

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AAS DMP

1. Are Distinguished Majors exempted from any College graduation requirements?

No. You must complete all the area requirements listed in the Undergraduate Record, and all the requirements for the AAS major.

2. Are Distinguished Majors exempted from the 4000-level seminar-with-a-research paper required of “regular” AAS majors?

No. See question 1.

3. If I write my thesis on an Africa-related topic, does that exempt me from the Non-Western Perspectives requirement?

No. See question 1.

4. Are AAS 4070 (Directed Research) and AAS 4080 (Thesis) taken in addition to the nine courses required for the “regular” major?

No, not necessarily. The DMP comprises a minimum of 29 credits, just like the regular AAS major. Most students may need to take more than 29 credits, however, to fulfill the distribution requirements of the major and the research and thesis components of the DMP.

5. Who chooses my thesis supervisor and my second reader?

You do.

6. Must the supervisor and the second reader be faculty members?

Yes. The thesis supervisor and second reader must be fulltime academic or general faculty who teach courses at UVA.

7. How long should my thesis be?

Your thesis should be approximately 8,000 words or 40 pages.

8. Who grades my thesis?

Your thesis supervisor will assign your grade for AAS 4070 (Directed Research, taken in the fall) and AAS 4080 (Thesis, taken in the spring). The supervisor will inform the DMP Director of the student's grade; the DMP Director will then submit the grade to the Registrar.

9. Who determines whether or not I will be awarded honors and if so, what level of distinction I will be awarded?

Your supervisor and second reader will make that determination, in consultation with the DMP Director, and in light of your entire academic record.

10. Is there an "official" deadline when the thesis is due to my supervisor for grading?

Yes. The last day of class instruction for the spring semester in which AAS 4080 is taken.

11. What if I plan to graduate in August?

Your thesis must be submitted to your thesis supervisor and second reader no later than May 20. Be sure to inform them early in the spring if you plan to graduate in August rather than May.

12. How soon should my thesis supervisor submit his report to the DMP Director?

The supervisor should plan to submit his/her report to the DMP Director on the first Friday after the last day of class instruction. If that is not possible, alternative arrangements can be made with the DMP Director at the Woodson Institute (4-3109). Note that late reports may mean that your level of distinction might not appear on the graduation program.