

# AFRICAN AMERICAN AND DIASPORA STUDIES

## Degree Requirements

Requirements listed here are in addition to requirements listed in GCAC-208 Dual-Title Graduate Degree Programs (<https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-200/gcac-208-dual-titles/>).

The minimum course requirements for this dual-title Ph.D. degree are as follows: 15 credits of course work related to African American and Diaspora Studies, all at the 500 level or above. Of these 15 credits, 9 must come from the required core course sequence in African American and Diaspora Studies, which comprises the following courses:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Required Courses</b>		
AFAM 501	Seminar in African American Studies	3
AFAM 502	Blacks and African Diaspora	3
AFAM 503	Sexual and Gender Politics in the African Diaspora	3

Students must also take 6 elective credits, all of which must come either from the list below or otherwise have the prior approval of African American and Diaspora Studies supervising faculty. Over time, additional courses may be added to the list of acceptable electives. The director of graduate studies in the Department of African American Studies will maintain a comprehensive list of approved courses. Particular courses may simultaneously satisfy requirements in History and in African American and Diaspora Studies. Students who already hold a master's degree from another institution may petition to have up to 6 equivalent course credits recognized.

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Electives</b>		
Select 6 credits of the following electives:		6
AFR 501	Key Issues in African Studies	
PHIL 539	Critical Philosophy of Race	
HIST 547	Slavery in the Americas	
HIST 551	The African American Freedom Struggle	
HIST 572	Race and Nation in Modern Latin America	
ENGL 565	Period Studies in African-American Literature	
ENGL 566	Genre Studies in African-American Literature	
ENGL 567	Thematic Studies in African-American Literature	
ENGL 568	Gender Issues in African-American Literature	

## Language Requirements

Communication and foreign language requirements will be determined by the academic advisers from the primary department.

## qualifying examination

The dual-title field must be fully integrated into the qualifying exam for the doctoral program. In addition, students in the dual-title Ph.D. in African American and Diaspora Studies will be required to present to their committee a portfolio of work in African American and Diaspora Studies which includes a statement of the student's interdisciplinary research interests, a program plan, and samples of writing that indicate the

student's interest in questions taken up by scholars of African American and Diaspora Studies.

## Ph.D. committee Composition

In addition to the general Graduate Council requirements for Ph.D. committees (<http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/phd-dissertation-committee-formation/>), at least one member of the Ph.D. committee must be a member of the African American and Diaspora Studies Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs' Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. If the chair is not faculty in African American and Diaspora Studies, then the committee member representing African American and Diaspora Studies must be appointed as co-chair.

## Comprehensive Exams

The African American and Diaspora Studies Graduate Faculty member on the student's committee is responsible for developing and administering the African American and Diaspora Studies portion of the student's comprehensive exams. The exam must incorporate written and oral components in African American and Diaspora Studies based on the student's thematic or regional area of interest and specialization in African American and Diaspora Studies. The African American and Diaspora Studies portion of the exam will include the following components: broad history of the field, contemporary theory and debates, and either sexual and gender politics or a topic related to the student's specific area of interest.

## Dissertation

The candidate must complete a dissertation and pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) on a topic that reflects their original research and education in both the primary discipline and African American and Diaspora Studies in order to earn the dual-title Ph.D. degree.