AFRICAN CULTURAL STUDIES, PHD

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	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.

Admission into the PhD 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 the 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 received are related to the Graduate School's requirements, which are answered in their documentation.

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

University Transcripts

Applicants must upload transcripts or academic records from **each** institution attended. Applicants may upload unofficial copies for department review. If recommended for 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 applicants to self-report scores, but the program cannot consider an application until the Graduate School receives an official score report directly from the examination organization.

Purpose Statement

An applicant's statement of purpose should make clear that they understand the kinds of courses we offer (https://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 an applicant's decision to undertake graduate work in the Department of African Cultural Studies. Include references to academic work, short-term and long-term goals, personal relationship to or interests in the fields we study, and knowledge of any African languages. If transcripts reflect any negative episodes in an applicant's academic career, e.g., a poor grade or a dropped course, they may explain them here.

The department will make secondary use of the purpose statement to assess the style and substance of your writing. The program recommends a length of 500-1000 words. The scope of discussion and the level of detail that an applicant chooses to provide will be part of the program's assessment.

Curriculum Vitae or Résumé

Submit a curriculum vitae or résumé listing language experience, awards, honors, or publications. For more information on curriculum vitae or résumé writing, consult the UW-Madison Writing Center's tips (https://writing.wisc.edu/handbook/assignments/cv/).

Letters of Recommendation (3)

The program requires three letters of recommendation, submitted directly by the referees. Applicants must submit requests to all three references as part of the online application. Recommenders will receive a notice via email and will submit their letters accordingly.

Recommendation letters should discuss an applicant's overall scholarly ability. Ask referees to include specific examples of the applicant's academic achievements; independent thinking, analytical and critical thinking skills; papers and presentations given in their courses; and an

applicant's merits relative to other students. For international applicants, the letters should also address English proficiency.

If recommenders submit letters via the Graduate School's online application system, they will be asked to provide class rank information; 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 applicants will succeed in the study of African languages and expressive cultures at the graduate level. While the program will accept letters from faculty in any discipline, it will give greater weight to letters from faculty whose scholarship is related to the fields the program studies.

All letters must be received by the application deadline to consider your application.

AFTER THE APPLICATION

Once an applicant submits an application, they will receive an email with a link to set up a UW–Madison NetID. Use the information to track application progress.