

Degree Requirements, African and African Diaspora Studies

Graduate handbook information is updated and maintained by each program. Graduate handbooks are available within each program's office and online at <https://utexas.box.com/v/UTAustinGraduateHandbooks>.

Please contact the program with concerns or questions.

Master of Arts

Students must complete 36 semester hours of coursework, including a prescribed number of hours in core coursework, professional development, and supporting coursework. As part of the 36 hours, students must complete a two-part Master's Report that consists of African and African Diaspora Studies 397R and 398R. African and African Diaspora Studies 398R must be taken in the final semester of program enrollment. Core coursework explores the theoretical and methodological foundations of black studies. Additional information about the Program of Work is available from the department.

Doctor of Philosophy

AADS offers a 51-hour PhD degree plan for students entering with a graduate degree in a related field. This plan includes 45 hours of coursework and a minimum of 6 hours of dissertation, as required by the Graduate School. Coursework for the PhD varies based on a student's preparation in the field of Black Studies and/or their research interests. This most often affects students entering with a graduate degree; students who enter without a graduate degree must complete the African and African Diaspora Studies (AADS) MA degree requirements before taking the PhD qualifying examinations. Each student's degree plan will be determined by the AADS Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), the AADS graduate advisor, and the student's faculty advisor upon entry to the program. Students must complete a prescribed number of hours in core coursework, professional development, supporting coursework, and dissertation reading and writing, in addition to qualifying examinations. Core coursework explores the theoretical and methodological foundations of Black Studies.

To advance to candidacy for the doctoral degree, all PhD candidates must pass qualifying examinations. Upon successful completion of the PhD coursework and qualifying examinations, students may apply to advance to doctoral candidacy and register for dissertation hours. The dissertation culminates in an original body of scholarly, independent research demonstrating the candidate's expertise in a selected area of concentration. In consultation with their faculty advisor, who serves as dissertation committee chair, the candidate selects a dissertation committee, including at least four committee members. At least three members of the full dissertation committee must be members of the AADS GSC, and at least one member of the committee must be from an outside department or program. More information about the doctoral coursework requirements, qualifying examinations, and dissertation process is available from the department.