



Indiana University Bloomington

Overview of PhD Program in African American & African Diaspora Studies

Indiana University, one of the largest and most diverse public research institutions in the United States, now offers an innovative doctoral program in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies (AAADS). One of the first programs in African American studies, the department was founded in 1971. In 1999, AAADS began offering the MA degree. Joint degree programs with several other departments and schools, including the MFA in creative writing, as well as the PhD minor, are also provided. The new PhD program is the capstone of an outstanding department that has a 40-year track record of high-quality teaching.

The AAADS PhD is an interdisciplinary doctoral program focusing on the experiences of people of African descent in the United States, in the African diaspora, and in the world. These shared experiences — among them, slavery, emancipation, imperialism, decolonization, and racism — warrant close attention and mark this field as a discrete unit of study that bears directly and powerfully on history, literature, and politics.

The degree offers graduate students two different specializations to focus their course work: “Power, Citizenship, and the State” and “Race, Representation, and Knowledge Systems.” Within each of these tracks, the degree emphasizes the importance of transnational, global, and comparative perspectives, with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary analysis of race in the world.

Classes and cohorts are kept small to help ensure the quality of the students’ academic experience. Students from the state, the nation, and the world are welcome to apply for admission into the program.

Course Requirements

- 90 hours total, including
- 24 core credit hours, taken through 6 core courses: A500, A556, A557, A605, A606, and A696
- 21 elective hours, including 3 credits in an overseas studies/study abroad class, with graduate content, approved by the DGS; 6 hours in disciplinary methods courses offered outside the department and chosen in consultation with the DGS; and 12 additional hours in related course work
- 6 hours of a foreign language of the African diaspora
- 15 hours in an outside minor
- 24 hours of dissertation research
- pre-candidacy qualifying examination (The MA is automatically granted to students passing the qualifying exam.)
- dissertation
- final examination (defense of the dissertation)

Tracks:

- Race, Representation, and Knowledge Systems
- Power, Citizenship, and the State

Core curriculum:

- A500 Introduction to African American and African Diaspora Studies I
- A556 Race and Culture in the African Diaspora
- A557 Race and Politics in the African Diaspora
- A605 Race and the Global City I
- A606 Race and the Global City II
- A696 Interdisciplinary Research Methods

Admission Requirements

The AAADS Graduate Studies Committee, in consultation with the chair of the department and faculty, considers these elements in admitting graduate students into the doctoral program:

- GRE scores
- Personal statement
- Writing sample of no more than 30 pages
- At least three letters of reference from instructors who have sufficient evidence to write candidly about the student's intellectual abilities and potential for doctoral success
- TOEFL or demonstrated proficiency in English required for non-native speakers

Prospective graduate students will need at least a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning. Those who have recently completed their undergraduate studies must have at least a 3.3 GPA for their junior and senior years of study. Those who hold a master's degree must have at least a cumulative GPA of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in their prior program(s).

Faculty

The department has 15 core faculty members and 34 affiliated faculty from 15 different disciplines. Many of our faculty have won awards for academic excellence and for outstanding teaching. All are devoted to sustaining the AAADS curriculum, taking research to new levels, and mentoring students to achieve to their fullest capacity.

Institutional Resources

- African American Arts Institute
- Archives of African American Music & Culture
- Black Film Center/Archive
- Commission on Multicultural Understanding
- Neal-Marshall Black Culture Center
- Office of Multicultural Affairs
- IU Art Museum's extensive collection of African art

Research & Creativity

The distinguished faculty, acclaimed institutional resources, world-class libraries, centers, and museums, and a longstanding tradition of excellence enhance and support graduate research and creative endeavors.

Funding & Teaching Opportunities

Students may be funded through a combination of assistantships and fellowships. For students without teaching or grading assignments, university support may be available. Such opportunities include the College and the Office of Research and the University Graduate School dissertation fellowships, the Esther L. Kinsley Dissertation Award, the Edwards Fellowship, the Summer Research Incentive Award, Educational Opportunity Fellowships, minority fellowships, the Graduate Scholars Fellowships, and the Graduate McNair Fellowships. Students enrolled in this degree program are also eligible for national fellowship/dissertation competitions from such foundations as the Ford, the Fulbright, and the Social Science Research Council. Other study and travel abroad grants may be available from the Office of International Programs, the Indiana University Grad Grants Center, the Summer Pre-Dissertation Grant, and the Enhancement Grant competitions sponsored by the Office of International Programs, as well as external agencies.

Contact

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Now accepting applications for fall 2009 • Deadline Jan. 15, 2009