AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES, MA

ADMISSIONS

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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/).

Requirements	Detail
Fall Deadline	December 15
Spring Deadline	This program does not admit in the spring.
Summer Deadline	This program does not admit in the summer.
GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)	Not required.
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/).
Other Test(s) (e.g., GMAT, MCAT)	n/a
Letters of Recommendation Required	3

PREREQUISITES

Admission to the graduate program requires a bachelor's degree with substantial coursework related to the expressive cultures of Africa. Admitted applicants with an insufficient background in African cultural studies may be asked to complete additional coursework beyond the regular degree requirements. Applicants should have a minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 grading scale or equivalent academic performance on other scales. The department will consider special cases, however, for probationary admission. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the graduate coordinator.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants to the program must apply online (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/) by the fall deadline. The department cannot review an applicant who has not met all Graduate School admissions requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements/). Carefully review the instructions and other information the Graduate School provides; most of the admissions questions we receive relate to the Graduate School's requirements and are answered in their documentation.

As part of the online application process, you will be asked supplemental questions regarding your language and teaching experience and expected to **upload** the information listed below:

University Transcripts

You must upload transcripts or academic records from **each** institution attended. You may upload unofficial copies for department review. If offered admission to the program, the Graduate School will request official transcripts from undergraduate institutions. These must be issued directly by the institutions with all official seals, stamps, and signatures. International academic records must be in the original languages and records in languages other than English accompanied by an official English translation.

English Proficiency Requirement (International Applicants)

International degree-seeking applicants will need to prove English proficiency using the Graduate School's requirements (https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/). The online application allows you to self-report scores, but we cannot consider your application until the Graduate School receives your official score report directly from the examination organization.

Purpose Statement

Your statement of purpose should make clear that you understand the kinds of courses we offer (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/african/) and the research interests of our faculty and substantiate how your own interests intersect with our faculty expertise (https://african.wisc.edu/people/faculty-and-staff/). Give a detailed account of the reasons and circumstances that led to your decision to undertake graduate work in the Department of African Cultural Studies. Include references to your academic work, your short-term and long-term goals, your personal relationship to or interests in the fields we study, and your knowledge of any African languages. If your transcripts reflect any negative episodes in your academic career, *e.g.*, a poor grade or a dropped course, you may explain them here. We look for evidence of your developing research interests and how they relate to the research interests of our faculty.

The department will make secondary use of your purpose statement to assess the quality of your writing. We recommend a length of 500-1000 words. The scope of your discussion and the level of detail that you choose to provide will be part of our assessment.

CV or Résumé

Curriculum vitae or résumé listing language experience, awards, honors, or publications. For more information on CV or résumé writing, please consult:

UW-Madison Writing Center: CV Tips (https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/cv/)

Letters of Recommendation (3)

Recommenders will receive a notice via email and will submit their letters accordingly. Recommendation letters should discuss your overall scholarly ability. Please ask your referees to include specific examples of your academic achievements; your independent thinking, analytical and critical thinking skills; papers and presentations given in their courses; and your merits relative to other students. For international applicants, the letters should also address English proficiency.

Strong letters of recommendation will provide the department with evidence that you will succeed in the study of African languages and expressive cultures at the graduate level. While we will accept letters from faculty in any discipline, we will give greater weight to letters from faculty whose scholarship is related to the fields we study.

All letters must be received by the fall deadline in order for us to consider your application.

AFTER THE APPLICATION

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive an email with a link to set up a UW–Madison NetID. Use the information to track the progress of your application.