

AFRICAN 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 Dual-Title Doctoral Degree in African Studies is awarded to students who are admitted to a Ph.D. program that has adopted the dual-title degree program in African Studies. The minimum course requirements are as follows.

Code	Title	Credits
Required Courses		
AFR 501	Key Issues in African Studies	3
or AFR 505	African Studies Methodology	
15 credits of Africa-centered coursework at the 400 or 500-level:		15
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a minimum of 6 of these credits must be taken from a list of courses maintained by the African Studies program chair • as many as 6 of the 15 credits may come from other units as approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in the African Studies Program • no more than 6 credits may be taken at the 400-level and no more than 6 combined credits may come from individual studies courses and/or foreign studies courses 		
Communication and foreign language requirements will be determined by the student and the academic advisers and the African Studies Program		
Total Credits		18

The choice of electives in African Studies is to be proposed by the student and is subject to approval by the academic advisers from the primary program and the African Studies Program. The suite of selected courses should have an integrated, intellectual thrust that probes a thematic, national or regional issue and that is complementary to the student's specialty in the primary program.

Language Requirement

The language requirement for the dual-title degree program is determined by the academic advisers in the primary program and the African Studies Program, in accordance with the existing language requirements of the primary program.

qualifying Examination

The dual-title degree is guided by the Qualifying Exam procedure of the primary program. Dual-title graduate degree students may require an additional semester to fulfill requirements for both areas of study and, therefore, the qualifying examination may be delayed one semester beyond the normal period allowable. There will be a single qualifying examination, containing elements of both the major discipline and African 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/>), the committee must include at least one member of the African Studies Graduate Faculty. Faculty members who hold appointments in both programs'

Graduate Faculty may serve in a combined role. The chair of the committee is typically from the primary program. If the chair is not also a member of the Graduate Faculty in African Studies, the member of the committee representing African Studies must be appointed as co-chair.

Comprehensive Examination

After completing all course work, doctoral students must pass a comprehensive examination that includes written and oral components. Written components are administered in the student's primary discipline and in African Studies. The African Studies representative on the student's Ph.D. committee develops questions for and participates in the evaluation of the comprehensive examination. The African Studies component of the exam is based on the student's thematic, national or regional area of interest and specialization in African Studies.

Dissertation and Dissertation Defense

Upon completion of the doctoral dissertation, the candidate must pass a final oral examination (the dissertation defense) to earn the Ph.D. degree. Students enrolled in the dual-title program are required to write and orally defend a dissertation on a topic that reflects their original research and education in both the primary discipline and African Studies.