African American Studies, MA

The program in African American studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison is dedicated to carrying on the vision of the elders and ancestors who devoted themselves to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and to the realization of a vision of true equality and opportunity. Like W.E.B. Du Bois, Anna Julia Cooper, John Hope Franklin, Zora Neale Hurston, and James Porter, the department is committed to bringing the fruits of academic research to the broadest possible audience, within and beyond the walls of the university. The deepest understanding of the complex reality of race in America requires an interdisciplinary approach, one that draws on history and literature, the social sciences, and the arts. Graduate studies are concentrated in three areas:

1. African American Culture (literature, theater history, music and culture, art history, and visual culture);
2. History and Society;
3. Black Women’s Studies

The MA program is based on personalized programs of study shaped to meet the needs of individual students, many of whom participate in the "Bridge" programs which enable them to move directly into PhD programs in English (http://www.english.wisc.edu/grad-afroam.htm) or history (https://history.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/bridge-program/). Program faculty are experts in their fields and work collaboratively to ensure that graduate students are well prepared to either take on further study at the PhD level or careers in teaching, public service, and the private, corporate sector. The program also offers doctoral minors for students in many graduate programs including African languages and literature, art history, communication arts, comparative literature, education, English, history, music, political science, social work, and sociology.

Admissions

Please consult the table below for key information about this degree program’s admissions requirements. The program may have more detailed admissions requirements, which can be found below the table or on the program’s website.

Graduate admissions is a two-step process between academic programs and the Graduate School. Applicants must meet the minimum requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/) of the Graduate School as well as the program(s). Once you have researched the graduate program(s) you are interested in, apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirements</th>
<th>Detail</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Deadline</td>
<td>December 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the spring.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Deadline</td>
<td>The program does not admit in the summer.</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)</td>
<td>May be required in certain cases; consult program.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

English Proficiency Test

Every applicant whose native language is not English, or whose undergraduate instruction was not exclusively in English, must provide an English proficiency test score earned within two years of the anticipated term of enrollment. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Requirements for Admission policy: https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241 (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1241/).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)</th>
<th>n/a</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters of Recommendation</td>
<td>Required</td>
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Information regarding fellowships, tuition, housing, cost of living, etc. can be found on the Graduate School’s funding and financial (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) page.

To apply to the master’s program, upload all documents listed below to the online application:

- Unofficial transcript(s) or academic records from each institution attended;
- International academic records must be in the original language accompanied by an official English translation.
- Statement of purpose;
- A writing sample;
- Three (3) letters of recommendation (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/faq/).

The Department of African American Studies does not currently require students to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), although we recommend that you do so. Admission to the department is competitive: the minimum overall GPA required is 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Students with a GPA above 3.3 are especially encouraged to apply.

Priority will be given to students who have completed undergraduate courses in subjects related to African American history, culture, or society or who have completed an undergraduate major in one of the following fields: African American Studies; a related social science discipline; the humanities.

Funding

Graduate School Resources

Resources to help you afford graduate study might include assistantships, fellowships, traineeships, and financial aid. Further funding information (https://grad.wisc.edu/funding/) is available from the Graduate School. Be sure to check with your program for individual policies and restrictions related to funding.

Requirements

Minimum Graduate School Requirements

Review the Graduate School minimum academic progress and degree requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/graduate/).
# Policies and Requirements

In addition to the program requirements listed below:

## MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

### MODE OF INSTRUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MODE OF INSTRUCTION</th>
<th>Face to Face</th>
<th>Evening/Weekend</th>
<th>Online</th>
<th>Hybrid</th>
<th>Accelerated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Mode of Instruction Definitions**

**Accelerated:** Accelerated programs are offered at a fast pace that condenses the time to completion. Students typically take enough credits aimed at completing the program in a year or two.

**Evening/Weekend:** Courses meet on the UW–Madison campus only in evenings and/or on weekends to accommodate typical business schedules. Students have the advantages of face-to-face courses with the flexibility to keep work and other life commitments.

**Face-to-Face:** Courses typically meet during weekdays on the UW-Madison Campus.

**Hybrid:** These programs combine face-to-face and online learning formats. Contact the program for more specific information.

**Online:** These programs are offered 100% online. Some programs may require an on-campus orientation or residency experience, but the courses will be facilitated in an online format.

## CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS

### Requirement Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Credit Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Residence Credit Requirement</th>
<th>Minimum Graduate Coursework Requirement</th>
<th>Overall GPA Requirement</th>
<th>Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison</th>
<th>Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)</th>
<th>Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison</th>
<th>Other Grade Requirements</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>15 credits must be graduate-level coursework. Refer to the Graduate School: Minimum Graduate Coursework (50%) Requirement policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1244/</a>.</td>
<td>3.00 GPA required. Refer to the Graduate School: Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirement policy: <a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1203/</a>.</td>
<td>No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to transfer toward the program’s graduate degree requirements.</td>
<td>Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework (<a href="https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/">https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/</a>) policy.</td>
<td>The program may decide to transfer up to 9 University Special student credits in fulfillment of the minimum graduate degree or minor credit requirements on occasion as an exception (on a case-by-case basis). UW–Madison coursework taken as a University Special student may not be allowed to transfer toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken in coursework numbered 700 or above or as a Capstone Certificate.</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessments and Examinations</td>
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## REQUIRED COURSES

Students must take 24 credits of approved graduate coursework and 6 Research and Thesis credits. At least 12 of the course credits must be taken in the Department of African American Studies (AFROAMER ([http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/afroamer/](http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/afroamer/))).

## POLICIES

### GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICIES

The Graduate School’s Academic Policies and Procedures ([https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/](https://grad.wisc.edu/acadpolicy/)) provide essential information regarding general university policies. Program authority to set degree policies beyond the minimum required by the Graduate School lies with the degree program faculty. Policies set by the academic degree program can be found below.

### MAJOR-SPECIFIC POLICIES

#### PRIOR COURSEWORK

**Graduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions**

For well-prepared advanced students, the program may transfer 9 credits of prior graduate coursework from other institutions towards the minimum graduate degree credit and minimum graduate coursework (50%) requirement. The minimum graduate residence credit requirement can be satisfied only with courses taken as a graduate student at UW–Madison.

**Undergraduate Credits Earned at Other Institutions or UW-Madison**

No credits from a UW–Madison undergraduate degree are allowed to transfer toward the program’s graduate degree requirements.

**Credits Earned as a Professional Student at UW-Madison (Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Veterinary careers)**

Refer to the Graduate School: Transfer Credits for Prior Coursework ([https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/](https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-1216/)) policy.

**Credits Earned as a University Special Student at UW-Madison**

The program may decide to transfer up to 9 University Special student credits in fulfillment of the minimum graduate degree or minor credit requirements on occasion as an exception (on a case-by-case basis). UW–Madison coursework taken as a University Special student may not be allowed to transfer toward the 50% graduate coursework minimum unless taken in coursework numbered 700 or above or as a Capstone Certificate.

### PROBATION


### ADVISOR / COMMITTEE

CREDITS PER TERM ALLOWED
12 credits

TIME LIMITS
Refer to the Graduate School: Time Limits (https://policy.wisc.edu/library/UW-122/) policy.

GRIEVANCES AND APPEALS
These resources may be helpful in addressing your concerns:

- Bias or Hate Reporting (https://doso.students.wisc.edu/bias-or-hate-reporting/)
- Graduate Assistantship Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/policies/gapp/#grievance-procedure)
- Hostile and Intimidating Behavior Policies and Procedures (https://hr.wisc.edu/hib/)
  - Office of the Provost for Faculty and Staff Affairs (https://facstaff.provost.wisc.edu/)
- Employee Assistance (http://www.eao.wisc.edu/) (for personal counseling and workplace consultation around communication and conflict involving graduate assistants and other employees, post-doctoral students, faculty and staff)
- Employee Disability Resource Office (https://employeedisabilities.wisc.edu/) (for qualified employees or applicants with disabilities to have equal employment opportunities)
- Graduate School (https://grad.wisc.edu/) (for informal advice at any level of review and for official appeals of program/departamental or school/college grievance decisions)
- Office of Compliance (https://compliance.wisc.edu/) (for class harassment and discrimination, including sexual harassment and sexual violence)
- Office Student Assistance and Support (OSAS) (https://osas.wisc.edu/) (for all students to seek grievance assistance and support)
- Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (https://conduct.students.wisc.edu/) (for conflicts involving students)
- Ombuds Office for Faculty and Staff (http://www.ombuds.wisc.edu/) (for employed graduate students and post-docs, as well as faculty and staff)
- Title IX (https://compliance.wisc.edu/titleix/) (for concerns about discrimination)

Students should contact the department chair or program director with questions about grievances. They may also contact the L&S Academic Divisional Associate Deans, the L&S Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning Administration, or the L&S Director of Human Resources.

OTHER
Students with an interest in pursuing a PhD in either English or History might be interested in applying to the in English Bridge Programs (http://www.english.wisc.edu/grad-afroam.htm) or History (https://history.wisc.edu/our-graduate-program/bridge-program/), which allow a student who has completed an MA in African American studies to move directly into one of those PhD programs.