

**Los Medanos College**  
**Associate of Arts, Ethnic Studies**

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**Program Narrative:**

Program Goals and Objectives:

Ethnic Studies operates from the understanding that race and racism continue to have profound powerful social and cultural forces in American society. It resists all forms of colonialism and resists the systemic manifestations through its very existence in academia. Students who earn an Associate in Arts Degree in Ethnic Studies will be educated politically, socially, and economically and will use this knowledge to enact social justice, encourage social responsibility, and create social change in any area of work that they enter. The degree requires a minimum of 18 units lower division work in Ethnic Studies and related disciplines combined with the California State General Education Pattern to prepare students to take upper division courses at a California State University.

Courses in the Ethnic Studies degree will center the epistemic knowledge and pedagogies of Black/African Americans, Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islander, Chicanx and Latinx, and Indigenous/Native American peoples of the United States. The methodological framing emphasizes structural dimensions of race and racism and associated cultural dimensions.

The major purpose of the degree is to give students core competencies in five learning outcomes:

1. Analyze and articulate racial topics, such as racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonialization, etc.
2. Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native Americans/Indigenous, African Americans, Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders, and Chicanx/Latinx communities to describe critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived experiences, and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group affirmation.
3. Critically analyze intersections of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty language, age, and ability.

4. Critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation as experienced and enacted by Native Americans/Indigenous, African Americans, Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders, and Chicano/Latinx communities are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics, that could include topics such as immigration, reparations, language politics, etc.
5. Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements in Native Americans/Indigenous, African Americans, Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders, and Chicano/Latinx communities as they work toward a just and equitable society.

The program will serve all students that want to earn a degree in Ethnic Studies and will provide classes for the GE transfer requirement to CSU campuses, Area F. As a college with 78% of the student body identifying as a student of color, with a large majority being Latinx, this program will especially reach these individuals. The Los Medanos College Student Senate has requested more Black Studies classes, such as a Black Psychology course, and an Ethnic Studies program will encourage the creation of such courses that will center Black Indigenous People of Color experiences and knowledge production.

#### Catalog Description:

Degree: Associate of Arts

This two-year degree program of study leads to transfer to a four-year college where students can continue their education and pursue an Ethnic Studies major, which includes comparative Ethnic Studies, Latinx Studies, Chicano Studies, Black/African American Studies, Asian American and Asian Pacific Islander Studies, and Indigenous/Native American Studies. As a discipline, Ethnic Studies provides pedagogical, intellectual, and social benefits through its curriculum and community and student-centered approach to scholarship. Ethnic Studies empowers students as holders and creators of knowledge. When they enter the classroom spaces, they are students, leaders, and educators. Ethnic Studies affirms community cultural wealth, decolonizes racist systemic practices, and provides a space for healing, transformative and anti-racist education, and community building. Ethnic Studies creates bridges across racial differences while celebrating diversity.

An Associate of Arts Degree in Ethnic Studies offers a transdisciplinary approach to the study of racialized communities, which includes Black/African American, Latinx/Chicano, Asian American and Asian Pacific Islander, and Indigenous/Native American communities. The transdisciplinary approach incorporates theories of race and ethnicity as it challenges dominant normative stories that can be found in identity politics, culture, art, literature, politics, history, and local and global society.

The program provides practical training for careers in education, politics, social work, counseling and psychology, nonprofit work, the fine arts, and many related fields that rely on the ability to work with a culturally diverse population.

The degree requires a minimum of 18 units lower division work in Ethnic Studies and is combined with the California State General Education Pattern to prepare students to take upper division courses at a California State University.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Analyze and articulate racial topics, such as racism, racialization, ethnicity, equity, ethno-centrism, eurocentrism, white supremacy, self-determination, liberation, decolonialization, etc.
2. Apply theory and knowledge produced by Native Americans/Indigenous, African Americans, Asian American and Asian Pacific Islanders, and Chicanx/Latinx communities to describe critical events, histories, cultures, intellectual traditions, contributions, lived experiences, and social struggles of those groups with a particular emphasis on agency and group affirmation.
3. Critically analyze intersections of race and racism as they relate to class, gender, sexuality, religion, spirituality, national origin, immigration status, ability, tribal citizenship, sovereignty language, age, and ability.
4. Critically review how struggle, resistance, racial and social justice, solidarity, and liberation as experienced and enacted by Native Americans/Indigenous, African Americans, Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders, and Chicanx/Latinx communities are relevant to current and structural issues such as communal, national, international, and transnational politics, that could include topics such as immigration, reparations, language politics, etc.
5. Describe and actively engage with anti-racist and anti-colonial issues and the practices and movements in Native Americans/Indigenous, African Americans, Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Islanders, and Chicanx/Latinx communities as they work toward a just and equitable society.

Program Requirements:

Required Core Courses (15 units):

ETHN-101: Introduction to Ethnic Studies (3 units)

ETHN-102: Critical Thinking in Ethnic Studies (3 units)

ETHN-103: Racial and Ethnic Justice Movements (3 units)

AND Two from the four area specific courses

ETHN-113: Introduction to Asian American and Pacific Islander Studies (3 units)

ETHN-045: Introduction to Black Studies (3 units)

ETHN-111: Introduction to Chicanx Studies (3 units)

ETHN-112: Latinx Studies (3 units)

ETHN-110: Introduction to Native American/Indigenous Studies (3 units)

Elective Courses (3 units):

ETHN-121: Critical Race Feminisms (3 units)

ETHN-120: Immigrant Experiences in the U.S. (3 units)

ETHN-123: Statistics for Ethnic Studies (3 units)

Total Units: 18