

EP.09.63

STANDARD GRADUATE MINOR APPROVAL FORM

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**Title of the proposed minor:** Graduate Minor in African Studies

**Sponsoring unit(s):** Merle Bowen, Director, Center for African Studies; [bowen@illinois.edu](mailto:bowen@illinois.edu); 3-2956

**College Sponsor:** Ann M. Mester, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; [mester@illinois.edu](mailto:mester@illinois.edu); 3-6622

**Date:** 08/19/2008

**Brief description:**

The graduate minor in African Studies is designed to provide UIUC graduate students both at the master and doctoral levels in any discipline training in African Studies and is taken in conjunction with students' primary fields of study. The minor's purpose is to complement and supplement major work undertaken by students in their primary disciplines. The minor is intended to develop students' knowledge of Africa through interdisciplinary training and African language study.

**Requirements:**

A student pursuing the graduate minor in African Studies must complete the following:

1. Language Component: At least four semesters of the same African language instruction or demonstrated proficiency in an African language is required. Language instruction up to the third year is highly recommended for students conducting research or professional work in a particular region or country in Africa. If a student takes a third year of language, none of the hours will count toward the minor.
2. Area Coursework: AFST 522, plus one elective at the 500 level, and one other graduate elective

**Prerequisites:**

There are no prerequisites for the graduate minor. The Center does not anticipate a substantial increase in enrollment in required courses. In addition, elective courses satisfying the minor are taught by faculty affiliated with the Center and who are from a wide range of departments and disciplines across campus. Therefore, the Center does not foresee a need to limit enrollment in the minor.

**Expected enrollment in the minor:**

When approved, we envision initial enrollment of three to five students, which may increase later. However, we do not foresee enrollment exceeding ten students at any given time.

**Admission to the minor:**

A graduate student who elects African Studies as a minor must get approval from the Center, the administrating unit of the minor, and from his/her home department. Applicants must be in good standing in a graduate program at the University of Illinois and should demonstrate an interest in African Studies. Students enrolled in the MA program in African Studies are not eligible to receive the minor. Students are encouraged to work closely with the student adviser at the Center

for African Studies to design their programs. The minor admission process is monitored by the Associate Director in charge of academic programming. Before graduation, students wishing to have the minor appear on their transcript must also successfully petition the graduate college to have the minor added to their academic record.

**Minor adviser:**

The Associate Director will also be assigned the responsibility of advising students. She serves as the director of graduate studies and administers the master's program in African Studies. She also teaches every year either the center's core graduate seminar or the undergraduate general education course as well as works with graduate students from other departments whose focus is Africa and who are recipients of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship.

**Certification of successful completion:**

Successful completion of the graduate minor will be certified by the Center for African Studies. Upon completion of the minor requirements and of his/her master's or doctoral degree, the student will receive a completion document created by the Center for African Studies indicating that he/she has earned a graduate minor in African Studies. Students with the minor on their academic record will also have the minor reflected on their transcript after graduation.

**Budgetary and staff implications:**

- Additional staff and dollars are needed?

As described above there is a staff member already in place to administer the minor. We therefore do not foresee any staff or budgetary implications for establishing the minor. This doesn't increase the program to the point that would require additional staffing.

- Internal reallocations are necessary (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, and so forth)?

The numbers of students we anticipate will take the minor are small, and we do not see any short or medium-term budgetary implications beyond small increases in sizes for already existing classes and computer lab facilities.

- Effect will there be on course enrollment in other departments and what discussions have taken place with representatives of those departments?

There should be no effect on course enrollment since these students are taking most classes regardless of an official minor

- Impact will there be on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, and so forth?

The current library resources supporting Master's degree are more than adequate for the proposed Graduate Minor.

**Statement for the catalog:**

The interdisciplinary graduate minor in African Studies promotes training in African Studies for masters and doctoral students in other disciplines interested in complementing their degree program with an interdisciplinary perspective on Africa. To earn a graduate minor in African Studies, students must complete 12 graduate hours including AFST 522, Development of African Studies; a minimum of 8 additional hours (at the 400- or 500-level), that relate to Africa, and outside the student's enrolling department- one course must be at the 500-level. Students are also required to complete a minimum of two years of African language training. Language training up to the third year is highly recommended for students conducting research or professional work in a particular region or country in Africa. Courses taken to meet the language requirement will not count toward the 12 graduate hours required for the minor. If the student's master's thesis or doctoral dissertation deals in whole or in part with Africa, it is strongly recommended that a faculty member from the Center be a formal member of the student's committee.

## Requirements—Graduate Minor

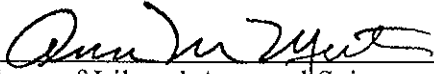
	Required Hours
<b>Required Courses:</b>	
AFST 522	4
Electives: One elective at the 500 level, and one other graduate elective	8
<b>Language Requirement:</b> At least 4 semesters of college-level study of an African language is required.	0
<b>Total Hours</b>	12
<b>Other Requirements:</b>	
In addition to the minor requirements, students must also complete the requirements of their major degree. The major department determines which and how many minor hours may also be applied to the major degree. Please contact your department for more information.	

**CLEARANCES:**

Merle L. Bowen (M.B.)

Merle Bowen  
Director, Center for African Studies

11/19/2008  
Date:



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

11/20/08  
Date

  
Graduate College

2/17/09.  
Date

Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee

Date