



# Middle Eastern and North African Studies

The program in modern Middle Eastern and North African Studies is concerned with the study of the peoples and cultures in the region extending from the western coast of Morocco and the southern borders of the Sahara to the eastern end of Afghanistan and the northern Caucasus and in Islamic Central Asia. Students become familiar with the current languages of the area as well as the history, art, religion, society, and politics of the regions. This interdisciplinary approach provides the graduate with a broad framework within which to understand the development and current issues of the Middle East and North Africa.

Concentration in Middle Eastern and North African Studies provides a background for careers in many different areas, including those specifically addressing the concerns of the regions. In addition, the concentration may serve as preparation for further education in graduate or professional schools. Listed below are some characteristic skills and abilities developed by Middle Eastern and North African Studies majors, as well as some representative occupations.

## SKILLS & ABILITIES

Concentrators develop the ability to understand cultural development from a variety of perspectives by using the techniques of many academic disciplines, such as art, history, and literature. Through the study of language, and of communication skills, students also are prepared to organize and express their ideas clearly. These skills may

lead to a variety of occupational opportunities. For example, although a foreign service officer, a journalist, and an international hotel manager may work in different settings, for each their understanding of other cultures and beliefs can influence the degree of success in their work. A sampling of representative skills and abilities follows.

### Languages

- Understanding and reading ideas
- Perceiving word patterns and structures
- Interpreting complex language
- Reading for tone and attitude
- Translating ideas/language
- Evaluating translations and original texts

### Research/Education

- Teaching
- Generating and developing ideas
- Compiling and organizing information
- Examining evidence
- Evaluating theory
- Solving problems
- Making decisions

### Communication

- Writing clearly
- Editing/proofreading materials
- Persuading people/groups
- Presenting and debating arguments
- Listening critically
- Evaluating ideas

### Human Relations

- Understanding other cultures/beliefs
- Developing sensitivity to cultural viewpoints
- Appreciating continuity and change within a historical perspective
- Clarifying others' thoughts and ideas
- Accepting cultural differences

## OCCUPATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

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Middle Eastern and North African Studies majors are prepared to succeed in a wide range of occupational areas. The following list offers a glimpse of the types of opportunities available to program concentrators. The list was

compiled from follow-up studies of University of Michigan graduates, and from national data. Many occupations, such as journalist, may require additional training.

### Government/ Public Service

United Nations  
interpreter  
State Department  
specialist  
Consular assistant  
Immigration inspector  
Congressional staff  
member  
Affirmative action officer  
Foundation researcher  
Intelligence agent  
Foreign services officer

### Business/Industry

Textbook sales  
representative  
International finance  
analyst  
Consultant, cross cultural  
relations  
Advertising copywriter  
Travel agent  
Export/import sales  
manager  
International hotel  
manager

### Research/Education

Teacher (K-12)  
Professor  
Librarian  
Archaeological assistant  
Historian  
Museum exhibit assistant

### Communication

Foreign affairs journalist  
Editor  
Translations specialist  
Arts reviewer  
Free lance writer  
Web designer

## CURRICULUM REQUIREMENTS

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1. Anthropology 409.
2. History 443 and one of the following: 442, 538, 539, 542, or 545.
3. Political Science, any one of the following: 353, 452, or 453.
4. Two years of language or the equivalent in either Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, or Turkish.
5. Two approved electives with appropriate Middle East content from one of the following Departments: Anthropology, History, History of Art, Modern Middle Eastern and North African Studies, Political Science and Sociology.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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For information about choosing a major and choosing a career, about graduate/professional school, internships, or job descriptions:

The Career Center  
3200 Student Activities Building  
(734) 764-7460  
[www.careercenter.umich.edu](http://www.careercenter.umich.edu)

For information about choosing a major and about concentration and degree requirements:

Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies  
1080 South University Avenue, Suite 4640  
(734) 764-0350  
[www.ii.umich.edu/cmenas/](http://www.ii.umich.edu/cmenas/)  
[cmenas@umich.edu](mailto:cmenas@umich.edu)

LS&A Academic Advising Center  
1255 Angell Hall  
(734) 764-0332