

Arabic

The Arabic major is offered by the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and includes courses in the language, literature, and culture of the Arab world. Students studying Arabic progress from an elementary working knowledge of the language toward oral and written proficiency. Once students have mastered the unique writing system of the language, they are gradually introduced to basic patterns of speech and grammar. The rich body of Arabic literature is first studied in English translation; as students progress in the major and develop their language skills, they continue their readings in Arabic.

Pursuing Arabic at Ohio State

All Ohio State freshman applicants are considered within a competitive admission process for the Columbus campus. The primary criteria for admission are the completion of the applicant's high school college preparatory program, performance in that program as indicated by class rank and/or grade-point average, and performance on either the ACT or SAT. Upon admission to the university, students can declare a major in Arabic within the Arts and Humanities. Interested students should contact the coordinating advisor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and in Arts and Sciences Advising.

Arabic Requirements

An Arabic major consists of a minimum of 50 hours of Arabic courses and five hours of course work in an allied discipline, or an additional Arabic course, selected in consultation with the student's major advisor. Students majoring in Arabic are required to design their programs from courses in language, culture, literature, and linguistics.

Core courses include Arabic 101 through 104. These courses do not apply toward the major. Additional electives and General Education Curriculum requirements totaling 181 hours are required by the College of the Arts and Sciences for graduation.

Success in Arabic requires a commitment to daily preparation and a willingness on the part of the student to use the opportunities provided in class to speak the language. In addition, students should begin considering and planning for a study abroad program as soon as they have decided to major in Arabic. Students interested in studying abroad during their junior or senior year can get specific information about various programs from the coordinating advisor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

For more information, check these web sites:

Near Eastern Languages and Cultures: nelc.osu.edu
Arts and Humanities: artsandhumanities.osu.edu
Ohio State: osu.edu

Co-Curricular Opportunities

Ohio State offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the classroom. These range from cooperative education (co-op) and internships to study abroad programs to student organizations. Co-ops and internships place students in professional environments while they are Ohio State students. Ohio State offers more than 100 study abroad programs in 40 countries around the world. In addition, there are hundreds of student organizations on campus to meet the interests of a diverse student population.

These experiences enable students to gain valuable work experience, learn about cultures, and take on leadership roles before they enter the workforce. All of these experiences enhance learning and may provide an advantage in the job market.

Honors & Scholars Programs

Ohio State offers the Honors and Scholars programs to create an environment of intellectual support and stimulation within a close-knit community of high-ability undergraduate students. Through these programs, students have access to smaller classes, undergraduate research opportunities, close working relationships with faculty, priority scheduling, and unique housing options.

Honors and Scholars programs represent great opportunities to be part of a smaller community within a large university. Good candidates for these programs will receive additional information after admission to the university. Learn more about the Honors and Scholars program at honors-scholars.osu.edu.

Career Prospects in Arabic

Arabic is applicable in a variety of settings in the United States and abroad. Mastery of Arabic allows students to consider careers in such fields as education, government, international trade, banking, print or electronic media, or tourism. Many employers are eager to hire graduates who are fluent in Arabic because their businesses involve Arabic speakers.

Careers in which Arabic is the primary emphasis include teaching Arabic at all levels; interpreting and translating for the United Nations, government, or for private and public organizations; and a variety of positions in the travel and tourism industry at home or abroad such as flight attendant, travel agent, and tour guide. Careers in which proficiency in

Admissions: undergrad.osu.edu
Multicultural Center: multiculturalcenter.osu.edu
First Year Experience Program: fye.osu.edu

Curriculum Sample

This is a sample list of classes a student may take to pursue a degree in Arabic. Since university students need more than specific education in a narrow field, they also will take classes to complete the General Education Curriculum (GEC). The GEC will allow students to develop the fundamental skills essential to collegiate success across major programs. Course work options satisfying the GEC often come from a variety of academic areas of study allowing students to tailor their GEC toward their interests. Note: This sample represents one of several possible paths to a degree in Arabic. Consult the departmental web site, nelc.osu.edu, for details on how the major may be completed.

Freshman Year:

GEC (arts and humanities)	10
GEC (history sequence)	10
GEC courses	25
Arts and Humanities Survey	1
Freshman Seminar	1
Total hours	47

Sophomore Year:

Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic II	5
Intermediate Literary Arabic Reading	5
Modern Arabic Literature in Translation	5
GEC courses	35
Total hours	50

Junior Year:

Intermediate Arabic Conversation and Composition	5
Arabic Grammar I	5
Arabic Grammar II	5
Advanced Arabic Conversation and Composition	5
GEC courses	20
Electives	10
Total hours	50

Senior Year:

History of the Arabic Language	5
Contemporary Arabic Prose Fiction	5
Introduction to the Qur'an	5
Contemporary Arabic Poetry and Drama	5
GEC courses	5
Electives	10
Total hours	35

Arabic is a good secondary tool include banking and finance, business, sales, export purchasing, foreign market analysis, journalism, foreign correspondence, science and research, library science, hotel management, publishing, radio broadcasting, and teaching English in the Arab world to employees in corporations abroad. All who study Arabic find that the experience sharpens their understanding of language in general and enables them to use their own language more effectively and thus exercise a greater amount of control over their own lives, no matter what their eventual fields of interest or occupations.

Beginning salaries depend on candidates' skills and experience, and whether Arabic is of primary or secondary importance in daily job performance. Arabic language graduates find their marketable skills considerably enriched by their humanities education.

Career Counseling and Job Placement

Students can explore career options in Arabic by utilizing Career Connection as well as the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office. Providing complimentary services, Career Connection focuses on helping students establish a career direction, while the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office assists students with finding internships—experiences that are essential to testing out the suitability of career fields they are considering. Located in 48 Townshend Hall, the Arts and Sciences Career Services Office also assists seniors and recent graduates with finding entry-level career employment.

More information about both offices is found at asccareerservices.osu.edu and careerconnection.osu.edu.

More About Arabic

Many scholarship, internship, and study abroad opportunities are available for students majoring in Arabic. Study abroad programs include the following:

American University in Cairo
Al-Akhawayn University
University of Jordan
Damascus University

For more information regarding any of the programs listed above, refer to the Office of International Affairs at oia.osu.edu.

The Arabic Language and Culture Club brings Arabic students together outside the classroom by offering a number of informal events throughout the year. For more information about this official Ohio State student organization, contact Stafford Noble, noble.3@osu.edu.

There are several tracks to study Arabic language at Ohio State, including the regular classroom track and an individualized instruction track. Summer intensive courses are also available.

Revised September 2009. For the most up-to-date information on the Arabic program, please visit nelc.osu.edu.

Contact information:

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