The program for the Masters in Africana Studies offers students the opportunity to complete graduate-level work which serves a variety of needs and purposes. It can be an end in itself for students whose personal and/or professional goal is an M.A. The M.A. can also be a preparatory graduate degree en route to a doctorate.

The MA can be pursued as a terminal degree in Africana Studies or as a joint degree with either Journalism, Economics, Library Information Science, or a concentration in Museum Studies (see Joint Degree guidelines and requirements).

Many students elect to study part-time while maintaining a full work schedule. The department particularly encourages non-traditional students who are studying part-time to attend graduate student events when possible, to get to know their cohort, to take time to work with their advisors and other faculty, and to recognize their valuable and respected presence in the department.

The Director of Africana Studies initially serves as the MA program advisor. This is a preliminary assignment. Over the course of the first year in the program, it is expected that the student will make her or his own determination of advisor, based upon areas of scholarly interest and personal compatibility. It may of course be the same faculty member, but it may also be someone else in the department. The choice of permanent advisor is driven by the specific role that person will play in the student's education. The student should discuss her or his interests with the prospective advisor, and ask whether the faculty member in question is willing to serve as advisor.

**Time to Completion:** The program is expected to take three to four semesters to complete, but can be somewhat longer for those working full-time. Students who have completed all coursework, but not the thesis, must stay enrolled via a matriculation fee each semester until graduation. A maximum of five years from the date of first registration is allowed for completing the degree.

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**GRADUATION**

There are many offices involved in Graduation. Students are responsible for knowing the deadlines associated with the term they plan on graduating and getting all the necessary materials into the proper offices. Below please find a list of the major forms and procedures;

- Register yourself on Albert for graduation at the start of the semester you wish to graduate and check official graduation deadlines on the Registrar’s Office graduation page: [http://www.nyu.edu/registrar/graduation/](http://www.nyu.edu/registrar/graduation/)

- Notify the Graduate Program Coordinator of your intention to graduate by e-mail.

- Resolve any outstanding incompletes and follow up on any outstanding requirements on you graduation check sheet (this will be sent to you by Graduation Services)

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**INTERNSHIPS**

The goal of an internship is to provide students with critical learning experience, and an opportunity to research an area of their choosing. Internships should involve substantial areas of responsibility and specific projects, appropriate to students' backgrounds and skills. In the beginning of the semester, interns work with supervisors to develop goals. These are discussed by intern, supervisor, and faculty. Supervisors complete a mid-semester and final evaluation, Supervisors discuss evaluations with interns before submitting.

Interns keep field journals and write a final paper that explore various aspects of their agency and related issues. Supervisors assist interns in finding information for their final paper. This might include locating annual reports and other appropriate documents, granting or arranging interviews, suggested readings, and so forth. Please note that interns are expected to complete the assignments outside of their internships hours. Requirements are as follows:

- 10 hours/week for a 2-credit internship, OR 15 hours/week for a 4-credit internship
- Mid-semester evaluation by internship supervisor
- 10-page final paper and final evaluation by internship supervisor to be submitted to faculty advisor for evaluation and grade.
**Director of Graduate Studies (DGS):** The Director of Graduate Studies is responsible for the overall management of the graduate programs. Students with general questions about the program should bring them to the DGS. The DGS is also the final arbiter of the regulations of the program, and has the authority to make exceptions. Although the DGS does not have the authority to override the rules of the Graduate School, the DGS can petition on behalf of students; exceptions such as extensions of time to a degree, late completion of incompletes, and extending Graduate School deadlines, are the prerogative of the Dean of the Graduate School and the sub-deans.

**Director of Africana Studies:** The Director of Africana Studies is a core faculty member of the Africana Studies program and is responsible for responding to questions and concerns related to the curriculum and management of the Africana Studies program. The Director is an important resource for questions related to the guidelines, requirements of the MA program, your MA committee and your Thesis. The Director is the approver for Independent Studies and Thesis Proposals.

**Graduate Program Coordinator:** The day-to-day administration of the program is the responsibility of the Graduate Program Coordinator. Because the graduate program coordinator is the communications center for the department, make sure he or she has your current mailing address, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses. Questions about rules, deadlines, funding, grants, and other bureaucratic issues should be directed to him or her. If an issue or problem requires faculty advice or approval, the Administrator will advise the student to speak with the advisor or the DGS. The Department Assistant is responsible for the practical aspects of registration: providing registration materials and the access codes by which students officially register. The Department Assistant also directs students to graduate course scheduling information.

**The Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS):** This office, located at 1/2 Fifth Avenue, provides information about issues and questions beyond the scope of the department. Notably, this office provides funding for summer research travel, and funding to present papers at conferences. This Master’s Office also provides information on external funding for graduate students, workshops for writing a Thesis and applying to PhD programs.

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- GSAS Travel Grants deadlines and application: [http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.travelgrant](http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.travelgrant)
- GSAS Academic Calendar: [http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.life.calendar](http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.life.calendar)
- Graduate Enrollment Services (GES): [http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.admissions.ges](http://gsas.nyu.edu/page/grad.admissions.ges)
- Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS): [http://www.nyu.edu/oiss/index.html](http://www.nyu.edu/oiss/index.html)