

The African and African American Studies Program

Academic Assessment- 2016

Prepared and Submitted by Pearl K. Dowe

The African and African American Studies Program offer courses in 9 disciplines that contribute to its interdisciplinary curriculum. University of Arkansas students can choose to declare a combined major or a minor in African and African American studies. The AAST Program is proud to support its highest achieving students with scholarships. These scholarships can be used throughout students' academic career at the University campus or toward a study abroad program. The African and African American Studies Program continue to seek new and exciting ways to expand its academic offerings with the campus and the community.

AAST conducted a self-study in 2014 in which it was concluded that the program's goals and objectives included the following:

Goals:

- Students will critically engage and connect the inter- and multi-disciplinary themes of African and African American studies
- Students will be able to effectively communicate (oral and written) themes of African and African American studies
- Students will be able to connect course goals with other AAST courses in their program of study to provide a broad understanding of the impact of African and African Americans in the world
- Students will develop an appreciation of African and African American culture

Objectives:

- Critically evaluate scholarly works on African and African American studies
- Describe the basic principles guiding African and African American studies discourse
- Demonstrate knowledge of research techniques, documentation, organization, style and mechanics of academic writing
- Apply African and African American centered theories, approaches, concepts, and empirical research to multiple disciplines

Student Success

One measure of assessment is the success of students. Students who have majored and minored in AAST have continued to achieve academically while at the UofA and in graduate work. Currently there are 40 AAST Minors and 23 Majors.

Average GPA of AAST Graduates

Summer 2015 Minors – 2.21 GPA

Spring 2015 Minors - 3.15 GPA

Spring 2015 Majors – 3.32 GPA

Fall 2015 Majors- 3.402 GPA

Current Student Success

Dara Gaines- 2016 Participant in the Ralph Bunche Institute at Duke University

Antonio Igbokidi – 2016 Summer Internship at University Arkansas Medical Sciences

Sarah Riva (Graduate Fellow) – Presented “Freedom, Freedom, Freedom Now: SNCC and the Search for Equality in Arkansas” at a)the Arkansas Historical Association Conference April 21-23, Little Rock, Arkansas and b) Borders: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, March 5, 2016, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Presented “SNCC in the Arkansas Delta” at the African and African American Studies 2016 Graduate Fellowship Symposium, February 17, 2016.

Recent Alumni

Brandon Dismute- 2013 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received Master’s in Urban Policy from Hunter College.

Quiana Jenkins- 2014 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received Master’s in Higher Education Administration from Southern Illinois-Carbondale 2016

Kadeesia Crutchfield –2015 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science and African and African American Studies. She will attend University of North Dallas Law School in fall 2016.

Tomario King – 2015 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Tomario works for Lockheed Martin. He plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in Engineering Management in the future.

Emma Ridings – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Minor in African and African American Studies. She will pursue a Master’s Degree in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown University.

Kayleigh Sagar – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and a Minor in African and African American Studies. She will attend Harding University and pursue a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy.

Cynthia Benson – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and African and African American Studies. She is currently teaching Yoga and Dance.

Colin Walker – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Minor in African and African American Studies. He will attend the University of Arkansas and pursue a Master's Degree in History.

Tabitha Orr – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received a Bachelor of Arts in History and African and African American Studies. She will attend the University of Tulsa working toward a Master's Degree in History. Tabitha was awarded the Gillman State Department Scholarship for the 2015-2016 school year. She has also received the Hennecke Fellowship to attend TU.

Kwamesha Moore – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work and African and African American Studies. She will attend Washington University in St. Louis. She will pursue a Master's Degree in Social Work. Kwamesha will be working as a Graduate Fellow for the Housing Department. She was also awarded a scholarship to attend.

Tonisha Brown – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and a Minor in African and African American Studies. She is currently in search for post-graduation employment or an internship.

Reginald Thurman – 2016 Graduate of University of Arkansas. Received a Bachelor of Sciences in Information Systems and a Minor in African and African American Studies. He will attend the University of Arkansas in fall 2016 and pursue a Master's Degree in Operations Management. Reginald also received a Graduate Assistantship with the University of Arkansas' Athlete Success Center as an Athlete Counselor.

Procedure for future Assessment of Goals and Objectives

The AAST Program will implement a more structured assessment of program success beginning Fall 2016. This will include pre and post test for two courses that provide an introductory understanding of African and African American Studies. The assessment will be given in both online and face to face course offerings.

AAST 1003: Introduction to African and African American Studies

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of Africa and African Americans and their impact on the world order and society with an emphasis on that impact's manifestations in the United States of America.

AAST 2003 African American Experience:

Examines various facets of African American culture that collectively construct the African American experience including art, literature, drama, migration, film, and education. Covers issues facing African Americans through a cultural and socio-political context to understand and appreciate African American impacts on the United States.

The program will also develop an Exit Survey and Questionnaire for a) Students who participate in the biannual Ghana Study Abroad Trip b) Graduating Minors and Majors. The survey and questionnaire will provide qualitative and quantitative measures to determine the level of exposure students had with the various disciplines within the AAST program as well as their engagement with the program offerings.