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Despite Asian Americans being the largest racial minority at Dartmouth, the College does not offer a path to concentrate in Asian American Studies. Most are under the impression that the Asian Societies, Cultures, and Languages Program (ASCL Program) encompasses Asian American Studies, but ASCL emerges from a different academic tradition focused on the Global East and is distinct from ethnic studies. It lacks a comprehensive study of the Asian diaspora, Asian Americans, and other pivotal scholarship developments (ie: intersectional, queer, and comparative race studies). Asian American Studies would address this gap by examining racialization, U.S. imperialism and colonization, gender and sexuality, labor, and migration transnationally across Asia/America.

Currently, Asian American Studies courses are scattered among departments including English, History, Sociology, or Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. **[In our course count of AA Studies and AA Studies adjacent course offerings](#), we found that only 42 courses have been offered since 2004, and only 9 have been taught for more than three terms.**

Students and faculty have been pushing for Asian American Studies since 1996— [almost 25 years](#)— with little support. Considering the liberal arts posture of the College, a comprehensive examination of Asian American identity is critical. Peer institutions have had AA [Timeline summary](#) studies for several years: Berkeley (1969), Cornell (1987), UPenn (1996), Brown (1996), Stanford (1997), Columbia (1998), and Princeton (2018). There is also clear support for AA Studies on campus: just last year, the [Asia/America@Dartmouth Action Plan](#) calling for specific steps towards building AA Studies was signed by over 1,000 Dartmouth staff, faculty, and students as well as peer institutions. However, Dartmouth has given little attention to this petition, and we are picking up from where it left off.

As students, we ask why we should wait any longer for Asian American Studies? While we acknowledge the myriad challenges to building Asian American Studies, including creating study programs, encouraging existing professors to teach AA Studies courses, and hiring faculty, this is not an impossible feat given the College's vast resources. **As a result, Dartmouth actively communicates that Asian American students neither deserve space in academia nor the opportunity to better understand themselves.**

2. What We Believe

We believe that Asian American Studies benefits all students, illuminating how histories and structures of oppression continue to work in our lives, our communities, and our world at large. The field also highlights the critical contributions of Asian American scholarship to knowledge itself— including in studies of race, gender, and sexuality. The lack of Asian American Studies is