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Dear Students,

We warmly welcome you to FIU’s MA Program in African & African Diaspora Studies (AADS). Our academic inquiry, here at AADS, foregrounds global and transnational approaches to theorizing, studying, and engaging African diaspora and continental African communities. We are an integral part of FIU’s School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) and continue to work towards deepening, developing, and refining our commitment to excellence in research, teaching, and service. We look forward to working with you, in this regard, to produce significant scholarship in African and African diaspora studies.

Our program is designed to allow students enhanced flexibility in their course of study, through requiring a balance of AADS course electives from broadly defined areas of the Humanities and the Social Sciences; the core course in African & African Diaspora Studies theory (AFA 5005); a methods course chosen from the discipline in which a student will choose to anchor himself/herself intellectually and methodologically; and the graduate colloquium for 3 credits. Students may choose between a Thesis Option and the Research Paper/Proposal Option, both of which are described in this handbook.

In the AADS office, Cheryl Johnson is in charge of issues pertaining to academic affairs while Rosa Henriquez is in charge of everything financial and contractual, as well as the programming of events. AADS faculty, both core and affiliate, are drawn from an array of disciplines and fields of inquiry and are productively engaged in a wide variety of research. The AADS community is fully immersed in the rich stew of cultural and intellectual life of one of the most global cities in the Americas: Miami. South Florida in general and Miami in particular are crucial urban nodes of the African diaspora. We are confident that you would soon discover that the faculty, staff, and students of AADS form a warm, welcoming, and nurturing community. So come along and join us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Jean Rahier, Director
African & African Diaspora Studies Program

Dr. Heather Russell, Graduate Program Director
African & African Diaspora Studies
African & African Diaspora Studies Faculty

Core Faculty:
Jean Muteba Rahier, Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies and Director, African & African Diaspora Studies (AADS)

Jean-Robert Cadely, Associate Professor, Modern Languages and AADS

Alexandra Cornelius-Diallo, Assistant Professor, History and AADS

Véronique Helenon, Assistant Professor, History and AADS

Andrea Queeley, Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies and AADS

Affiliated Faculty:
Pascale Becel, Associate Professor and Chair, Modern Languages

Steven R. Blevins, Assistant Professor, English

Ferial Maya Boutaghou, Assistant Professor, Modern Languages and Women’s Studies

John Clark, Professor, Politics & International Relations (Sabbatical AY 2011-2012)

Lisa Delpit, Professor, College of Education and Director, Center for Urban Education and Innovation

Caroline Faria, Assistant Professor of Geography in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies

Mohamed Farouk, Associate Professor, College of Education

Jenna Gibbs, Assistant Professor, History

Tometro Hopkins, Associate Professor, English

Andrea Mantell-Seidel, Associate Professor, Dance and Senior Director of Academic Programs, Latin American and Caribbean Center
Assefa Melesse, Associate Professor, Environmental Studies
April Merleaux, Assistant Professor of History, History
Aurora Morcillo, Associate Professor, History and Women’s Studies
Roderick Neumann, Professor of Geography in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies
Ulrich Oslender, Assistant Professor of Geography in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies
Vrushali Patil, Assistant Professor of Sociology in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies and Women’s Studies
Valerie Patterson, Clinical Associate Professor, Public Administration
Joyce Peterson, Associate Professor, History
Heather Russell, Associate Professor, English and Graduate Director, African & African Diaspora Studies
Vicky Silvera, Head, Special Collection, Library
Augusto Soledade, Assistant Professor, Dance
Linda Spears-Bunton, Associate Professor, College of Education
Dionne Stephens, Assistant Professor of Psychology
Alex Stepick III, Professor of Anthropology in the Dept. of Global & Sociocultural Studies
Juan Torres-Pou, Associate Professor, Modern Languages
Chantalle Verna, Assistant Professor, History and Politics & International Relations
Donna Weir-Soley, Associate Professor, English
Kirsten Wood, Associate Professor, History
Albert Wuaku, Assistant Professor, Religious Studies
Other faculty not identified above can be considered Affiliated AADS Faculty based on research, identified interest, and publications. Students can take courses for credit from other AADS Affiliated Faculty after approval of syllabus by graduate director.

OVERVIEW OF M.A. PROGRAM

The M.A. in African & African Diaspora Studies at Florida International University provides interdisciplinary, graduate level training that draws on faculty expertise across many fields, including education, national and transnational policy analysis, history, cultural studies, and modern languages. This M.A. degree aims to develop scholars with specific skills, research methodologies, principles, and knowledge that will lead to professional positions in a range of fields as it simultaneously prepares graduates for further study at the Ph.D. level. With a geographic reach covering Africa, the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe and Asia, the M.A. in African & African Diaspora Studies provides one of the few truly international, multidisciplinary M.A. models among Africana Studies programs, departments and centers nationally. As such, it is organized to develop research interests and models, advance knowledge, and develop interactive and comparative relationships with similar programs which pursue the life, cultural and social formations, economics, education, language, expressive and performing arts, governmental and other institutional systems, of peoples of African descent wherever they exist.

The goals of the M.A. program are to provide students with specific skills, knowledge and resources to:

1. Work in specific programs and units related to African communities in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States, Europe, and Asia, international organizations, NGOs, multi-cultural curriculum development and teaching and other educational contexts, race and social and public policy, journalism and other diverse fields;

2. Prepare students to use and develop theoretical, analytical, and methodological approaches to critical issues such as those pertaining to race and ethnicity in all their manifestations, development and underdevelopment, technology, relations of domination and power, environmental policies, health and wellness, issues of
self determination and mutual cooperation, and all aspects of aesthetic/creative expression;

3. Create new knowledge through research and close study of relevant communities and disseminate this knowledge to the various communities we serve;

4. Understand and confront the unique socioeconomic problems facing communities of Africa and the African Diaspora;


ABOUT FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY (FIU)

Florida International University is a member of the State University System of Florida and is the largest public university in South Florida. Metropolitan Miami is the gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean, and FIU has become a leading academic center in the region. FIU’s enrolls over 40,000 students. In addition to United States citizens, the University traditionally attracts a significant number of international students, including hundreds from the Caribbean and hundreds from Africa.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each applicant to the African & African Diaspora Studies Graduate Program must complete an online graduate application form available at http://gradschool.fiu.edu/admissions.html and arrange to send transcripts of all prior college (undergraduate and graduate) work and official reports of the Graduate Records Exam (GRE) and TOEFL (if applicable) to the FIU Graduate Admissions Office. Along with copies of the above material, each applicant should also submit to the Graduate Program Director of AADS:

1. A statement of purpose, expressing the applicant's academic and professional objectives

2. Writing samples and other relevant professional work that may support the application

3. Two letters of recommendation from university professors who are able to comment on the applicant's potential

The application file must be complete before the African & African Diaspora Studies Graduate Committee will consider the applicant for admission. The deadline for receipt of application--including all supporting materials and letters of recommendation—is February 1st. Applicants are encouraged to apply sooner. To be admitted into the African & African Diaspora Studies Graduate Program a student must meet the University's graduate admission requirements, which can be found in Florida International University's Graduate Catalog, and the following minimum standards:

I. Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.

II. Applicants must have an undergraduate grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 or higher and a combined score of 1050 or higher on the verbal and quantitative sections of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants must submit both grade transcripts and GRE scores for consideration. The student must also have a GPA of 3.5 on any previous graduate work.

III. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to submit scores for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the international English Language Testing System (IELTS). A total score of 80 on the IBT TOEFL or 6.3 overall on the IELTS is required.
M.A. PROGRAM SCHEDULE AND REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must obtain a grade of B or higher in all courses and achieve a cumulative average of at least 3.0 (based on a 4.0 scale) and present a satisfactory research paper or a Master’s Thesis. A Thesis committee or a research paper committee composed of at least two FIU faculty will guide the student through successful completion of the Thesis or research paper.

**Forming your Committee**
A student’s Thesis or Research paper committee must be comprised of at least two AADS graduate faculty members from the list of Core and Affiliate faculty above. Other faculty not identified as AADS graduate faculty members may be considered to serve on a committee based on their research, identified interest, and publications, with permission of the Graduate Director.

Before the end of a student’s first year in the program, he/she should form a thesis or research project committee. This committee will consist of a Committee Chairperson and two additional committee members. The Committee Chairperson and one other committee member must be drawn from the list of Core and Affiliate faculty of the African & African Diaspora Studies Program. The remaining committee member will generally be a faculty member at FIU, although with the approval of the Committee Chairperson and the Graduate Program Director, the third member may come from outside the AADS Program or University.

AT THIS STAGE, **FORM M-1** (Appointment of Thesis Committee) MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR AND TURNED IN TO THE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL BY THE POSTED DEADLINE.

**UGS deadlines** for M.A. students can be found at: [http://gradschool.fiu.edu/CalendarDeadlines.html](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/CalendarDeadlines.html)

Remember, deadlines for the College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) are one week before the posted UGS deadlines. Please visit the [graduate page](http://gradschool.fiu.edu/CalendarDeadlines.html) of the CAS’ website for more details.

For the Research Project proposal, the student should fill in an internal AADS form that will have to be signed by ALL committee members and by the Graduate Program Director.
**Thesis Option**

Students choosing this option prepare a thesis that will be between 75 and 100 pages. The student may use original data if she or he and the Committee Chairperson consider it appropriate. However, a thesis or research paper may be based on secondary sources or on library research. In any case it will be based on scholarly sources defined by particular disciplines. While thesis and research papers need not be based on original data collected by the student, they must be rigorous and original. By rigorous, we mean that the thesis/research paper must be tightly argued and logical, well written and well organized. By original, we mean that the thesis cannot simply summarize the arguments or work of others. It must have the student's unique interpretation, which should be cogent--given the data under consideration.

Before engaging in a Thesis, the student must have his or her Thesis Project approved by his or her committee. The student should work closely with his or her faculty advisor during the preparation of the proposal. A proposal may not be given to the remaining committee members without the approval of the faculty advisor. At the end of this approval process (which should ideally take place by the end of the first summer of enrolment for the full time students), THE **FORM M-2** (Master’s Thesis Proposal) MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GRADUATE DIRECTOR. Again, UGS deadlines need to be observed.

Please be aware that the UGS requires the submission of a Responsible Conduct of Research Certification by all students submitting a proposal and an M-2 form. Please click here for information on mandatory RCR training. You should consult with the Graduate Program Director about which CITI RCR course is most appropriate for your research. Please also note that Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is required for all FIU research involving human subjects. Please click here for information about IRB training.

Once the student has completed his or her research and thesis, and all chapters have been reviewed by the faculty advisor and by the remaining members of the thesis committee, the student must FILL OUT **FORM M-3** (Preliminary Approval of Thesis and Request for Oral defense) AND HAVE IT SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE AND BY THE GRADUATE DEAN OF ARTS & SCIENCES BEFORE SENDING IT TO THE UGS.

It is customary that the student will still have to make some minor changes to his or her thesis following the thesis oral defense. If the committee members found the text of the thesis as well as the oral defense acceptable, they will sign **FORM M-4** (Thesis Defense Report). Once all final changes recommended by the thesis committee have been implemented, the Faculty Thesis Advisor will sign **Form M-5**.

The **Research Paper Option** will follow much the same procedure, but does not require UGS forms. See p. 14.
DEPARTMENTAL SIGNATURES AND DEADLINES

Departmental Deadlines for Signatures
Students must submit any forms to the Graduate Program Director (GPD) at least one week prior to College and/or UGS deadlines.

Deadlines are published at: http://gradschool.fiu.edu/CalendarDeadlines.html. Please note that the College of Arts and Sciences require all paperwork a week before UGS deadlines.

It is the student’s responsibility to know these deadlines and abide by ALL of them (departmental, College, University). Any additional forms that the GPD must arbitrate/sign must also be submitted at least a week before they are due. Students should not expect the GPD to rush the reviewing and administrative process if the forms and other documents are not submitted on time.

Important 2011-2012 UGS Deadlines
One week earlier for CAS; two weeks earlier for AADS

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<th>Fall 2011</th>
<th>Spring 2012</th>
<th>Summer Term 2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>Defense</td>
<td>M-4</td>
<td>11/10/2011</td>
<td>3/30/2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Thesis</td>
<td>M-5</td>
<td>12/2/2011</td>
<td>4/20/2012</td>
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Changes made by the graduate school may not be reflected here. These dates should therefore be used as a guide only. See the graduate school’s website for dates and deadlines.
COMBINED M.A./PhD PROGRAMS

AADS offers a combined M.A./PhD in AADS and International Relations, a combined M.A./PhD in AADS and History, and a combined M.A./Ph.D. in AADS and Global & Sociocultural Studies. These combined programs allow students to pursue both degrees at the same time.

In all three of these combined programs, students must apply simultaneously to AADS and the PhD program they want to enter, and meet the admissions requirements for both programs.

The course requirements for the M.A./Ph.D. in AADS and International relations combine the core requirements for the two programs. Students in this program will take the following courses during their first two years for 36 credits:

INR 5615 Research Design
INR 5609 Contemporary Dynamics of International Relations
INR 6706 Political Economy of International Relations
AFA 5005 African and African Diaspora Studies Theory
AFA 6911 Research Paper/Proposal Writing in African and African Diaspora Studies
AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies
AFA 5932 AADS Special Topics: Research Issues in AADS

15 credits of elective from the lists of elective courses (see MA in AADS): 6 to 9 credits from the Humanities list and 6 to 9 credits from the Social Sciences list

The PhD in IR requires a total of 75 credits. All 36 of the AADS M.A. credits will count towards the International relations PhD, which students will begin upon completing the M.A. See the International Relations department for details of the requirements for the remaining 39 credits in that program.

Please see the AADS website as well as the following departmental websites for further information about the combined M.A./Ph.D programs:

International Relations:
http://casgroup.fiu.edu/pir/

Global and Sociocultural Studies:
http://gss.fiu.edu/

History:
http://casgroup.fiu.edu/history/
CURRICULUM & COURSES

NOTE: the following requirements govern students entering in Fall 2009 and after. Students who entered prior to Fall 2009 in one of three specializations and/or to pursue the Internship/Community Option should consult the previous graduate handbook.

Core and Required Courses (12 credits) (For Thesis and Research Paper/Proposal options)

Total: 36 credit hours

AFA 5005 African and African Diaspora Studies Theory (3)

AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies
This course is offered every spring, and is typically taken towards the end of a student’s enrollment, prior to graduation. (3)

AFA 5932 AADS Special Topics: Research Issues in AADS
Students must register for this three credit course in their first semester and attend all symposia, conferences, colloquia, and lectures sponsored by the program and write response papers on each event to be submitted to the AADS faculty member in charge of the colloquium. A syllabus will be given to all enrolled students at the beginning of the semester. (3)

One research methods course (3)
All students must take at least one research method course. In consultation with the GPD they will choose this course from the list below, according to their disciplinary preference as it relates to their specific research interest.

ENG 5048 Literary Theory
LIN 5760 Research Methods in Language Variation [Linguistics]
SPW 5806 Methods of Literary Research [Modern Languages]
POS 5706 Research Methodology [Politics]
SYA 6305 Research Methods I [Sociology]
ANG 6497 Qualitative Research Methods [Anthropology]
DEP 5796 Methods of Developmental Research [Psychology]
HIS 6059 Historical Methods [History]
INR 5615 Research Design in International Relations [International Relations]

Language Requirement
Students will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in a language other than English according to the nature of their thesis or research paper/project and professional interests. Credit hours earned in meeting language requirement will not count towards the 36 credit hours required for the degree.

**Thesis Option Requirements**


Students writing a thesis must acquire certification of Responsible Conduct of Research.

Thesis students will also take 18 credits of electives, selected from the lists below on pp. 15-17. They must have at least 6 credits in each category of electives, Humanities and Social Sciences. With approval of the Graduate Director, students may also select other courses not listed below after submitting the appropriate syllabus. Students are strongly advised to check course offerings in relevant departments each year, as these can frequently change. Please remember that not all of the courses are always offered; if one you need to take is available, grab it the semester it is offered.

**Research Paper Option Requirements**

Students choosing to write a Research Paper instead of a thesis will not register for thesis credits; instead, they will take 3 credits of research paper/proposal writing, *AFA 6911 Research Paper/Proposal Writing in African and African Diaspora Studies.* Typically, this class will be taken immediately prior to AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies.

The 25-50 page research paper is different from a thesis in that it does not require a formal oral defense by the student in front of his or her committee. While the research paper is not a full thesis, it should nevertheless be rigorous, with original analysis that reflects the student’s ability to carry out a well thought out research project to completion. The research paper must be read and approved by the members of the student’s committee.

Before engaging in a research paper, the student must have his or her topic approved by his or her committee. The student should work closely with his or her faculty advisor during the preparation of the proposal. A proposal may not be given to the remaining committee members without the approval of the faculty advisor. At the end of this approval process (which should ideally take place by the end of the first summer of enrolment for the full time students), the internal AADS form (Research Proposal Form) MUST BE FILLED OUT AND SIGNED BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND GRADUATE DIRECTOR.
Once the student has completed his or her research, he or she must complete the writing of the “research paper.” The writing of such a paper must be done in close consultation with the faculty advisor. Once the faculty advisor finds the research paper acceptable, the student will submit it to the other committee members. The submission of the final draft subsequently to the other members of the committee will logically follow the completion of the required course, "AFA 6851 Advanced Seminar in African and African Diaspora Studies," which will typically be taken during the student’s second summer of enrollment (if he or she is a full time student who began the M.A. program in a fall semester). Once all faculty members approve the research paper as acceptable, they will sign an AADS Internal Form (Research Paper Form) that will formally indicate their respective approval. The Graduation Certification for Graduation will not be signed by the GPD until the AADS internal form indicating that the research paper was accepted has been signed by ALL committee members. The deadline governing the Research Paper Form is the same as Form M-5 for Thesis students.

The Research Paper Option requires 21 credits of electives from the lists below on pp. 15-17, with at least 6 credits chosen from each category. With approval of the Graduate Director, students may also select other courses not listed below after submitting the appropriate syllabus. Students are strongly advised to check course offerings in relevant departments each year, as these can frequently change. Please remember that not all of the following courses are always offered; if one you need to take is available, grab it the semester it is offered.

List of Electives

Note: These lists match the course offerings at the time of preparation of this handbook. Please note that there will periodically be course additions (which will be added to the AADS course lists as they become available), or course deletions. Please also note that not all courses are offered every semester. We will try to keep this list up to date, and ask students to make suggestions for additions.

Humanities Electives

AFA 5932 Special Topics in African and African Diaspora Studies
AFA 5107 Teaching the African American Experience
AFA 5341 Health Issues in the African World
AFA 5600 National and Transnational Policy Analysis: The African Diaspora
AFA 6245 The African Diaspora in Latin America
AFH 5905 Readings in African History
AFH 5935 Topics in African History
FRE 5508 La Francophonie
HAI 5235 Haitian Creole Seminar
HIS 5289  Comparative History: Slavery and Emancipation
LAH 5465  Peoples, Culture and Politics of Haiti
LAS 6025  Seminar: The Humanities in Cuba
LIN 6602  Language Contact
LIN 6990  Seminar in Language, Race, Identity, and Power
LIT 5359  African Diaspora Women Writers
LIT 5358  Black Literature and Literacy/Cultural Theory
MUH 5025  History of Popular Music in the United States
REL 5122  African American Religion
REL 5372  The Globalizing of African Spirituality
REL 5384  Rasta, Vodou, Santeria
REL 5488  Theology and Liberation Movements
SPN 5536  Afro-Cuban Culture
SPN 5539  Afro-Hispanic Culture
SPW 5346  Poetry of Jorge Guillen
SPW 5776  Black Literature in Latin America
SPW 6368  19th Century Spanish-Caribbean Narrative
WOH 5236  The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the African Diaspora, 1441-1807
WOH 5237  The African Diaspora Since the End Of the Slave Trade

**Social Sciences Electives**

AFA 6217  Sex, Race, and Power in European Colonialisms
ANG 6473  Diasporas, Migration, and Globalization
ANG 5397  Advanced African Diaspora Cultures and Performativity
ANG 5396  Representations of Africa and Africans in Films
ANT 6319  The African Diaspora: Anthropological Perspectives
CPO 5325  Politics of the Caribbean
CPO 6350  Seminar in Brazilian Politics
CPO 6376  Seminar in Central American Politics
CPO 6206  Seminar in African Politics
CYP 6766  The Psychology of Crosscultural Sensitization in a Multicultural Context
ECS 5406  Latin American Economies
ECS 6436  The Economics of Caribbean Migration
ECS 7435  Economics of the Caribbean
INR 5087  Ethnicity and the Politics of Development
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<tr>
<td>INR 5255</td>
<td>Seminar in African Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INR 6936</td>
<td>Seminar in Inter-American Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYD 6705</td>
<td>Comparative Analysis of Ethnicity and Race</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYP 5447</td>
<td>Development and Post-Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYP 6739</td>
<td>Seminar: Ethnic Minority Aging in U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WST 5253</td>
<td>Border Crossing: Race and Gender in Historical &amp; Transnational Perspective</td>
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ASSISTANTSHIPS

Assistantships are offered for one academic year unless explicitly stated that they are offered for one semester only. Students must apply every year by the end of March to request funding renewal. Decisions to renew are based on coursework performance, progress in the program and performance on assistantship duties. Students can expect their assistantships to be renewed for 2 years while in the MA program. Assistantships include a full tuition (but not fee) waiver and a stipend.

Obligations
Assistantship duties involve a maximum of 20 hours a week of work and a full time (9 credits) enrollment. Students may be asked to attend all classes for one course; do the readings for that course so that they can answer questions from undergraduate students; enter grades and attendance; and grade exams and papers. Students may be asked to proctor exams for one or two courses. Students are not to work more than 20 hours in any week; additional or outside employment is not permitted by the Graduate School. Students are expected to be on campus until all exams are given and grades are entered at the end of the semester. Students should check with their assigned faculty member on the earliest date that they may leave campus at the end of the semester. Students must meet with their assigned faculty member as soon as possible before classes start. Faculty must provide textbooks for TAs and request the books in time so that students can begin readings no later than by the start of the course.
ADDITIONAL GENERAL STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

During each academic year of enrollment, graduate students are expected to attend all lectures, conferences, symposia, and other events organized by the African & African Diaspora Studies Program.

Graduate students must enroll in the MA in African and African Diaspora Studies Theory core course in the first Fall semester of their enrollment, or the first semester in which it is offered once they enter the program.

Each semester, graduate students must receive academic advising for course selection. A Faculty Adviser or the Graduate Director must approve students’ course schedule.

Continuous Enrollment Policy - Master’s level students must be continuously enrolled in a minimum of one credit per semester once they have filed form M-1.

All AADS graduate students are expected to be members of the AADS Graduate Students Association.
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Annual Progress Reports
Each student's progress in the program will be reviewed by the graduate committee on a yearly basis, usually in April. The committee will give students a progress evaluation. Copies of the annual evaluations will be kept in each student's file and will be one of several factors examined by the committee if and when the student applies for a TA position.

Publications and Paper Presentations
It is difficult to obtain jobs in academia and it is also very competitive outside academia. A strong record of research, publication, and academic presentations can distinguish one prospective applicant from another. Discuss with members of your committee areas of research that you can develop into publications. Students should explore research opportunities as early as possible and present the findings in academic conferences. The Graduate School expects the program to provide evidence of student publications and/or presentations each year.

Professional Organizations
We recommend that students affiliate themselves with professional organizations. These organizations are critical to developing networks with researchers working in their areas and eventually when applying for jobs, for dissertation funding, or various awards. Attending professional meetings constitutes important training for all students.

Documenting Graduate Student Achievements
Students should prepare a curriculum vita (CV) early on and document all academic achievements. Students should consult the materials submitted by successful applicants for the department's faculty positions and should ask their faculty members and the Graduate Director for feedback on the way students present professional qualifications. All students will be required to submit a copy of their CV for departmental files prior to graduation.

Karell Travel Grant
Between 2009 and 2012, the Program is able to offer competitive support for research or professional travel to Africa to one student (or faculty member) each year. This is made possible by a generous gift from Karell African Dream Vacations. The deadline for applications is usually October in the fall semester; you will find a detailed announcement posted on the website.
CONTACT INFORMATION

AADS Main Office
African & African Diaspora Studies
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Website: africana.fiu.edu

AADS Director
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(305) 348-2246

AADS Director of Graduate Studies
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LC ***
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AADS Office Assistant
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AADS Program Assistant
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(305) 348-6860
RELEVANT FIU OFFICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center for the Advancement of Teaching</td>
<td>MMC - GL 154</td>
<td>(305) 348-4214</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Arts and Sciences</td>
<td>MMC - ECS 450</td>
<td>(305) 348-2864</td>
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<td>Financial Aid Office</td>
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<td>(305) 348-7442</td>
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<td>Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>MMC – PC 130</td>
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<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:register@fiu.edu">register@fiu.edu</a></td>
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<td>University Graduate School</td>
<td>MMC - PC 230</td>
<td>(305) 348-2455</td>
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<td>University Technology Services</td>
<td>MMC - PC 330</td>
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