

# AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES, M.A.

## 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/>).

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 in English must provide an English proficiency test score and meet the Graduate School minimum requirements ( <a href="https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency">https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/requirements/#english-proficiency</a> ).
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 students 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.

Admission into the Ph.D. program **requires** a master of arts in a closely related field (with the thesis or other substantive piece of graduate-level writing submitted as a writing sample).

## APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

All applicants to the program must apply online (<https://grad.wisc.edu/apply/>) by 15 December. *Please note*, the \$75 application fee is due at the time of application (an additional \$6 will be charged to international students to cover processing). 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 you are offered admission to the program, the Graduate School will request that you provide official copies of transcripts or academic records from each institution you have attended. 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. An accepted student may not matriculate or enroll for courses until the Graduate School has documented official transcript(s) matching or updating the application transcript(s).

- **TOEFL or IELTS Scores** (international applicants)

If your undergraduate institution did not conduct courses in English, you must complete either the Test Of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System exam (IELTS). 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. Students who do not meet Graduate School guidelines for English proficiency (<https://grad.wisc.edu/admissions/requirements/>) may be considered for admission, but will be required to complete assigned English language courses during their first year of study.

- **Purpose Statement**

Your statement of purpose should make clear that you understand the kinds of courses we offer (<https://african.wisc.edu/acs-courses/>) 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)**

We require three letters of recommendation, submitted directly by the referees. You must submit your *requests* to all three of your references as part of the online application. Recommenders will receive a notice via email and will submit their letters accordingly. We do accept letters by post and email (submit directly to the graduate coordinator). We do not accept letters sent by the candidate unless they are sealed and the seal is proofed in some form (e.g., with the letter writer's signature over the seal).

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. If recommenders submit their letters via the Graduate School's online application system, they will be asked to compare you to other students with whom they have worked; if they do not submit their letters through this system, they should include this information in the letter itself.

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 15 December deadline in order for us to consider your application.*

## **AFTER THE APPLICATION**

Following your application, the Graduate School will provide you with a link and a UW-Madison NetID and account. Use the information to track the progress of your application. Please keep in mind that materials sent by post may take some time to appear on this progress report.