

# CRITICAL RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES, B.A.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**MERCED**

SCHOOL OF  
SOCIAL SCIENCES,  
HUMANITIES AND ARTS



## WHY APPLY TO CRITICAL RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES, B.A.?

UC Merced offers an undergraduate major leading to a B.A. in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies. Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) is an interdisciplinary field of study that seeks to understand the ways society is culturally and institutionally constituted by ideas of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and nation. The program provides an innovative, multidisciplinary paradigm that employs global (Western and non-Western), relational, and intersectional methods for producing knowledge about power and inequality, including systems of knowledge that have emerged from racialized and indigenous communities. In using race, ethnicity, and indigeneity as ideological frameworks, CRES aims to scrutinize cultures of power and domination as well as highlight and imagine struggles for liberation and self-determination.

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# CRITICAL RACE AND ETHNIC STUDIES, B.A.



*“My hope emerges from those places of struggle where I witness individuals positively transforming their lives and the world around them.”*

— Bell Hooks, 1952-2021

Critical Race and Ethnic Studies explores race as a social construction in culture, law, economy, politics, science, and society. Merced's CRES program centers community and social justice in our research, teaching, and collaborations with an intersectional approach that connects race and ethnicity with indigeneity, gender, sexuality, and class. Our classes examine systems of power and domination and highlight and imagine justice and liberation.

## Job/Career Prospects

CRES offers students powerful tools for understanding and making justice-centered change in our region and the globe, preparing them for a wide range of careers.

- ▶ Law & Politics
- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Medicine / Public Health
- ▶ Journalism
- ▶ Counseling / Social Work
- ▶ Public Policy / City Planning
- ▶ International relations
- ▶ Arts / creative writing

## Graduate Program Opportunities

- ▶ Majors in CRES have gone on to graduate study in multiple fields, including Ethnic Studies, History, Global Studies, Education/ Teacher Credentialing, Public Policy, Social Welfare, and Law School. In addition, CRES students have successfully applied to the Interdisciplinary Humanities (IH) Graduate Program at UC Merced.

## Internship Opportunities

- ▶ Many HIST and CRES students have conducted original, mentored research with HIST and CRES faculty, usually but not always under the umbrella of UROC-H



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Ariell Wright Class of 2020

“I hold the privilege of serving as Executive Director of Teen Services at the Skagit YMCA in Mount Vernon, WA. I oversee several departments, including a shelter for unhoused teens, a drop-in daylight center for youth, a street outreach team, as well as multiple teen centers in the county. I often have critical conversations with community members and key stakeholders regarding injustices in the world. With CRES, I learned the importance of community care, effective and concise communication, and advocacy. CRES has given me the tools and confidence to have these critical conversations, that ultimately can and do lead to reform and restorative justice.”

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