About Us

San Francisco State University is home of the first and only College of Ethnic Studies in the country. The college was established in 1969 through a student strike to demand a more relevant and inclusive education.

The college houses five departments: Africana Studies, American Indian Studies, Asian American Studies, Latina/Latino Studies and Race and Resistance Studies. We offer four bachelor’s degrees, two master’s degrees, six minors and one post-baccalaureate certificate. As an interdisciplinary college, we offer over 175 courses each semester in 15 of SF State’s 17 areas of General Education, including oral and written communication, natural sciences, arts, humanities and social sciences. We also have one of the lowest student-to-faculty ratios in the University and the highest student retention.

All of this means students graduate faster and receive more faculty attention — all while acquiring a comprehensive understanding of the unique experiences of American Indians, Asian Americans, Blacks, Latina/Latinos and other people of color.

San Francisco State students who pass ONE Ethnic Studies class are 20% more likely to graduate

— SF State Office of Institutional Research Evaluation Report, 2017
Community Service-Learning

Community service-learning is a high-impact teaching practice, that helps students connect their education to local communities. Students from the College of Ethnic Studies contribute service to the community valued at over $100,000 per year.

The College of Ethnic Studies helps students connect with their heritage, explore the disciplines in General Education and develop critical communication and analytic skills that they will bring to areas such as community organizing, law, education, medicine and business.

Award-Winning Programs

Clínica Martín-Baró is a student-organized free clinic operating Saturdays in the Mission neighborhood. It is a collaboration between medical students and faculty from the UCSF School of Medicine and undergraduates from the Latina/Latino Studies Department.

Developed by Latina/Latino Studies faculty member Félix Kury

Pin@y Educational Partnership is a curriculum and teaching apprenticeship program, that gives SF State students the opportunity to teach Filipina/o American Studies history and culture in area high schools. As a result, SF State students gain valuable experience while bringing a unique ethnic studies perspective to local high schools.

Developed by Asian American Studies faculty member Dr. Alyson Tintiangco-Cubales

Innovative Classes

Black Lives Matter in Africana Studies
Decolonize Your Diet in Race and Resistance Studies
Before the Wilderness: Native American Ecology in American Indian Studies

Residential Life

Through the University’s Residential Life program, students have the opportunity to live and take classes in theme floors, including:

- Afrocentric Living-Learning Community
- Asian American & Pacific Islander (ASPIRE) Living-Learning Community
- Hip Hop Living-Learning Community