



**College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences**

Office of the Dean

University of Iowa
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Iowa City, Iowa 52242
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January 23, 2026

Saba Ali, PhD
Interim Associate Provost for Graduate and Professional Education and
Dean of the Graduate College

Dear Dean Ali,

On behalf of the College, I am writing to request the formal closure of the Master of Arts (MA) in African American World Studies (thesis and non-thesis) and the associated Professional Improvement program. Admissions to the MA program was suspended in 2006 has had no student enrollments or applicants since then.

Sincerely,

Sara Sanders, PhD, MSW
Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Cc: Heidi Arbisi-Kelm, Assistant Dean, Academic Affairs, Graduate College
Roland Racevskis, PhD, Associate Dean for the Arts and Humanities

FORM J
BOARD OF REGENTS
REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAM REDUCED ADMISSIONS, PROGRAM SUSPENSION, OR
PROGRAM TERMINATION
Revised 2022

Name of institution: University of Iowa _____
Date submitted: January 2026 _____
Name of program: African American World Studies (thesis and non-thesis) _____
CIP Code: 05.0201 - African-American/Black Studies. _____
College: Graduate College _____
Level: B _____ M XX D _____ FP _____
Degree abbreviation (e.g., B.S., B.A., M.A., etc.): MA (Master of Arts) _____

Action requested: Reduced admissions _____ Program suspension _____ Program termination XX _____

The request for admission reduction, program suspension, or program termination shall be reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts. With the recommendation for approval by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts, the request shall be submitted to the Board of Regents for discussion and action.

The institution shall not communicate to the public its intended action to limit enrollment, suspend the program, or terminate the program until approved by the Board of Regents.

- Provide a brief description of the program.
The Master of Arts (MA) in African American World Studies is a two-year graduate program.
- Provide a brief rationale for the requested action. Include if this is intended to be a temporary or permanent change.
The program admission was suspended in 2006. This change is permanent.
- Describe how any current applicants or admitted students to the program will be accommodated and the length of the transition period.
No students are currently enrolled in the program and there are no current applicants.
- Describe the effect on costs of reducing enrollments or terminating the program, e.g., cost savings, resource reallocations, faculty/staff reductions.
No reduction in faculty or staff is needed. There is no additional effect on cost.
- Is the same or comparable program available elsewhere in the state? Identify the schools where the program is available and the current enrollment at those sites.
Currently, there are no other MA programs in African American World Studies, African American Studies or Black Studies in the State of Iowa at either a public or private institution.
- Provide data on the applications; enrollments and completions in the academic program for the past 5 years.
No students have applied, enrolled, or completed the MA program in the last five years.
- How might the reduction or termination affect workforce needs in the state? Be as specific as

possible.

Given there is no student enrollment, the closure of the program will not affect workforce needs in the state.

What is the anticipated impact on other programs at this institution?

This will have minimal impact due to no students having completed the MA over the past five years.

Describe any anticipated impact on particular sub-groups of students (ex. transfer students, gender or racial/ethnic identities, disability status).

No impact on particular sub-groups of students is anticipated.

Provide any other information that might be helpful to the Board of Regents in considering this request.

NA