

PAN-AFRICAN STUDIES (PHD)



Doctor of Philosophy in Pan-African Studies

Unit: College of Arts and Sciences (<https://louisville.edu/artsandsciences/>) (GA)

Department: Pan-African Studies (<http://louisville.edu/panafricanstudies/>)

Program Website (<https://louisville.edu/panafricanstudies/graduates/ph-d-program-in-pan-african-studies-1.html>)

Academic Plan Code(s): PAS_PHD

Program Information

The PhD program in Pan-African Studies trains professional researchers at the highest level in one or more of the traditional disciplines as well as focusing on two substantive areas: African American or African Diaspora Studies.

The expertise of the present core and affiliated faculty to the Department of Pan-African Studies is spread across African American and African Diaspora history, philosophy, sociology, political science, linguistics, religion, education, social work, literature, law, geography, psychology, art, music, anthropology, women's and gender studies. This amalgam of interdisciplinary subjects makes the department a highly active research and teaching unit that is well positioned to offer a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Pan-African Studies.

The PhD is designed to educate students with the knowledge, analytic abilities, and professional development skills important for both academic and non-academic careers. Since fall of 2012, the program has been open to all students regardless of race/ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual preference, or nationality. Graduates are employable in public and private corporations in areas of education and research, public policy, cultural heritage and public history, programs that deal with human rights and social inequality, economics and trade.

Admission Requirements

To be admitted students must have the following:

- Advanced competency in research skills, as evidenced by completion of a master's degree thesis or other independent research project, such as a sole-authored research report, published articles in peer-reviewed journals, or edited volumes
- Completion of a minimum of 33 credit hours at the master's degree level (i.e., beyond the baccalaureate degree), with a minimum GPA of 3.00
- Official GRE Scores—successful students usually have a combined score of at least 300

- A master's degree in Pan-African/Black Studies; a master's degree in a traditional discipline in the humanities or social sciences also will be considered for admittance

Students who apply for the program without a master's degree in Pan-African/Black Studies may be required to take prerequisite courses deemed necessary by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Students may transfer six (6) credit hours from a previously earned master's degree toward the PhD, subject to the approval of the degree program and the Unit Dean. Students with a PAS MA degree will be allowed to transfer a maximum of twelve (12) credit hours to the PhD.

In both cases, students must petition for additional credit hours. Only courses in which the student earned grades of B or better will be considered for transfer.

Application Process

The Pan-African Graduate Committee considers applications to the PhD program for fall admissions only. The deadline is January 15, but all applicants are encouraged to apply early!

When credentials are complete, the Graduate Admissions Committee will review applications and make selections. All applicants will be notified of their outcomes.

Applicants applying for admission to the doctoral program must submit the following required credentials to the Graduate School (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply/>):

1. A completed Graduate Admission application (<http://louisville.edu/graduate/apply/>)
2. Application fee
3. Proof of completion of a master's degree program or an equivalent number of graduate credits prior to admission
4. Official transcripts of all undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate work
5. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test scores—successful students usually have a combined score of 300
6. Submission of three recent letters of recommendation about the applicant's potential success in a doctoral program
7. A written statement of intent of no more than a thousand words detailing the applicant's professional goals
8. Current curriculum vitae
9. A writing sample—applicants must supply a recent sample (10-20 pages) of their scholarly or professional writing

To check your application status, please visit: <https://apply.graduate.louisville.edu/portal/status> (<https://apply.graduate.louisville.edu/portal/status/>)

For questions about the admissions process contact the Graduate Admissions office at gradadm@louisville.edu.

Current or returning students with questions about policy or procedure not related to the admissions process should contact the Graduate Student Services Office at graduate@louisville.edu.

Program Requirements

Coursework Structure (full-time)

| Code | Title | Hours |
|--|---|-----------|
| Year I & II | | |
| <i>Research Strategies</i> | | 9 |
| PAS 623 | Qualitative Research Strategies and Pan-African Research | |
| PAS 624 | Quantitative Research Strategies and Pan-African Research | |
| Research Strategies - Discipline Based (Historical, Social, Cultural - courses not in PAS) | | |
| <i>Intellectual Approaches</i> | | 9 |
| PAS 615 | Theories of Race and Racism | |
| PAS 622 | Theories of the Pan-African Diaspora | |
| Select one of the following: | | |
| Seminar on Race & Ethnicity in the Diaspora | | |
| - or - | | |
| Intellectual Approaches - Discipline Based (Historical, Social, Cultural - courses not in PAS) | | |
| <i>Major (Track Area/Discipline)</i> ^{1,2} | | 12 |
| <i>Minor (Electives)</i> ³ | | 6 |
| Professional Development Seminar | | 0 |
| PAS 701 | Doctoral Exam Preparation (Summer course, reading for comprehensive examinations) | 6 |
| Total Credit Hours (Year I and II): 42 | | |
| Year III ⁴ | | |
| <i>Semester 1</i> | | |
| Special Topics Courses and Comprehensive & Special Topics Exams | | 9 |
| <i>Semester 2</i> | | |
| PAS 702 | Dissertation Research | 9 |
| Year IV | | |
| <i>Semester 1</i> | | |
| PAS 702 | Dissertation Research (and Writing) | 2 |
| <i>Semester 2</i> | | |
| PAS 702 | Dissertation Research (Defend Dissertation) | 2 |
| Minimum Total Hours | | 64 |

Based on this structure students will take at least five courses in a specific discipline at the end of the first two years. These include one in research strategy, one in intellectual approaches, two electives, and at least one course cross-listed with PAS. These courses can also be in another area study such as Women's and Gender Studies, Latin American/Latino Studies, etc.

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In both cases, students must petition for additional credit hours. Only courses in which the student earned grades of B or better will be considered for transfer.

¹ Four courses in one of two tracks: African American Studies or the African Diaspora and within a historical, social or cultural field. At least one of these must be cross-listed.

² Courses from this area are potential teaching/research fields. They could be cross-listed with other departments and must be discipline/subject based. For example, a PhD student interested in history of the "Slave Trade," will study this as a history class with possible specialization in the "Atlantic Slavery" or "African Slavery" or "Comparative Slavery," etc. Upon graduation, the student can compete favorably for jobs in traditional History Departments as well as Black Studies Departments.

³ The two elective courses could be taken outside the PAS as part of the student's potential teaching fields.

⁴ Defend dissertation proposal