

DISTINGUISHED MAJORS PROGRAM

AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND AFRICAN STUDIES

APPLICATION FORM

The Distinguished Majors Program in African-American and African Studies affords qualified students the opportunity to do advanced research culminating in a thesis, and to receive, at graduation, the honor of "Distinction," "High Distinction," or "Highest Distinction." Third-year students with a superior academic record are encouraged to apply.

NAME: _____ Date of Application: ____/____/____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____ # of Semesters Completed to Date: _____

GPA: 1) overall: _____ 2) in African-American and African Studies: _____

List all courses taken thus far that count toward the AAS major. List any other courses that you think have further prepared you for the Distinguished Majors Program:

1	grade:	8	grade:
2	grade:	9	grade:
3	grade:	10	grade:
4	grade:	11	grade:
5	grade:	12	grade:
6	grade:	13	grade:
7	grade:	14	grade:

Requirements of the Distinguished Majors Program

Entry into the program

1. Third-year students are eligible to apply for the program if they have achieved an average of **3.40** in all course work prior to application for the program.

2. The applicant must obtain the agreement of a **thesis supervisor**. The supervisor can be any fulltime faculty member who teaches courses that count toward the AAS major. The supervisor must agree to direct the thesis research in the fall and spring semesters of the applicant's fourth year. Please indicate the name of the faculty member who has agreed to work with you:

(Requirements continued on back)

3. The applicant must obtain another faculty member's agreement to serve as **second reader**. The second reader must be a fulltime academic or general faculty member who teaches courses at UVA. This agreement must be secured by September 30th. If you have already obtained the agreement of a second reader, indicate his/her name below:

4. In addition to this application form, please submit a one-page **proposal** describing your thesis topic and research plan, plus a list of five-to-ten relevant sources. In your proposal, please be specific about who and/or what will be the focus of your project and about how you plan to carry out the project.

5. Application should be made to the Director of the DMP, Professor Sabrina Pendergrass (sp9eu@virginia.edu), and copied to the AAS DUP, Professor Lisa Shutt (lt7q@virginia.edu), by **March 15**.

Requirements for completion of the program

1. Satisfaction of all College requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Record with an overall GPA of at least 3.40.

2. Fulfillment of all the requirements for the normal AAS major.

3. Like the AAS major, the DMP comprises a minimum of 29 credits. DMP participants must complete at least six credits of course work at or above the 4000-level, in addition to the six credits specific to preparation of the thesis, outlined in #4, below.

4. Participants must register for and complete three credits of AAS 4070 (Distinguished Major Thesis I) with the DMP Director in the first semester. In the second semester, students must register for and complete three credits of AAS 4080 (Distinguished Major Thesis II) with their advisor. The time students spend on the thesis courses each week is equivalent to time spent on other three-credit courses at the university. But rather than the work of a traditional course, students will primarily spend the time carrying out their thesis projects. To complete the courses, students must attend all seminar meetings and submit the course assignments. The DMP Director will inform students and supervisors of the seminar schedule and assignment due dates at the beginning of each semester. Students will meet together at least three times during the fall, and they will meet together at least two times during the spring. Much of students' coursework will involve making progress on their projects each week and regularly meeting with their thesis supervisors and the DMP Director for one-on-one advising. Coursework also involves students regularly submitting short excerpts of their work and writing progress towards completion of the following major assignments:

- Fall Week 4: Written prospectus and bibliography
- Fall Week 9: Outlines for all parts of the thesis
- Fall Week 13: 10-15 written pages
- Spring Week 9: Rough draft of the entire thesis
- Spring Week 13: Revised draft of thesis
- Last day of class instruction: Submit corrected final copy

5. The thesis should be approximately 40 pages in length. Final copies must be submitted to the thesis supervisor, the second reader, and the DMP Director no later than the last day of spring semester classes for Spring graduation, May 20 for August graduation, and Nov 20 for December graduation.