Middle East Studies | M.A. Requirements

Middle East Studies Program Learning Goals and Objectives [2]

Entering Class 2015-2016

Students must take the equivalent of 16 non-language courses (64 credits) in order to graduate. Those students who are approved for dual degree or advanced standing may only need to take 12 (48 credits) or 14 (56 credits) courses as approved by Academic Affairs.

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES (MES)

Students concentrating in Middle East Studies must take at least 6 courses within this program (or the equivalent credit of a total of 6 courses (24 credits*). In some cases, a SAIS course outside of MES that requires a substantive research paper in the Arab World/Broader Middle East, may count toward an MES requirement if approved by the director.

All MES students must also pass two comprehensive examinations:

- Comprehensive Exam 1: Middle East History Exam (MEHE) to be completed within the first year of the program
- Comprehensive Exam 2: Middle East Contemporary History Exam to be completed by
the end of the program

*MES offers two-credit courses. Students must combine two, two-credit courses to meet the requirement of one full course (4 credits).

Tracks
Students must select one of the following Middle East Studies tracks:

- Core Middle East (CME): The CME track is designed to train Arabists with a focus on language skills. Students must take 6 courses (24 credits) from the CME listing. Students are highly encouraged to take additional Arabic language courses beyond the minimum SAIS graduation requirements.
- Broader Middle East (BME): The BME track is designed to help students acquire a broader regional perspective and training in comparative politics. Students must take 6 courses (24 credits) within CME and BME. A minimum of 2 courses (8 credits) must be taken from each. BME courses include offerings from African, European and Eurasian and South Asia Studies.

Please refer to the Middle East Studies Curriculum [3] for eligible courses that meet track requirements.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Students must complete 4 courses within this program.
· Microeconomics
· Macroeconomics (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
· International Trade Theory (prerequisite Microeconomics)
· International Monetary Theory (prerequisite Macroeconomics)

Eligible students who pass the waiver exams in these subjects or who pass Micro and/or Macro in Pre-Term must replace those courses with alternate economics courses. Many students choose to pursue an International Economics Specialization [4] in one of four areas of economics and therefore use electives to meet these requirements. Students may also choose to specialize in Emerging Markets [5].

Students must receive a 2.67 average in the 4 required economics courses or they must retake a course(s) until a 2.67 average is obtained. If any of the 4 courses are achieved by passing a waiver exam or during Pre-Term, the student must substitute an economics elective course(s) in place of the waived course(s) in order to fulfill the economics requirement above. In this case, SAIS will use the highest economics program elective course grade(s) to compute this average if a student is replacing one or more of the 4 required courses of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Trade Theory or International Monetary Theory.

QUANTITATIVE REASONING
Students must complete one course from the list below.

- Statistical Methods for Business & Economics
- Econometrics (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)
- Applied Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Macro Econometrics (prerequisite Econometrics)
- Risk Analysis and Modeling
- Corporate Finance (prerequisite or concurrent Microeconomics)
- Quantitative Methods in International Relations (prerequisite Statistical Methods for Business & Economics)

Students may not double-count a Quantitative Reasoning requirement as one of the four required International Economics courses and vice-versa. Eligible students who pass the statistics waiver exam or pass the statistics course in Pre-Term are still required to take an alternate Quantitative Reasoning course from the list above.

CORE COURSES/EXAMS

All SAIS students must pass 2 core exams and/or courses in addition to their concentration requirements. If the core courses/exams are not completed by the start of the final semester, a student must enroll for credit in the core course(s).

- American Foreign Policy Since World War II
- Comparative National Systems
- Evolution of the International Systems
- Theories of International Relations

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Middle East Studies MA candidates in the CME Track must pass exams to demonstrate proficiency in Arabic. Students pursuing the BME or ER track may use Arabic, Hindi-Urdu or Persian (Farsi) to meet this requirement. All non-native English speakers are required to pass an English placement exam upon entering SAIS. Native Arabic, Hindi-Urdu or Persian (Farsi) speakers must pass proficiency in a second language which can include English.

CAPSTONE

Students must pass the following MES comprehensive exams with a grade of 70% or higher:

- Comprehensive Exam 1: Middle East History Exam (MEHE)
- Comprehensive Exam 2: Middle East Contemporary History Exam

In addition, Middle East Studies concentrators who have received summer funding from the MES program must produce an MA thesis that involves primary research under the supervision of the Middle East Studies faculty. The paper is written over the two-year period, with an outline and research program due in March of the first year and a working draft of the
final thesis to be presented during March of the second year. These students must also enroll in SA.860.840 Middle East Studies Research Seminar. For those whose final semester is fall, consult the Program Director for due date.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR

- **Entering Class 2013-2014** [7]
- **Entering Class 2012-2013** [8]
- **Entering Class 2011-2012** [9]
- **Entering Class 2010-2011** [10]
- **Entering Class 2009-2010** [11]

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