

Dear Students,

The Department of African American and African Studies (AAAS) is now accepting applications for a new program called ***Blackness and the Politics of a Professional Career*** sponsored by the Department of African American and African Studies and the Center for Career and Professional Success.

In this program, we hope students will gain valuable knowledge and insight that will help to prepare them for life after college and as they pursue their career goals. We also hope students will continue to correspond with their career professional as they seek advice related to their career goals.

Accordingly, ***Blackness and the Politics of a Professional Career*** aims to match student participants with a career professional in varying areas of expertise who identify as Black, African, or African American. AAAS student participants will then engage with their designated professional with an emphasis on how racial identity and Blackness relate to a professional career and a person's career aspirations and development. The student participants will also discuss with the career professionals how the student can use the critical inquiry and thinking skills gained at the university, whether through a degree in AAAS or in classes that highlight Blackness and race to aid them in their profession career and life. While having one of these conversations, some student participants may have an opportunity to shadow their professional while they are working. Due to the pandemic students may only have a "virtual work visitation".

All the student participants and the professionals will come together at the beginning of the program and at the end. At the beginning of program there will be an introduction meeting on Zoom where the career professionals will get to meet the students and vice-versa. At this meeting, the students and career professionals will setup at least two meeting dates. Those meeting dates can be over Zoom or in person. After the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the students will be asked to write up a short summary of their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting (2 pages). Then after all the meetings are completed (at least two), the students will be asked to write-up a report that discusses their overall experience and what they learned (5 pages). Students will be asked to complete a survey and participate in a panel discussion and celebratory banquet that marks the end of the program. At the end of the program, students who complete the entire program will receive a reward for their participation.

If you are interested in how a degree in African American and African Studies applies to a professional career and are interested in how Black life, Black identity, and Black culture might contribute to and inform a professional career, then this program is for you.

To apply for this program, you will need to write a short statement between 250-350 words explaining why you are interested in ***Blackness and the Politics of a Professional Career***. You will need two faculty or instructor references (full names and OSU email address only). Additionally, you will need to fill out the attached form. We will be asking for your GPA and your GPA in your major. We will also be asking if you are African American and African Studies major, minor, and/or a member of the Alliance for the Support of Black Studies. Please note that AAAS majors, minors, and members of ABS will be given preference, however anyone interested is eligible to apply and can be admitted. There are approximately 14 slots. Applications should be emailed to: [beckham.4@osu.edu](mailto:beckham.4@osu.edu)

The application for ***Blackness and the Politics of a Professional Career*** is due Tuesday February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022, at 5PM.