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While the University of North Carolina has numerous departments within its academic system, there is a major offered to students yearly through a curriculum rather than a department.

The Afro-American Studies Curriculum was initiated on the UNC campus in 1969 by the late Dr. James Brewer, who was also its first director. This Spring 1979, the Afro-Am curriculum will celebrate its tenth year on the campus as a "curriculum" rather than as a stable department.

According to the Afro-Am co-directors, Dr. Sonya Stone and Dr. Roberta Dunbar, only students can make the hope of departmental status come true.

"We encourage double majors in this curriculum. We feel that Afro-Am studies compliments any field of study, particularly for those who will spend their lives serving the black community. Students may have majors in Political Science, Radio, Television and Motion Pictures, as well as History," said Dr. Stone.

Dr. Dunbar said attracting more students to the program is one objective for the immediate future.

"Because we have two component parts, African Studies and Afro-American Studies, our objective is to use the resources we have to their fullest potential," said Dr. Dunbar. She said the curriculum staff tries to provide courses which will expose students at an introductory level with emphasis on special interest and the problems in the African Culture.

"The African studies courses we have are not found elsewhere on this campus. We want our humanity courses institutionalized so they will no longer be just seminars," said Dr. Dunbar.

Students who declare themselves Afro-Am majors enroll into the program which has six to eight core courses designed to introduce students to basic African Culture. Through its interdisciplinary curriculum, the Afro-Am student may take such courses as Black Literature, Foundations of Black Education, Anthropology, Psychology, History and the Black Press.

As a junior and senior, the student is involved in seminars, which are designed to let the student work closely with his major professor and acquire research skills as well as a certain professionalism. This part of the program falls under the direction of Dr. Carolyn Strouman, who joined the staff in September of 1978.

"The senior internship allows the student to work in the community. By giving service to the Black community, the student gets a first hand look at the real work world," said Dr. Strouman.

She said the internship assignments are made according to the interest of the student. She too agrees with the idea of combining the Afro-Am major with another academic area.

"Right now we have four students in the community as interns. In the future we hope all Afro-Am students, regardless of class, will be able to get out into the field and experience the real work routine of their chosen field," said Dr. Strouman.

Denise Adams, a senior, has been working to combine her work with her studies by working at a summer camp.

"This summer I am working at a summer camp that is a component of the Afro-Am program. I am a fifth-year student and have been working there since the first year of the program. I have been exposed to many things through my work and I can see the connections between my education and the work I have been doing," said Ms. Adams.

Another aspect of the program which Dr. Stone feels have increased the overall attraction of the curriculum is the added to the overall attraction of the program are the Southern Black Press Institute which Dr. Stone feels has added to the overall attraction of the program are the Southern Black Press Institute which Dr. Stone feels has added to the overall attraction of the program are the Southern Black Press Institute which Dr. Stone feels has added to the overall attraction of the program.