

# AFRICANA STUDIES (PHD)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://africana.cornell.edu/graduate/>)

CIP: 05.0201 | HEGIS: 2211.00 | NYSED: 36466

## Graduate Field

Africana Studies (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/africana-studies/>)

## Program Description

The Graduate Field of Africana Studies at Cornell University established the first Ph.D. program in Africana Studies in New York State in Fall 2013. The Africana Studies Ph.D. program is a small and high quality program designed to expand knowledge production about peoples of African descent and to train future generations of scholars who will deepen and refine the field.

An interdisciplinary field of study, Africana Studies embraces the study of people of African ancestry on the African continent and in the United States, the Caribbean, Latin America and the broader diaspora. Toward that end, it is at the forefront of scholarship that both transcends disciplinary fields and brings more powerful explanatory value to issues of race, ethnicity, class, gender, and sexuality. Accordingly, since its inception, Africana Studies has profoundly shaped research and discourse in the humanities and social sciences by altering traditional epistemologies and methodologies. Africana Studies has historically resisted the confines of national borders in its analyses. The rise of the nation-state is a recent historical development in world history, and because boundaries and borders are permeable in the transmission of art, dance, music, and literature, scholars do not confine the field spatially or temporally in examining the dynamics of change for peoples of African ancestry. As a result, Africana Studies helps students to appreciate cultural and epistemological diversity, multidimensionality, multiple perspectives, and interconnectivity, which are essential for higher education and its production of knowledge and for the world in the 21st Century.

Indeed, the diversity of the Cornell University's college system, its strengths in the traditional disciplines and its strong support and encouragement of interdisciplinary work provides students an ideal environment in which to pursue graduate training in this field. Moreover, Cornell now has a critical mass of scholars in the Humanities, Visual and Expressive Culture and Social

Sciences whose work collectively sits on the cutting edge of Africana Studies. Furthermore, our faculty offers regional expertise in Africa, the U.S., the Caribbean and Latin America allowing us to offer a Ph.D. program that is multi-disciplinary and transnational.

The Ph.D. program in Africana Studies augments Cornell University's mission to discover, preserve, and disseminate knowledge. Cornell's world class libraries makes it possible for its faculty and students to carry out the University's mission. Important collections on Africa and the diaspora are housed across the nineteen units of the University Library system. In addition, the John Henrik Clarke Africana Library at the Africana Studies and Research Center and its collection of [21,100] volumes focuses on the social and political dimensions of the history and culture of peoples of African ancestry.

We seek to enroll students who share the Cornell's mission and have demonstrated strong research, written and analytical skills either through the completion of an undergraduate thesis or a Master's degree in the humanities and social sciences. Although the cohort each year will be small, three to four students, we will recruit nationally and internationally for the best students.

Successful applicants will help satisfy the future demand for scholars with the rigorous intellectual training that Africana Studies offers. Graduates of this Ph.D. program entering the field of Higher Education will be entering a vibrant and growing labor market for doctorates in Africana Studies. Students with doctoral degrees in Africana Studies will be equally prepared to work in a variety of fields from business to the government.

## Concentrations

- Africana studies
- Cultural, literary, and visual analysis
- Historical, political, and social analysis

## Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 148

## Program Requirements

- GRAD 9016 enrollment expected every summer
- Minimum semesters to Degree: 10

## Graduate School Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training: Required
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): Required
- Student Progress Reviews (SPR) begin: First year
- Examination for admission to candidacy (A Exam): Summer of third year
- Defense of Dissertation (B Exam): Summer of fifth year

## Field Specific Milestones

- Qualifying Exams (Q Exam): Fourth semester
- Field progress review: Second year
- Language Proficiency exam or enrollment in relevant language course(s) required
- Three semesters of teaching assistantship required

## Course Requirements

Additional course requirements may be set by the student's Special Committee. Program specific requirements that apply to all students are included below.

### Year 1

- ASRC 6902 Africana Studies Graduate Seminar (fall)
- ASRC 6903 Africana Studies Graduate Seminar (spring)
- Topics class in Africana History or Theory (chosen in consultation with the DGS)
- Support Methods Course

## Year 2

- Supporting Methods Course, chosen in consultation with the student's advisor

## Other Course Requirements

- 8 additional courses, completed by the end of the second year, in the student's field of research emphasis and selected in consultation with their advisor. Of these 8 courses, one course per semester must be taken with a core faculty member in the ASRC.

## University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

### Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

### Non-academic Requirements

**Conduct Matters.** Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

**Financial Obligations.** Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

### Learning Outcomes

- Make an original and substantial contribution to the field:
  - Think originally and independently to develop concepts and methodologies
  - Identify new research opportunities within the field
- Demonstrate advanced research skills:
  - Demonstrate proficiency in language; Master application of existing research methods and techniques
  - Communicate in a style appropriate to the discipline
- Demonstrate professional skills and commitment to the values of scholarship:
  - Listen, give, and receive feedback effectively
  - Show commitment to professional development and knowledge transfer
- Complete degree in a timely fashion (5 years).