On Campus

Columbia Launches PhD Program in African-American Studies

Fall 2025



Professor Brandi Summers with students in the Department of African American and African Diaspora Studies. (Sirin Samman)

Columbia has announced the creation of a PhD program in African-American and African-diaspora studies, which will allow graduate students of Black history, culture, and intellectual traditions to take their scholarship to the next level. The highly interdisciplinary program, which is the first of its type in New York City, builds on the success of Columbia's master's degree program in the field. It will combine courses in African-American and African-diaspora studies with opportunities for specialized research in a range of related areas. The program is now welcoming applications for its inaugural cohort, which will start classes in fall 2026.

Guide to school abbreviations