
BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION

CLEVELAND STATE UNIVERSITY Bachelor of Arts in Black Studies

RECOMMENDATION

This program meets the Chancellor's minimum standards for baccalaureate degrees. There were no concerns identified in the review. Approval is recommended.

Request: Cleveland State University requests approval for a Bachelor of Arts in Black Studies.

Purpose: The proposed Bachelor of Arts in Black Studies is an interdisciplinary program drawing from programs in urban studies, social work, business, health sciences, education, liberal arts and social sciences. The program will be administered by a program director in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Cleveland State University has had an undergraduate minor in Black Studies since 1995.

Programs and departments of Black Studies (also known as African Studies, African American Studies, and Pan-African Studies) have increased during recent decades. Nearly every public and many private institutions in Ohio offer degrees or concentrations in Black Studies. Black Studies comprise the study of the history, lifestyle, arts, culture, geography, and experiences of African people and peoples of African descent on the African continent and throughout the African Diaspora.

The National Council for Black Studies (NCBS) has noted that Black Studies graduates are employed in a variety of careers. Examples include writers/actors/editors, government service personnel, legal professionals, historians, museum curators, political consultants, researchers, social workers, teachers/professors, and entrepreneurs. The program will also prepare graduates to pursue advanced degrees leading to positions in Black Studies programs in order to sustain and increase scholarship and teaching in the field.

Enrollments: Cleveland State University anticipates an enrollment of twenty new students per year.

Curriculum: The proposed Black Studies program is designed to achieve the following educational objectives:

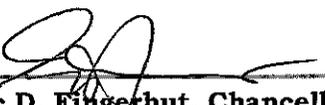
- To introduce and orient students to the Black/African Diaspora experience in its historical and current context, including social, economic, political and religious dimensions of the experience;
- To develop students' critical thinking skills;

- To develop students' understanding and their application of research skills; and
- To prepare students for advanced education at the professional and graduate levels.

Students complete 44 core semester hours, including two senior capstone seminars and a senior capstone project (e.g., research project, travel abroad, thesis paper). Students may also complete additional coursework to concentrate and specialize in one of three specific geographic areas of the Diaspora (African American, Caribbean/Latin American, African/Asian).

Resource/Faculty Needs: The proposed program has strong institutional support. No additional resources are required to support the program. Faculty comprise existing Cleveland State University faculty. Part-time faculty will be used to teach specialized courses, as needed in the program.

End of Comment Period: September 13, 2010
No Comments Received, Recommend Approval

APPROVED	
	9/15/10
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor	Date

mlc