Master in African Studies - Minor in Faith-Based Cultural Preservation and Advocacy

HBI University
Course Duration: 2 years
Credit Hours: 69 (including 15 credit hours for minor)



Program Description

The Master in African Studies at HBI University is designed for students seeking a comprehensive understanding of African history, cultures, governance, and socio-economic development. This interdisciplinary program integrates anthropology, political science, history, and international relations to provide insight into Africa's role in the global arena.

The Minor in Faith-Based Cultural Preservation and Advocacy offers a specialized focus on the role of religious institutions in preserving African heritage, promoting cultural advocacy, and fostering interfaith dialogue. Students will explore Christian and indigenous African spiritual traditions, faith-based social activism, and ethical leadership in cultural preservation.

This 69-credit hour program includes 30 credit hours of foundational African studies courses, 24 credit hours of core cultural policy and development training, 15 credit hours in Faith-Based Cultural Preservation and Advocacy, elective coursework, a supervised practicum, and a research-based master's thesis or capstone project.

Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in African studies, anthropology, political science, or a related field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty or professionals in African studies or cultural advocacy
- Statement of purpose outlining career goals in African studies and faith-based cultural advocacy
- Writing sample (historical analysis, policy paper, or cultural preservation research)
- Interview with faculty committee (if required)

Practicum Requirement

Students must complete a 300-hour supervised practicum in cultural heritage organizations, faith-based NGOs, government cultural agencies, or international advocacy groups. Practicum placements include museums, interfaith peacebuilding initiatives, and African cultural preservation programs.

Master's Thesis / Capstone Project

Students are required to complete either a research-based master's thesis on African religious traditions, cultural identity, or heritage preservation policies or develop a capstone project implementing a faith-based cultural advocacy initiative.

Program Outcomes

Graduates of this program will be able to:

- Analyze African history, culture, and governance through an academic and faith-based lens.
- Engage in advocacy efforts for cultural preservation in African societies.
- Develop policies that integrate ethical and faith-driven approaches to African development.
- Conduct research on the role of religion in African identity and governance.
- Lead cultural preservation programs in churches, universities, and nonprofit organizations.

Career Outcomes & Potential Salary

- Cultural Policy Advisor – $60,000 - $130,000
- International Development Consultant – $70,000 - $140,000
- Faith-Based Cultural Advocate – $55,000 - $125,000
- Historian & Museum Curator (African Studies) – $65,000 - $130,000
- NGO Director for Faith-Based Cultural Initiatives – $75,000 - $145,000

Advocacy and Professional Development

Students are encouraged to join organizations such as:

- African Studies Association (ASA)
- Pan-African Cultural Heritage Alliance
- International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- Christian Cultural Advocacy Network

Participation in heritage conservation conferences, interfaith dialogue initiatives, and African studies research forums is highly recommended.

Course Breakdown (Total: 69 Credit Hours)

A. Foundational African Studies Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
AFR-101	African History: Pre-Colonial to Present	3
AFR-102	African Political Systems & Governance	3

AFR-103	Anthropology & Cultural Identity in Africa	3
AFR-104	Economic Development & Social Change in Africa	3
AFR-105	Religion & Spirituality in African Societies	3
AFR-106	Conflict Resolution & Peacebuilding in Africa	3
AFR-107	Gender, Society, and African Development	3
AFR-108	Research Methods in African Studies	3
AFR-109	African Literature & Oral Traditions	3
AFR-110	The Role of Faith in African Cultural Movements	3

B. Core Cultural Policy and Development Training (24 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
AFR-201	International Relations & Africa's Global Influence	3
AFR-202	Indigenous Knowledge Systems & Cultural Preservation	3
AFR-203	African Diaspora & Identity Politics	3
AFR-204	Ethics in Development Policy & Faith-Based Advocacy	3
AFR-205	Museums, Heritage Sites, and Faith-Based Tourism	3
AFR-206	Community-Based Cultural Restoration	3
AFR-207	Leadership in African Social & Faith Organizations	3
AFR-208	Supervised African Studies Practicum	3

C. Faith-Based Cultural Preservation and Advocacy Minor (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
FBCP-301	The Church's Role in Cultural Advocacy	3
FBCP-302	Biblical & Theological Perspectives on Social Justice	3
FBCP-303	African Christian Traditions & Interfaith Collaboration	3
FBCP-304	Faith-Based Human Rights & Cultural Diplomacy	3

FBCP-305	Christian Ethics in Cultural Preservation	3

D. Electives (9 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ELEC-701	Media & Cultural Representation of Africa	3
ELEC-702	Religion & Governance in African Development	3
ELEC-703	Language, Identity, and Faith in African Societies	3