

Abstract:
Undergraduate Study in Senegal and South Africa for Non-Traditional U.S. Students

The African Studies Center and the Office Study Abroad at Michigan State University in collaboration with Washington, D.C.-based Council for Opportunity in Education, representing more than 900 universities and colleges in the United States, will coordinate a program that will facilitate twelve (12) U.S. undergraduates to study for a semester in either Senegal or South Africa. The GPA will provide the opportunity for twelve students from disadvantaged and non-traditional backgrounds to study for a semester in Michigan State University-developed study abroad programs at either the *Université Cheikh Anta Diop* in Senegal, or at the *University of KwaZulu-Natal*, in South Africa.

The proposed GPA will take place in the spring semester (January-June) 2005 and is designed (i) to significantly expand participants knowledge and understanding of the history, culture, society and contemporary issues in Senegal or South Africa, (ii) to increase the participants' understanding of global issues that impact the U.S. and countries in Africa, (iii) to provide non-traditional U.S. college students the opportunity to study in Africa by participating in a semester length study abroad program, (iv) to heighten awareness and understanding of Africa within some communities across the US, and (v) to strengthen linkages with host institutions in Senegal and South Africa.

The proposed project will comprise of three phases: (a) Pre-departure communication and planning and orientation at departure (September 2004 – January 2005); (b) Semester length study abroad program in Senegal or South Africa (January – June 2005); and (c) Reentry activities (June – Fall 2005).

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