

# **Temple University**

**Department of Africology and African American Studies**

**Graduate Student Handbook**

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# Mission Statement

The Department of Africology and African American Studies provides an intellectual arena for students to explore a variety of academic experiences from the standpoint of African agency. Thus, the department encourages students to study, analyze and interpret the historical and contemporary African phenomena and traditions in a trans-generational and trans-continental context with the aim of human transformation. Understanding that the specific historical experiences of a people must be the central axis guiding and informing any effective analysis and interpretation of that people's past, present and future our faculty has committed itself to a dynamic interrogation of a variety of interests and themes of the African world.

African American Studies at Temple emerged from the student protests of 1969 and 1970 when an Afro-Asian Institute was established. The Institute became a department in 1972 and was renamed the Pan African Studies Department. In 1984 the department's name was changed to the Department of African American Studies. The creation of the first doctoral program at Temple University in 1987 gave our department historical precedence as the first program to fully offer a Master's degree and a Doctoral degree in African American Studies. A student's selection of this program is therefore supported by rich traditions and an unflagging commitment to the Afrocentric study of African phenomena.

The faculty expects of our students excellence, a spirit of inquiry, thoroughness, integrity, and creative will. We encourage our students to delve into the most complex discourses around resistance to oppression, elevation of women, the re-examination of mono-cultural lexicons of race, the critical analysis of classical cultures, the exploration of the vast network of comparative Africinity, the examination of the good and the beautiful in African culture and the exposure of Diasporic developments in identity and culture. Students participate in the profession by reading and writing for publication, conferences, and community sharing. It is the goal of the Department that students be prepared to engage in a diverse range of intellectual issues from aesthetic, sociological, political, economic, anthropological, historical and psychological perspectives that affect the lives of Africans on the continent and in the diaspora.

The Graduate Student Handbook provides students and faculty with all the pertinent information needed to assist the student in progressing through the degree program in Africology at Temple University.

Molefi Kete Asante, Chair

# Department of Africology and African American Studies Faculty

## **Professor and Chair**

Molefi Kete Asante, Ph.D. (University of California, Los Angeles)  
Afrocentric Theory, Diopian Analysis, African Civilizations, Kawaida

## **Associate Professors**

Ama Mazama (aka Marie-Josee Cerol), Ph.D. (La Sorbonne, Paris)  
Afrocentric Theory, African Language Policies, Caribbean Culture  
Director, Graduate Program

Kimani Nehusi, Ph.D. (University of London) NTT  
Ancient Africa, Caribbean Culture, Egyptian Language

Nilgun Anadolu-Okur, Ph.D. (Hacettepe, Ankara, Turkey)  
African American Drama, Underground Railroad, Protest Literature  
Director, Undergraduate Program

Sonja Peterson-Lewis, Ph.D. (University of Florida)  
African American Psychology, Popular Culture

## **Assistant Professors**

C. Amari Johnson, Ph.D. (University of Texas)  
African Culture, African American History, African Politics

Aaron Smith, Ph.D. (Temple University)  
African-American culture, Hip Hop Movement, Black Rhetoric

## **Emeritus Professor**

Abu Abarry, Ph.D. (State University of New York, Buffalo)

## **Affiliated Faculty with Degree Universities**

Dr. James E. Davis  
Cornell University

Michael Coard, JD

Ohio State University

Dr. Garvey Musumunu  
Penn State University

Dr. Benjamin Talton  
University of Chicago

Dr. Diane Turner  
Temple University

Dr. Kimmika Williams-Witherspoon  
Temple University

Timothy Welbeck, JD  
Villanova University

Dr. Diane Turner  
Temple University

Dr. Valerie Harrison  
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## Graduate Director's Welcome

The Graduate Programs in Africology and African American Studies allow students to meet intellectual curiosity and theoretical innovation as scholars who encounter ideas and theories that support new ways of understanding phenomena.

Our aim as graduate faculty is to create places where students can engage in the joy of academic collegiality and intellectual discovery. We meet at the convergence of traditions and emerging realms of new thinking based on a broad appreciation of the classical African societies, philosophies, and histories as well as contemporary urban challenges. Thus, the work that we do reaches across interests to make the resources of the department available to students who want to understand the articulation of a discipline that challenges hegemonic structures of knowledge.

Since you are interested in our graduate programs in Africology and African American Studies at Temple I urge you to read this handbook closely, reflect on the seriousness of your purpose, and leap into the constantly changing dynamics of one of the most thrilling fields of study you can find at a university.

We are proud of our exceptional students, faculty, administrators, and alumni, who are so much a part of a revival of spirit at Temple. We gave the world's first PhD degree in African American Studies in 1988 making our doctoral-granting department the longest such history in the United States, and we urge you to make your own history as a positive presence in this international community of thinkers, activist-scholars, and researchers.

Ama Mazama, Ph.D. (la Sorbonne)

Director of Graduate Programs

# Graduate Admissions

## **The Graduate Bulletin**

The Graduate Bulletin is the source for the rules and regulations, which govern a student's tenure at Temple University. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the policies in the Bulletin and those of the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of African American Studies.

## **The Department Coordinator**

The Department's Coordinator is the student's immediate link to the rules and regulations of the University and the Department. Through reading the Graduate Bulletin, Graduate Student Handbook, and consulting with the Department's Coordinator, the student should know what is required for completion of the program and graduation.

When approaching milestones, the student should schedule an appointment with the Department Coordinator early in the preceding semester. The Department Coordinator will make sure that all requisites have been met for the milestone. However, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that all requisites have been met. Milestones include taking the comprehensive examination, applying for leave of absence, registering for thesis/dissertation credits, or defending the thesis/ dissertation.

The Department Coordinator also helps to coordinate the calendars of the major advisor and members of the Graduate Committee once a student is ready to defend the thesis or dissertation.

## **Graduate Application Packet**

The graduate application packet consists of the following:

1. Application from the Graduate School of Temple University
2. Three (3) letters of recommendation
3. Statement of personal objectives and goals as they relate to graduate study in AAS
4. Writing sample
5. A Curriculum Vitae
6. Application fee
7. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores
8. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score, where applicable
9. Teaching Assistantship application (optional)

## Admission Process

Admission into the Department of African American Studies graduate program is a two-part process. The Department reviews the applicant's records first, and then sends its recommendation to the Office of the Dean of Graduate Studies that informs the applicant of its decision.

### Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

Applicants whose first language is not English or whose official language is not English must take and score at least 600 on the standard TOEFL test.

### Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

A combined score of 1000 is expected.

## Transfer of Credit from Other Programs

The incoming graduate student, with the assistance and approval of his/her advisor, may apply to have graduate credits taken at other accredited institutions counted towards completion of the M.A. or Ph.D. in African American Studies. However, the M.A. student may satisfy only 10 credits of his or her DAAAS 30-credit hour course requirements through transfer credits. A Ph.D. student may apply to have up to 18 credits from other advanced degree programs considered toward the 45 Ph.D. credit hours required in African-American Studies. The intended transfer credit courses cannot be more than five (5) years before matriculation in the Department of Africology and African American Studies graduate program. The application for these credits is to be made during the first semester of enrollment in the Department.

In either case, the student should first discuss the specific courses she or he wishes to transfer with his/her advisor, as the advisor's signature is required on the "*Transfer of Credit*" form. After consultation with and approval of the advisor, the student must then submit the form to the Graduate Director:

- (1) A letter specifying each course the student wish to have considered for credit toward the Temple Ph.D. and corresponding Temple courses related to the transfer course,
- (2) Supporting documents (e.g., syllabi, course descriptions from college catalogs, letter from transfer course instructor or department) showing the overlap, relevance, or similarity in content between the intended transfer course and a specific Temple course and,
- (3) a copy of an official transcript from the previous University.

Requests for transfer credit are subject to review by the Graduate Committee for pertinence and relevance to the curriculum and mission of this department. *The student and the advisor, before submission to the Graduate Director, must sign "Transfer of Credit" forms, available from the Graduate Coordinator.* The final approval of transfer credit hours will rest with the Graduate Committee. In cases in which courses are not approved for transfer, a student may, in consultation with his/her advisor, submit a letter to the Graduate Committee supplying any new or additional information pertinent to reconsideration of the courses.

### Entry into the Ph.D. Program with a Master's Degree

A student who enters the Ph.D. program with a M.A. degree in Africology or Africana Studies from one of the doctoral degree granting programs (e.g., Berkeley, Cornell, Louisville, Northwestern, Yale, Penn, SUNY-Albany, Brown, Michigan State, Harvard, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Indiana, Texas-Austin, Cincinnati, etc.) may apply to have up to 18 semester hours of appropriate credit hours credited toward the 45-hour minimum didactic requirements for the Ph.D.

A student, who enters the Ph.D. program with an M.A. degree in an area other than Africology or African-American Studies, may apply to have up to 10 semester hours considered for credit toward the 45 minimum hours for the Ph.D.

### Classification of Graduate Students

**Full standing:** A graduate student in full standing is a matriculated student who has been accepted by both the Department and the Office of the Dean.

**Non-matriculated:** A student who enrolls in graduate courses as a post-baccalaureate non-degree student is considered non-matriculated. The student is not a graduate student with full standing in the department. However, up to nine (9) graduate credit hours earned as a non-matriculated student may be applied to the student's graduate program if and when the student is accepted as a matriculated student in full standing in the DAAS graduate program.

**Full-time / Part-time:** Normally, nine (9) credit hours are considered full-time for a graduate student. However, the student who holds a graduate teaching assistantship or equivalent is considered full-time with six (6) hours per semester. Otherwise, the student enrolled for fewer than 9 hours is considered part-time.

## Enrollment Requirements

University regulations require continuous enrollment/ official registration of a student for all semesters, unless, for substantial reasons, the student wishes to take a leave of absence for one or more semesters, or receive an extension of time to complete the

degree. Other than the official leave of absence, there are very few exceptions to the continuous enrollment requirement; the student should consult the Graduate Bulletin for those exceptions. A student must be officially registered with the University in the semester in which he or she completes the important milestones of graduate study, for example, taking the Comprehensive or Qualifying examinations, defense of the dissertation, submission of dissertation to Graduate School, and graduation.

## Good Standing

To remain in good standing in the university a graduate student must be registered for at least one (1) credit hour every semester. A student who has finished course work, but who has not yet submitted a thesis, or taken the M.A. Comprehensive or the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination must register for AAS 9996: Master's Thesis Research and AAAS 9994: Preliminary Exam Preparation respectively for the semester prior to taking the examination. Once the Ph.D. student has passed the Qualifying Examination, he or she must register for AAAS 9998: Pre-Dissertation Research until the dissertation proposal is approved and the student is elevated to candidacy. The candidate must then register for AAAS 9999: Dissertation Research.

A student who does not receive his/her doctoral degree within five years of passing the Qualifying Examination must retake and pass the Qualifying Examination to remain in good academic standing. The retaken examination must be administered under the same testing procedure as is currently employed in the Department of Africology and African American Studies for first-time examinees. Requests for exceptions must be in writing to the DAAAS Graduate Chair, approved by the College of Liberal Arts Graduate Program Director and addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School.

## Grade Requirements

University regulations require that the student maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better. Receiving more than two grades below B- or more than one F constitutes grounds for academic dismissal. Students receiving two grades below B- or more than one F are automatically removed from the graduate program.

## Leave of Absence

University regulations mandate that a student who is not registered and who does not hold an official leave of absence for two consecutive semesters will be administratively withdrawn from the University. Occasionally, however, a student may have substantial reasons to take leave from her or his studies. Only with an approved leave of absence is a student excused from being registered with the University.

The College of Liberal Arts has the authority to grant up to two leaves of absence (one year or two semesters) to M.A. students and up to four leaves of absence (two years or four semesters) to Ph.D. students, regardless of whether the leaves are consecutive or non-consecutive. Master's students requesting a third semester's leave of absence and doctoral students requesting a fifth semester's leave of absence must obtain the approval of the Graduate School. In order to request a leave of absence from the Graduate School, the student must provide, in writing, the following:

- (a) An explanation as to why he/she needs a leave of absence;

- (b) An anticipated return date; and
- (c) A description of how he/she will complete his/her program in the time remaining.

Before submission to the Graduate School, the student's advisor, the DAAAS Graduate Director, and the College of Liberal Arts Dean of Graduate Studies must approve the request. Leaves of absence do not extend the time limit of three (3) years for the M.A. or seven (7) years for the Ph.D.

Requests for leaves of absence must be submitted to the department chair before the start of the semester for which they are requested. Note that "*Leave of Absence*" forms and associated fees must be submitted on a semester-by semester-basis; thus a student who takes a leave of absence must take responsibility for submitting new forms each semester with the University. The Department only under extraordinary circumstances permits retroactive leaves of absence. A student who must take a leave is strongly advised to keep registration and any "*Leave of Absence*" forms up to date. In addition, a student must be registered with the University during the semester in which he or she defends the dissertation.

### **Extension of Time**

An M.A. student is allowed one extension of time and a Ph.D. student is allowed three (3) such extensions by the College of Liberal Arts. Further extensions must be forwarded to the Graduate Board and must be endorsed by the student's advisor, the director of the student's graduate program, and the Dean or the Dean's designee of the student's school or college. Every request for an extension of time must include a detailed, realistic plan for completing the degree within the time period covered by the requested extension of time.

### **Incompletes and NR's (No Grade Reported)**

A student receiving an Incomplete (I) must have completed at least 75% of the assigned or required work and must sign a departmental "*Incomplete Contract*" with the course instructor. These forms may be obtained from the Departmental Coordinator. If the student fails to complete the work by the time specified on the contract, the instructor has the right to assign the student a grade of "F" for the course. No graduate student may register for courses with two (2) or more "I's" on her or his transcript. Note that University policy states "*having two or more Incompletes that are more than two years old is presumptive evidence of failure to maintain reasonable academic progress and, therefore, grounds for dismissal.*"

It is the student's responsibility to assure that he or she is officially registered for all classes. If the student fails to register for the class, university policy requires that the student not expect to receive a grade. A student may not graduate from the university

with an “NR” on his/her record.

### **Independent Study (AAAS 9982)**

A graduate student in the Department of Africology and African American Studies is allowed only two Independent Study courses (AAAS 9982) during his or her tenure in the department. The student must complete an “*Independent Study*” form that requires the signatures of the instructor supervising the study and a detailed project proposal. The student may not register for AAAS 9982 over the phone or via the Internet. Registration for AAAS 9982 must be approved by the advisor and instructor.

## **Advisement**

### **Selecting an Advisor**

Upon entry into the program, a student may be assigned a temporary advisor. The student should schedule an appointment with the advisor as soon as the Graduate Director informs her or him of the faculty member's name.

After the student chooses a concentration, she or he should begin the process of selecting a permanent major advisor in the Department. The student is strongly advised to consider the particular strengths, interests and scholarly agendas of faculty in selecting a major advisor.

Many factors may make it impossible for any given faculty member to accept a student as an advisee. Generally, however, there should be no difficulty in finding a professor willing to work with a student.

When a faculty member accepts to serve as advisor, the advisee should obtain an “*Advisor/Advisee Agreement*” form from the Graduate Coordinator for his or her signature. Only Graduate Faculty members are permitted to serve as major advisors.

A student should take courses with the major advisor. It is also a good idea for a student to take courses with prospective members of her or his advisory committees, as such study allows the student to become familiar with faculty, and it allows faculty to become familiar with the student's work. Students should always research the faculty to be able to discuss the advisor's work with intelligence.

### **Functions of the Advisor**

The student must have an advisor at all times. The advisor's major function is to help the student toward his/her goals. S/he should neither be a “rubber stamp” nor an authoritarian prescriber of the student's program. The major advisor gives advice; each student must

evaluate and use that advice wisely in terms of its relevance to his/her career objectives. Ultimately each student is responsible for his/her own education and behavior and is not necessarily bound to accept the advice of the advisor. However, a faculty member may decline to continue as a student's advisor if he or she believes that the student is repeatedly neglecting advice so much so that this neglect interferes with the student's achieving the required or desired academic or intellectual progress and development. Under the best circumstances, the advisee/advisor relationship should be that of two scholars, one senior interacting with one junior with trust and respect. The major advisor will be of invaluable assistance to the advisee in many ways, but she or he is particularly charged with the following responsibilities:

1. To advise the student, particularly during registration, about course work and other experiences or activities needed to fulfill professional goals;
2. To assist the student in forming the advisory committees that will help to develop his or her program of study. These include the M.A. Comprehensive and the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination, the MA Thesis, and the Doctoral Advisory and Dissertation Committees. ***It is the student's responsibility to obtain the consent of the faculty members whom the student wishes to serve on his or her committee.*** The major advisor will confirm the appointment of a faculty member to an advisory committee through a letter to that faculty member with a copy to the Graduate Director;
3. To prepare and administer, with the help of the student's Examination Committee, the student's written and oral comprehensive examinations. The graduate advisor will make up half of the questions of Comprehensive or Qualifying Examinations. The M.A. student responds to a total of six (6) hours and the Ph.D. student to a total of twelve (12) hours;
4. To work in consultation with the Thesis// Dissertation Committee to assist the student in developing the proposal and dissertation for the Ph.D. student. Note that in some situations, the composition of the Doctoral Advisory Committee may change after the doctoral preliminary examination is completed; that is, the student's examination committee and dissertation committee do not have to be the same.
5. To chair, for the Ph.D. student, the public dissertation prospectus (proposal) hearing;
6. To appoint another committee member to chair the final oral defense of the dissertation;
7. To keep the Department and Graduate School informed of advisee's progress;
8. To consult with the advisee after the faculty completes the yearly review of each graduate student's progress.

## Advising/Methods of Changing Advisors

A student must have an advisor at all times. However, it is possible that as the student's interests develop, s/he may find it desirable to change major advisors and/or advisory committees.

- The advisee/advisor relationship can be terminated by mutual consent with a note to the Graduate Director signed by both parties or by either party through negotiation with the Graduate Director, who must not at the time be serving as a member of the Committee;
- In cases in which the Graduate Director is also a member of the committee, then another member of the Graduate faculty appointed by the Chair of the Department should serve as the negotiator between the student and the committee member.

The student wishing to change his or her advisor must complete a "*Change of Advisor*" form that may be obtained from the Graduate Coordinator. The completed form is to be returned to the Graduate Coordinator. Once a defense date has been set, there can be no changes of committee members and/or major advisors except in extenuating circumstances.

## Selecting Advisory Committees

A student, in consultation with her/his major advisor, must select advisory committees that will guide the student through the various steps in the degree programs. These include the M.A. Comprehensive Examination/Thesis Committee, the Doctoral Qualifying Examination Committee, the Doctoral Advisory Committee and the Dissertation Examination Committee. Faculty on all graduate committees must have graduate status.

## The M.A. Degree

The Master's program seeks to answer the personal and intellectual aspirations of the student and the particular needs of society that are not satisfied by a baccalaureate degree. Thus, the M.A. provides more specialized study in African American Studies than the B.A. or B.S. degree and often serves as the terminal degree. Many secondary school teachers, for example, desire to enhance their skills by obtaining an M.A. degree in African American Studies.

Note that the completion of the M.A. does not automatically admit the student to the Ph.D. program. The student wishing to move from the M.A. to the Ph.D. level must formally apply to the Ph.D. program, and go through the same process as external applicants. Admission is offered twice a year in the Fall and the Spring although a prospective student is allowed to submit an application during any time of the year.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Master's degree must hold the B.A. or B.S. degree from an accredited college or university with a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 or better on a 4.00 scale or the equivalent. Other requirements include sample writing, GRE scores, Statement of Goals, TOEFL scores, and three letters of reference.

## Transfer of Credit from Other Programs

The incoming graduate student, with the assistance and approval of his/her advisor, may apply to have graduate credits taken at other accredited institutions counted towards completion of the M.A. in African American Studies. The M.A. student may apply only 10-credits toward the DAAAS 30-credit hour course requirements through transfer credits. The intended transfer credit courses cannot be more than five (5) years before matriculation in the Department of Africology and African American Studies graduate program. The application for these credits is to be made during the first semester of enrollment in DAAAS.

The student should first discuss the specific courses she or he wishes to transfer with his/her advisor, as the advisor's signature is required on "*Transfer of Credit*" form, available from the Graduate Coordinator. After consultation with and approval of the advisor, the student must then submit to the Graduate Committee:

- (1) A letter specifying each course the student wished to have considered for credit toward the Temple Ph.D. and corresponding Temple courses related to the transfer course,
- (2) Supporting documents (e.g., syllabi, course descriptions from college catalogs, letter from transfer course instructor or department) showing the overlap, relevance, or similarity in content between the intended transfer course and a specific Temple course and,
- (3) A copy of an official transcript from the previous University.

Requests for transfer credit are subject to review by the Graduate Committee for pertinence and relevance to the curriculum and mission of this department.

## Core Course Requirements Africology and African American Studies consist of the following:

**AAAS 8002 African Civilizations**

**AAAS 8004 Theories and Methods in Africology and African American Studies**

**AAAS 8009 The Afrocentric Paradigm**

Doctoral students are expected to take these courses during the first two years of matriculation in the program.

## Degree Requirements

Completion of the Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in African American Studies requires the fulfillment or the requirement of a minimum of thirty-credit hours. The time period for completing the M.A. is three (3) years that begins with the semester of matriculation. In addition, the student must pass a written comprehensive examination testing his/her mastery of critical aspects of the discipline, or submit and defend a thesis.

## Leave of Absence

University regulations mandate that a student who is not registered and who does not hold an official leave of absence for two consecutive semesters will be administratively withdrawn from the University. Occasionally, however, a student may have substantial reasons to take leave from her or his studies. Only with an approved leave of absence is a student excused from being registered with the University. Requests for leaves of absence must be submitted to the department chair before the start of the semester for which they are requested. Note that the "*Leave of Absence*" forms and associated fees must be submitted on a semester-by semester-basis; thus a student who takes a leave of absence must take responsibility for submitting new forms each semester with the University. The Department only under extraordinary circumstances permits retroactive leaves of absence. A student who must take a leave is strongly advised to keep registration and any "*Leave of Absence*" forms up to date. Note that a student must be registered with the University during the semester in which he or she defends the thesis. Also note that leaves of absence do not extend the time limit of three (3) years for the M.A.

## Extension of Time

An M.A. student is allowed one extension of time by the College of Liberal Arts. Further extensions must be forwarded to the Graduate Board and must be endorsed by the student's advisor, the director of the student's graduate program, and the Dean or the Dean's designee of the student's school or college. Every request for an extension of time must include a detailed, realistic plan for completing the degree within the time period covered by the requested extension of time.

## M.A. Comprehensive Examination Option

The M.A. student must take and pass a culminating examination that is intended to probe the student's knowledge of content, literature, theory/methodology, and methods in Africology and African American Studies and to test the student's ability to apply theoretical issues to praxis. The culminating examination for the M.A. student is called the Comprehensive Examination. It is a proctored, closed book, and six-hours written examination.

The student should note that committee members might have particular reading lists or specific recommendations for materials that the student should study or review for the examination. A copy of the current departmental reading list can be obtained from the Graduate Coordinator or the Chair. **Thus, the student should plan his/her selection and notification of committee members in a manner that will allow the completion of any additional readings (or other work) that may be recommended.**

The student is strongly advised to choose examining committees at the beginning of the semester that he or she takes his or her last course. The M.A. student should consult with her/his graduate advisor in selecting members of his or her examination committee and in setting the date for the Comprehensive Examination. The student should then write to prospective members requesting that they serve on the Examination Committee. In the letter, the student should mention the course(s) taken with the professor, and should also include a copy of his/her statement of research interests and career goals. The faculty member should notify the student's advisor in writing of his/her agreement to serve on the committee.

## The M.A. Comprehensive Examination Committee

The function of this Committee is to prepare and administer the student's written M.A. comprehensive examination. The student's graduate advisor will make up half, or three (3) hours, of the questions for Comprehensive Examination.

## Committee Constituency

The M.A. Comprehensive Examination Committee consists of two faculty members. Both persons should be graduate faculty with whom the student has taken courses, and generally, one of these persons should be the student's graduate advisor, who must be a member of the Department. Non-Tenure Track Faculty members approved by the Department and Graduate School may also write comprehensive examination items, and serve on committees.

## Scheduling the Examination

The Comprehensive Examination is offered in the fall, spring, and summer semesters. It may be written either on a Thursday or Friday. The hours of the exam are from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Department Coordinator will schedule exam dates in each semester and put a call out for declarations of intent to take the exam that semester, then confirms the planned date of the examination in writing to the candidate and committee members.

In order to arrange an examination date, the student must schedule an appointment with the Graduate Coordinator to be sure that her/his records are free of Incompletes, NR's, holds, and other encumbrances that would prevent him/her from meeting University requirements for taking the examination. Once the Comprehensive Examination process begins, the composition of the Comprehensive Examination Committee may not be changed.

Examiners will submit examination items directly to the Graduate Director. The Graduate Director will coordinate the administration of the examination on the designated day(s). Examination items will be read and evaluated by the student's Examination Committee and the results given to the student within five (5) weeks after the completion of the examination.

## M.A. Thesis Option

Students who choose to complete a thesis are given the opportunity to demonstrate specialized knowledge and their ability to do original research in Africana studies. The student must have completed at least **27 hours of coursework**, including the core. S/he

then sees the Graduate coordinator to complete a Master's Thesis Option form, and have it duly signed by the student and the designated advisor. The latter need not be the regular advisor of the student, but a graduate faculty member who has agreed to supervise the thesis. The course number for Master's thesis is AAAS 9996, for which the student must register. The student must work with his/her committee (the thesis advisor and another faculty) to produce and successfully defend a thesis on an approved topic. The student then submits the thesis electronically to the Graduate school according to the instructions found on the Graduate School's website in the Dissertation Handbook.

### **Notification of Examination/Thesis Results**

The Graduate Director will notify the student of her/his Comprehensive Examination results no later than five (5) weeks after the completion of the examination. On the basis of the quality of the examination results, the Examination Committee may make one of the following determinations:

- (1) *Pass:* The M.A. student receives an M.A. degree when all other departmental and university requirements are met. Completion of the M.A. does not automatically admit the student to the Ph.D. program. A student wishing to move from the M.A. to the Ph.D. level must apply to the Ph.D. program. Though the internal applicant must compete with students nationally for acceptance into the Ph.D. program, he or she may pick up a "Change of Degree" form from the Graduate Coordinator after applying for graduation. .
- (2) *Fail:* The M.A. student is not awarded the M.A. degree. A student may retake the exam or re-submit the thesis once. If the student fails the examination the second time, his/her graduate student status will be terminated.

### **Preparing to Graduate**

Note that graduation is not automatic; the M.A. student must apply to graduate as soon as she or he finishes his/her course work. An application for graduation must be completed by a specific date (announced in the University calendar in the Graduate Bulletin) of the semester in which the student plans to graduate. This usually occurs mid-October for January graduation, mid-February for May graduation and early June for August graduation. Before applying for graduation, the student must be sure that all bills and fees are paid, all incomplete and NR grades are completed, and the student must also be registered.

## **Doctor of Philosophy Ph.D. Degree**

The doctorate degree is the highest earned academic degree in any discipline. The awarding of the Ph.D. is a testament by the student's Doctoral Advisory Committee that the student has met the Committee's highest standards. The academic requirements for

the Ph.D. include a language or equivalent requirement, a Doctoral Qualifying Examination, a dissertation proposal, a dissertation and an oral defense of the dissertation.

### **Admission Requirements**

Applicants for admission to the Ph.D. program are required to hold the M.A. in Africology and African American Studies. But those with M.A.'s in related fields and content concentration areas in African or African American Studies may also apply.

Applicants for whom English is not the first or official language must take and score at least 600 on the standard TOEFL test.

All applicants must submit transcripts from all institutions attended, GRE scores, Statement of Goals and objective, a resume, sample writing, and three letters of reference. A combined score of 1000 is expected in the GRE.

### **Advanced Standing and Transfer of Credit from Other Programs**

The incoming graduate student, with the assistance and approval of his/her advisor, may apply to have graduate credits taken at other accredited institutions counted towards completion of the Ph.D. in African American Studies. A Ph.D. student may apply to have up to 18 credits from other advanced degree programs considered toward the 45 Ph.D. credit hours required in African-American Studies. The intended transfer credit courses cannot be more than five (5) years before matriculation in the Department of Africology and African American Studies graduate program. The application for these credits is to be made during the first semester of enrollment in DAAS.

### **Entry into the Ph.D. Program with a Master's Degree**

A student who enters the Ph.D. program with a M.A. degree from any of the graduate degree granting Africology departments may apply to have up to 30 semester hours of appropriate credit hours credited toward the 51-credit hour minimum requirement for the Ph.D.

A student who enters the Ph.D. program with an M.A. degree in an area other than Africology and African-American Studies may apply to have up to 15 semester hours considered for credit toward the 51 minimum hours for the Ph.D.

### **Doctoral Process**

A sketch of the process by which a student receives the doctorate follows:

- **Coursework**

- **Language Requirement**
- **Preliminary or Qualifying Examination**
- **Dissertation Proposal**
- **Oral Defense of Proposal**
- **Candidacy**
- **Dissertation**
- **Dissertation Defense**
- **Graduation**

## **Course Requirements**

For the completion of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in African American Studies a student must take a minimum of 48 credit course hours. There are four core requirements; all other courses are electives depending upon the student's chosen interest area. Non-core courses cannot be chosen without the advice of the student's advisor. These are the core courses for the Doctoral Program:

**AAAS 8002 African Civilizations**

**AAAS 8004 Theories and Methods in African American Studies**

**AAAS 8008 Ethnographic Methods**

**AAAS 8009 The Afrocentric Paradigm**

**AAAS 9642 Seminar in African American Social Philosophical Thought**

Advisors may encourage a student to take at least one course outside the department related to the cultural/aesthetic or social/behavioral track. A student must receive prior approval from the major advisor for any courses taken outside the Department of Africology and African American Studies that he or she wishes to use to fulfill DAAAS degree requirements. The Department is under no obligation to accept any external course for credit toward the degree that has not been approved by the major advisor. However, for his or her own personal and intellectual enrichment, a student may take as many external courses as she or he wishes with the approval of his or her advisor.

## **Minimum Requirements versus Sufficient Requirements**

A graduate degree is recognition of superior attainment in a field of study; it is not simply the completion of a certain number of courses. In order for the student to achieve the kind of excellence that the world will demand, she or he must at all times be committed to the completion of above-minimum requirements and to superior performance in every component of his or her studies. Depending upon the student's specific career objectives, it is not only possible, but probable that in consultation with his/her advisor, the student may find that she or he needs to complete additional courses either within or outside the Department in order to reach an acceptable level of expertise.

## **Finishing Coursework**

A student who has finished course work, but who has not taken the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination must register for AAAS 9994 [Preliminary Exam Preparation] for the semester prior to taking the examination. Once the Ph.D. student has fulfilled the language requirement and passed the Qualifying Examination, he or she must register for AAAS 9998 [Pre-Dissertation Research] until the dissertation proposal is approved and the student is elevated to candidacy. The candidate must then register for AAAS 9999 [Dissertation Research].

## Language Requirement

The language requirement in Africology and African-American Studies is intended to assure that the student has a working familiarity with a language and culture other than English and/or the native language. *The Ph.D. student must pass the language examination before taking the Qualifying Examination.* The student who has English as a second language may use English to fulfill the language requirement. With the recommendation of the advisor, a student may demonstrate competency in statistics to fulfill the language requirement.

The language examination must be administered and graded by a college or university affiliated or certified instructor in the exam language. The results must be forwarded on letterhead to the Graduate Coordinator who duly records the information in the student's folder. Temple University's various language departments offer non-credit language courses and administer examinations for graduate students needing to fulfill the language requirement. Students are permitted to take classical African languages such as ciKam or Amharic as well as Yoruba and Kiswahili from certified teachers of those languages. However, the procedure remains the same where the instructor must send a letter to the Graduate Coordinator on University letterhead stating that the student has successfully passed the examination.

## Advisory Committees

### Doctoral Qualifying Examination Committee:

The function of the Doctoral Preliminary or Qualifying Examination Committee is to create and evaluate the major milestone written examinations that shall be used to determine whether the Ph.D. student meets the knowledge requirements necessary to move forward in preparing and completing the dissertation.

### Committee Constituency

The Preliminary/Qualifying Examination Committee for the Ph.D. student should consist of the advisor and at least two, but no more than four other graduate faculty. The Qualifying Examination committee may or may not be composed of the same persons as the dissertation committee. Non- Presidential Faculty approved by the Department and Graduate School may also write preliminary examination items and serve on dissertation committees.

## **The Doctoral Advisory Committee**

The function of the Doctoral Advisory Committee is to guide the candidate's doctoral research. This committee offers regular advice and expertise as the student collects data, researches and writes the proposal and dissertation.

### **Committee Constituency**

The Doctoral Advisory Committee must include at least three (3) graduate faculty members from Temple University; two of them, including the chair, must be from the Department of Africology and African American Studies. The committee may be expanded to include other Temple University faculty or reputable experts from outside the University, provided that a majority of the committee members are Temple faculty members.

## **The Dissertation Examining Committee:**

The function of the Dissertation Examining Committee is to evaluate the dissertation and the candidate's oral defense of the dissertation. This committee decides whether the candidate passes or fails either the dissertation or the oral defense. All members of the Dissertation Examining Committee must be physically present for the oral defense. The Dean of the Graduate School must specifically approve exceptions in writing. Exceptions include allowing the absent member to participate in the defense through teleconferencing, videoconferencing or the submission of written comments and questions. No more than one member of the committee may be physically absent and in no case may the candidate or the Doctoral Advisory Committee Chair be absent.

### **Committee Constituency**

The Dissertation Examining Committee is composed of the Doctoral Advisory Committee plus at least one additional, or external, reader who may be a graduate faculty member from Temple or another university, but he or she cannot be a member of DAAAS.

### **Oral Defense Chair**

The Chair of the oral defense must be a presidential faculty member of the Dissertation Examining Committee, but not the Chair of the student's Doctoral Advisory Committee. This person conducts the proceedings of the candidate's oral defense.

## Doctoral Preliminary or Qualifying Examination

The Preliminary or Qualifying Examination is a culminating examination that is intended to probe the Ph.D. student's knowledge of content, literature, theory/methodology, and methods in African-American Studies and to test the student's ability to apply theoretical issues to praxis. It is a proctored, closed-book, 12-hour written examination administered by the student's Preliminary/Qualifying Examination Committee. The student's major advisor will compose 6 hours of the examination. In order to take the exam, the student must register for AAAS 9994: Preliminary Exam Preparation.

The student should note that committee members may have particular reading lists or specific recommendations for materials that the student should study or review for the examination. Thus the student should plan his/her selection and notification of committee members in a manner that will allow the completion of any additional readings (or other work) that may be recommended.

### *Preliminary or Qualifying Examinations Five or More Years Old*

*A student who does not receive his/her doctoral degree within five years of passing the Preliminary or Qualifying Examination must retake and pass the Preliminary Examination to remain in good academic standing. The retake examination must be administered under the same testing procedure as is currently employed in the Department of African American Studies for first-time examinees. Requests for exceptions must be in writing from the DAAS Graduate Chair, approved by the Department Chair, and addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School.*

## Preliminary or Qualifying Examining Committee

The student is strongly advised to choose examining committees at the beginning of the semester that he or she takes his or her last course. The student should consult with her/his graduate advisor in selecting members of his or her examination committee and in setting the date for the Qualifying Examination. The student should then write to prospective members requesting that they serve on the Examination Committee. In the letter, the student should mention the course(s) taken with the professor, and should also include a copy of his/her statement of research interests and career goals. The faculty member should notify the student's advisor in writing of his/her agreement to serve on the committee.

## Scheduling the Examination

The doctoral Qualifying Examination is regularly offered twice a year –The hours of the exam are from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. A student will declare intention to take the exam when the date is announced by the Graduate Coordinator.

In order to arrange an examination date, the student must schedule an appointment with the Graduate Coordinator to be sure that her/his records are free of Incompletes, NR's, holds, and other encumbrances that would prevent him/her from meeting University requirements for taking the examination. Once the Comprehensive Examination process begins, the composition of the Comprehensive or Qualifying Examination Committee may not be changed. The Graduate Coordinator informs the student's committee of the planned date of the exam.

Examiners will submit examination items to the Graduate Director through the Coordinator, who will assist in the administration of the examination on the designated day. Examination items will be read and evaluated by the student's Examination Committee and the results given to the student within five (5) weeks after the completion of the examination.

### **Notification of Examination Results**

The Graduate Director will notify the student of her/his Qualifying Examination results no later than five (5) weeks after the completion of the examination.

On the basis of the quality of the examination results, the Examination Committee may make one of the following determinations:

- (1) *Pass:* The Ph.D. student passes the examination and may now write his/her dissertation proposal.
- (2) *Fail:* The Ph.D. student does not successfully pass the written and/or oral examination and is provided the opportunity to retake the examination, in part or all. Under no condition will the student be allowed to take the examination more than twice.
- (3) *Fail/Termination:* The Ph.D. student who does not successfully pass the written examination is not admitted to candidacy and is terminated from graduate status in the Department.

### **The Dissertation Proposal**

After successfully completing the Qualifying Examination, the student must prepare a formal research proposal/prospectus for the planned dissertation research. The student may now register for AAS 9998: Pre-Dissertation Research.

In designing the proposal, the student must be aware that he or she is proposing a way to contribute to the knowledge of one or more areas either by uncovering new information, providing an innovative synthesis of existing information, propounding a new theory,

fine-tuning an existing theory, or offering a new interpretation substantiated by data. Therefore, the student is expected to fine-tune the proposal, working in concert with the Dissertation Committee chair; it is primarily the responsibility of the dissertation committee chair to decide when the proposal is ready to be submitted to other committee members.

The major advisor and committee members may make suggestions for changes in the proposal. Members will communicate any additions, revisions or changes to the chair who will, in turn, communicate with the student. When the Chair and Committee members are essentially satisfied with the proposal draft, the student is ready to present and defend it before the Committee. Notice of the defense meeting should be posted on the Department's notice boards. At the defense, Committee members may make further recommendations as deemed necessary to make the proposal a strong, definitive work.

In some cases, the student may be required to do research which involves human subjects. If so, he or she must obtain "*Institutional Review Board*" forms from the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Studies, University Services Building, and satisfy the protocol requirements of that board.

### **Dissertation Proposal Format**

The dissertation proposal is usually at least thirty (30) pages long and includes a detailed explanation of what the student intends to prove and how it is going to be proven. For example, the proposal might have the following format:

- I. Introduction
  - Statement of the Problem
  - Purpose of the Study
  - Significance of the Study
  - Limitations of the Study
  - Theory and Method
  - Methodology
- II. Review of the Literature
- III. Summary of Completed Research
- IV. Summaries of Prospective Chapters
- V. References

### **Admission to Candidacy**

Once the proposal has been approved by the Committee, the student is elevated to candidacy. A student in the Ph.D. program is considered a candidate for the Ph.D. when he or she has completed every departmental and university requirement for the degree except the writing and defense of the dissertation. All required course work must be completed (no I or NR grades), the Qualifying Examination must be passed, the language requirement met, and the proposal approved before the student is elevated to Candidacy level. The Graduate School upon review of the student's qualifications and the approval

of a doctoral proposal may admit a student to candidacy. Upon receiving official notification from the Graduate School, the student may then begin research and writing for the dissertation.

## **The Dissertation**

### **Dissertation Research Credit: AAS 9999**

The University requires doctoral candidates to register for a minimum of two credits of Dissertation Research after meeting candidacy requirements, in order to be eligible to graduate. The course, AAAS 9999 (Dissertation Research) allows the candidate to be continuously registered while writing the dissertation. *As such it can be spread over two semesters.*

### **Writing the Dissertation**

The process of writing the dissertation for the Ph.D. is, perhaps, the most challenging time in the intellectual life of any graduate student. The student should remember that he or she is not only preparing a work that will represent himself/herself, but is also preparing a work that will become a part of the recorded history of the Department and the University. As this is the terminal degree for any program, the responsibility of the Dissertation Committee is to guide the student toward a level of scholarship that is exemplary of both the Committee and the student's highest capabilities. Therefore, the student should expect to submit numerous drafts of the dissertation.

Note that major theoretical or methodological changes in the dissertation, as opposed to the proposal, may be made only in consultation between student and Committee members. At all times, the dissertation chair should be a part of these consultations.

Much like the proposal stage, the student ordinarily submits drafts to his/her dissertation committee chair, who is to provide guidance and advice in shaping the work into an exemplary document. It is expected that each successive draft that the student submits will take into consideration the advice of chair and will show substantive improvement over the previous draft.

Once the dissertation chair approves the draft, he or she will advise the student to distribute it to other members of the committee, who will likewise offer advice. Once the student submits a draft that meets the general approval of the entire committee, the student and chair may then decide upon a dissertation defense date.

## **Dissertation Format**

The student should see online the Temple University Dissertation and Thesis Handbook at <http://www.temple.edu/dissertationhandbook/>. A link can be found on the Graduate School's Home Page. This handbook outlines the format, submission procedures and other information about completing the dissertation.

## **Oral Defense of the Dissertation**

The Graduate School has several important regulations that apply to timelines and the process of the dissertation defense. The student is advised to study carefully the Graduate Bulletin for these regulations. Chief among these are the registration requirement the notification of the graduate school and posted announcements of the defense--both at least 10 days in advance of the defense. In addition, should a student have an outside reader who will be unable to attend the defense the student will have to petition the Graduate School to set up an electronic presence of the reader. Should the outside reader require transportation funding, this should be worked out between the student and the reader. Please consult the University's Graduate Bulletin for its specific regulations regarding the Dissertation Defense.

## **Dissertation Defense Announcement**

Every dissertation defense must be publicly announced in writing at least ten (10) days prior to the defense and must be open to the academic community. The Graduate Coordinator will send copies of the announcement to the Graduate School and DAAAS Graduate faculty and post the announcement on public bulletin boards.

## **Dissertation Defense Process**

At the Departmental level, the Dissertation defense proceeds as follows:

1. The Dissertation Chair introduces the Candidate
2. The Dissertation Chair introduces the Defense Chair
3. The Defense Chair introduces other Committee Member
4. The Candidate is asked to present the research and conclusions
5. There is then questioning of the research by the committee
6. If time permits, the audience is asked for questions
7. The audience is asked to leave the room along with the candidate
8. The Committee deliberates
9. The Candidates is asked to return and the judgment of the committee is given.

### The Committee may recommend:

**(1) Pass:** The committee congratulates the student for defending an intellectually and methodologically sound dissertation. In exceptional cases, the committee may recommend distinction or highest distinction.

After the student passes the dissertation defense, the advisor will secure signatures from committee members for the two signature pages provided by the Graduate School. The Graduate School accepts only original pages. The advisor must also sign the certification page that verifies the student's status.

**(2) Fail:** The committee decides that the student must still make substantive changes that are of such magnitude that the student needs to re-define the dissertation.

### Preparing to Graduate

Note that graduation is not automatic; the Ph.D. student must apply to graduate as soon as she or he passes his/her dissertation defense. An application for graduation must be completed by a specific date (announced in the University calendar in the Graduate Bulletin) of the semester in which the student plans to graduate. This usually occurs mid-October for January graduation, mid-February for May graduation and early June for August graduation. Before applying for graduation, the student must be sure that all bills and fees are paid, all incomplete and NR grades are completed, and the student must also be registered. Graduation is applied for online on the TU Portal in Self Service Banner.

## Student Appeal/Grievance Process

A student with an issue he/she wishes to resolve should first attempt to discuss the matter with the faculty or staff concerned. If the issue is still unresolved, the student may wish to consult with the Graduate Director who will serve as a confidential intermediary between the parties involved. If, after consulting with the Graduate Director, the issue remains unresolved, the following process is to be followed:

### Justification for Appeals and Grievances

1. A student may appeal for *procedural irregularity* or *extenuating circumstances* caused by his/her personal issues or by some professorial or departmental irreconcilable conflict.

A *procedural irregularity* is defined as documented error in or divergence from

the prescribed process of evaluating and grading students according to the professor's syllabus or departmental written policies.

An *extenuating circumstance* is defined as a severe and documented situation which is beyond the student's control and which prevents the student from fulfilling degree requirements in a manner consistent with university guidelines.

2. A student may appeal a departmental or college decision that he/she can demonstrate is inconsistent with university policy.

## Process of Appeal and Grievances

1. An appeal must be made in writing and must be submitted to the DAAAS Graduate Director no later than thirty (30) days after written notice that an action has been taken against the student by a professor, the department or college. The basis of the appeal must be clearly stated and documented.
2. After receiving written notice, the Graduate Director *shall appoint a committee to hear* the appeal in a timely fashion. The Committee may choose to make a decision based on written documents or should the Committee find it necessary to meet with the student, she/he will be given written notification at least five (5) days prior to the day of the hearing. In either case, the grieving student will be notified of the committee's decision no later than one month following the date of the student's appeal. The student may also make a request for a formal hearing.
3. The Committee's final decision will be submitted to the Chair of the department and to the student in writing.
4. If the grieving student is not satisfied with the recommendation of the DAAAS Committee, the student may then refer her/his case to the College of Liberal Arts.
5. Under extraordinary circumstances, the graduate student may appeal a CLA level decision with the **Graduate School Dean**.

## Documentation

1. The grieving student is responsible for providing the DAAAS Graduate or Undergraduate Committee with relevant documentation that supports his/her case.
2. Anyone may submit written documentation to the Committee, provided that these documents pertain specifically to the student's case at hand. These communications must accompany the student's letter of appeal.

3. In any appeal process all information in departmental files may be used by the Committee.

## Process of Appeal and Grievance to the College of Liberal Arts Graduate Office

1. No later than ten (10) working days after receiving the DAAAS Committee's decision, the grieving student must communicate to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in writing the fact that he/she is appealing the department's decision and must detail the basis for the appeal.
3. The Dean's Office may resolve an appeal solely on the basis of the student's letter, or after meeting with the student, or after referring the matter back to the DAAAS Committee. The Dean's Office will overrule the decision of the DAAAS Committee only in cases in which the department was found to have followed improper procedures in handling the student's appeal.

**NOTE:** *A graduate student who is terminated because of failing twice to pass comprehensive examinations or who is terminated because of substandard grades or other examples of a lack of academic progress, may file an appeal for reinstatement with the Student Appeals Committee of the Graduate School in the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School.*

## Miscellaneous

### Forms

Often, transmittal forms are required for culminating experiences, exams and defenses. Please acquaint yourself with the **Forms** pages on both the African American Studies Website and on the Graduate School's website to assist you in preparing for these experiences.

### Graduate Assistantships, Awards, Scholarships & Fellowships

The department offers a limited number of graduate assistantships on a highly competitive basis. These awards usually involve some aspect of teaching. The applicant must have a grade point average of 3.6 or better and strong letters of recommendation. Awards will generally go to doctoral students. A current student wishing to apply should obtain an "*Internal Teaching Assistantship*" application form from the Graduate Coordinator.

The College of Liberal Arts and the University offer some scholarships and fellowships. Interested students should investigate possible financial awards in the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts on the 12th floor of Anderson Hall and the Graduate School and the Office of Financial Aid in Conwell/Carnell Halls.

Of particular interest is the *Dissertation and Project Completion Grant* offered, usually in October, by the Graduate School for students who have completed all other

requirements for the Ph.D. except the dissertation. Other awards include *Presidential, Russell Conwell* and *University Fellowships* and the *Future Faculty Fellows Program* which are available to newly matriculated graduate students. The Department nominates students for these awards or is asked by the Graduate School for nominations but interested students should contact the Graduate Director to express an interest in particular awards.

Outside funding, such as *Ford Foundation* grants, the *Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowships* and the *Social Science Research Council Fellowships and Grants in Training and Research* should also be investigated. Interested students should contact the Office of Financial Aid as well as the organizations.

## **Graduate Student Orientation**

There is a mandatory orientation for new and returning graduate students during the week before classes begin for the fall semester. In addition to promoting camaraderie with fellow students and allowing advisees to meet with their advisors, the meeting communicates important information about the department and the graduate program.

## **DAAAS Graduate Student Union**

The Graduate Student Union is the organization that represents the department's graduate students. The association organizes conferences and colloquia at local and national levels.

## **Colloquia & Conferences**

The Department of Africology and African American Studies sponsors several colloquia, speakers and conferences annually. Graduate students are encouraged to participate in these activities by attending as well as presenting papers and research. These colloquia introduce and support student and faculty research as well as individuals and issues important to the discipline of African American Studies. The monthly Nommo sessions are highly recommended for all graduate students.

In addition, chapters of the leading African American Studies organizations exist on campus and in the area. There are, for example, the *Diopian Institute for Scholarly Advancement*, *Afrocentricity International*, *Association for the Study of Classical African Civilizations*, the *Association for the Study of African American Life and History*, the *African Heritage Studies Association*, and the *National Council of Black Studies* (NCBS.) Please consult with the Graduate Director about working with these organizations. Students are invited to create organizations that support the academic and intellectual interest of the graduate program or join one of the established associations.

## PASCEP

The Department of Africology and African American Studies founded the PASCEP program as a laboratory for its undergraduate and graduate students. Annie Hyman as a community leader and organizer and Tran Van Dinh and Odeyo Ayaga as professors united to bring into existence this unique program. It was removed from the department in 1997 under the chair's tenure of Dr. Joyce Joyce. Nevertheless, the department continues its association with the Pan African Studies Community Education Program (PASCEP) as part of its ongoing commitment to the local community. Individuals interested in personal development may take a variety of non-credit courses, including the General Education Diploma (GED), African American history, African languages, African American music, and Basic Adult Literacy. DAAS graduate students will find ample opportunities to volunteer and hone teaching and other skills in PASCEP.