its university status, the school acquired a new system of governance and the opportunity to expand its degree programs.

Today, more than 15,400 graduate and undergraduate students, along with 1,500 faculty and staff, study and work on the 406-acre campus. Situated in the Borough of West Chester, the campus is a picturesque mix of Gothic, Victorian, and modern architecture with pleasant, tree-shaded walks.

Strategically located at the center of the mid-Atlantic corridor between New York City and Washington, D.C., West Chester is just 25 miles west of Philadelphia and 17 miles north of Wilmington.

## Information on Admission

### Office of Admissions

Emil H. Messikomer Hall, 100 West Rosedale Ave.  
West Chester University, West Chester, PA 19383  
610-436-3411 • Toll-free: 1-877-315-2165

E-mail: [ugadmiss@wcupa.edu](mailto:ugadmiss@wcupa.edu)

WCU home page: [www.wcupa.edu](http://www.wcupa.edu)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wcupa](http://www.facebook.com/wcupa)

