

Approved Jan. 15, 2014

Application for an Early-Entry Graduate Degree Program

AFRICANA STUDIES GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Department of Africana Studies would like to submit a request for the implementation of Early-Entry into the Africana Studies Graduate Certificate. The goal is to admit exceptional undergraduate students into the graduate certificate. This will allow them to begin working toward a graduate degree before the completion of a baccalaureate degree.

Based on the Graduate School's published guidelines for the Early-Entry program, our criteria for admission are the following:

1. A student may be accepted into the Early-Entry Program at any time after completion of 90 semester hours of undergraduate work in any major in the university provided 12 semester hours of these are in Africana Studies.
2. The application process and all required documentation (e.g., test scores, transcripts, letters of recommendation) are the same for early entry students as for other applicants to the program. Admission must be recommended by the Department of Africana Studies and approved by the Graduate School. The admission status will be "provisional" and limited to two semesters pending the award of the undergraduate degree.
3. To be accepted into this program an undergraduate student must have at least a 3.2 overall GPA and a minimum 3.0 GPA in at least 21 credit-hours of Africana Studies courses.
4. If an early-entry student has not met the normal admission requirements of a 2.75 overall undergraduate GPA and a 3.0 junior-senior GPA at the end of his/her baccalaureate degree, she/he will be dismissed from the graduate program.
5. Students accepted into an early-entry program will be subjected to the same policies that pertain to other matriculated graduate students. Early-entry students must finish their baccalaureate degrees before they complete 15 hours of graduate work.
6. A student admitted into the early entry program must provide a completed Early-Entry Program Form to the Graduate School for approval before the student begins the early entry graduate course work.
7. This early-entry program is also accelerated in which up to 6 credit-hours (normally 6 but no more than 12) earned at the graduate level may be substituted for required undergraduate hours. In other words, up to 6 hours of graduate work may be "double counted" toward both the baccalaureate and graduate degrees.
8. Students admitted to an early-entry program are not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship since they have not completed a baccalaureate degree. Students admitted into an early-entry program pay graduate fees and graduate tuition for all courses (graduate and undergraduate) for which they register.