

# GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

## Curriculum and Requirements

### A. Pro-seminar

As part of meeting the minimum of fifteen hours required for a Certificate, all students would take the pro-seminar AAS 600, “Pro-seminar: Interdisciplinary Approaches to African Studies” or AAS 601 “Pro-seminar: Interdisciplinary Approaches to African American and Diasporan Studies.” Both courses introduce students to a cluster of traditional and current topical questions commonly treated in the fields of African and African American Studies and explore the various interdisciplinary approaches that can be used to address them. To provide a strong interdisciplinary foundation as well as familiarizing students with a wide-range of methodological approaches, the course will be based on a program-approved syllabus that will be reviewed annually by the DAAS curriculum committee. It will be taught and graded by one professor who may draw on colleagues for a revolving co-teaching structure with up to ten visiting weeks over the course of the semester. Visiting professors will participate not to represent their own work per se, but in order to contribute their particular strengths in cross-disciplinary methods and conversations.

### B. Capstone Research Course: AAS 890/891/892

Each student will carry out a culminating research project reflecting an interdisciplinary or cross-regional perspective. The project, which can be a dissertation chapter, a prelim, or a master’s thesis, is subject to approval by the student’s DAAS advisor and by the Curriculum Committee. As part of AAS 890/891/892, the student will present the work in at least one public forum, such as a lecture or a brown-bag.

### C. Breadth Requirement

All credit hours beyond the pro-seminar and AAS 890/891/892 must include approved graduate-level courses. In addition to the pro-seminar and AAS 890/891/892, all GCP students must complete three more graduate-level courses in African American, Caribbean, or Diasporan Studies. At least one of those three courses must be in a field or discipline clearly outside the student’s primary department.

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### Admissions

- A. **Requirements:** Any student with a bachelor's degree who has been admitted or is currently enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Michigan will be eligible to apply for a Graduate Certificate in DAAS. To be considered, students should be in good standing.
- B. **Process:** Students interested in pursuing a DAAS graduate program certificate should complete the appropriate declaration form and return it to the DAAS Student Services Coordinator at least two terms before the anticipated graduate degree is to be received. The form requires the student to map out a course of study for the certificate, with a list of DAAS courses already taken and those to be taken, as well as a page explaining how the DAAS component will be integrated in the overall course of study. Applicants will be assessed and admitted by the DAAS Graduate Committee, a sub-set of the Curriculum Committee.

### Advising

Students are initially assigned an individual faculty advisor, generally a DAAS faculty member or affiliate. They may request reassignment to an advisor of their choice at any time. Students are encouraged to meet regularly with these advisors as they move through the program. The program also has a designated Graduate Program Coordinator, who is generally the faculty member teaching the pro-seminar. The Coordinator oversees the assignment of students' individual faculty advisors and handles petitions to have courses approved as part of the breadth requirement.

**Graduate Certificate**  
**African Studies / African American and Diasporic Studies**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ UMID \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am \_\_\_\_\_ **currently enrolled in/or** \_\_\_\_\_ **applying to** a graduate program at the University of Michigan.

Name of Program: \_\_\_\_\_

**Undergraduate Academic Degree:**

Degree (for example, B.A.): \_\_\_\_\_ Date received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Where taken: \_\_\_\_\_  
Major Field: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor field: \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Academic Degrees:**

Degree (for example, M.A.): \_\_\_\_\_ Date received: \_\_\_\_\_  
Where taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Field: \_\_\_\_\_

**Which Graduate Certificate Program are you applying?**

\_\_\_\_\_ Afroamerican  
\_\_\_\_\_ African

**What courses have you taken that are relevant to this program?**

**Current Rackham students, attach the following:**

- a. A letter of application (300-600 words) explaining your interest in the Certificate Program and your background in Afroamerican and African Studies
- b. A Photocopy of your latest UM transcript
- c. A letter of support from your advisor
- d. A list of proposed courses that will fulfill the Program requirements
- e. Submit application for Modification of Status to Rackham.

**New and non-Rackham applicants attach the following:**

- a. A letter of application (300-600 words) explaining your interest in the Certificate Program and your background in Afroamerican and African Studies
- b. A photocopy of your UM or undergraduate transcripts
- c. A letter of recommendation from your advisor or reference
- d. A list of proposed courses that will fulfill the Program requirements

**Return to: Administrative Coordinator/Project Coordinator, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, 4700 Haven Hall, 505 S. State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1045**