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Afro-Asian Studies. It works in tandem with other ethnic studies programs to bolster minority cultural studies and provide a fuller American history.

Lastly, we condemn the decisions of the College to place the labor of building ethnic studies on faculty and students of color without compensation. Dartmouth faculty of color actively do unpaid emotional labor while having to prove that their experiences (and our experiences as students of color) necessitate study. While we see professor-student solidarity as crucial, neither our professors nor we should have to fight to be seen on this campus. The lack of Asian American studies at Dartmouth fails to support its students and faculty; it is a glaring omission in the curriculum of an institution with an Ivy League standing. Why is it that Dartmouth [lags the furthest behind in sustained ethnic studies](#), including Asian American Studies, out of any Ivy League institution?

3. Problems in Organizing for Asian American Studies

Despite prior organizing and a clear rationale for AA Studies, why hasn't more progress been made towards establishing a minor, modified major, major, or program? The lack of coherency for the field is a structural problem that the Dean's Office has refused to address as a matter of curriculum reform.

The administration often points to the low election rates for Asian American Studies courses as an indication that AA Studies isn't needed or desired on campus. However, there is not much evidence for this "lack of demand." For example, WGSS 66.06 Bodies in Technologies in Asian American Pop Culture, taught 21S and 21X, was quickly filled both times and had a waitlist of over 30 students. Even if the "lack of demand" claim could be substantiated, it would stem from the absence and scarcity of courses. How are students to realize that they are interested in AAS courses if so few are offered? By claiming that AAS isn't desired due to a lack of demand, Dartmouth attempts to remove itself from the situation by directing the problem at students.

Another problem is that establishing an AA Studies minor, modified major, and major requires a set of courses that can be consistently offered. **There are no dedicated courses in the field except one in English and one in Sociology. All other courses are contingent and ad-hoc offerings that disappear once the postdoctoral fellows or visiting scholars leave the College after 1-3 years.** To establish more regular courses, Dartmouth needs to hire multiple tenured and tenure-track faculty. Without an AAS establishment, there is neither an administrator nor a direct funding stream that would help expedite the hiring for junior and senior-level faculty. Current faculty are relying on existing departments to implement hiring proposals for Asian American Studies. Dartmouth is accountable for prioritizing the hiring of faculty to establish the minor, major, and program.