**Middle East Studies | M.A. Requirements 2012-2013**

(entering class)

**CONCENTRATION**

Students concentrating in Middle East Studies must take at least 6 courses within this program. Students must either take the course *Foundations of the Middle East and the Arab World* (SA.860.715) or pass the Middle East History Exam (MEHE)—generally offered in the fall (spring if in Bologna). In addition, students must take the course *States & Societies of the Middle East and Muslim Africa* (SA.860.702) unless they can demonstrate substantial knowledge of the material as approved by the director. If a student passes the MEHE exam and/or the course States & Societies of the Middle East and Muslim Africa (SA.860.702), they must replace these courses with additional Middle East SA.860.XXX courses. In some cases, a SAIS course that requires a substantive research paper in the Arab World/Broader Middle East may count toward the requirements as approved by the director. Students should be enrolled in a minimum of one Middle East or regional course related to the concentration per semester.

**Tracks**

Students must choose one of the following Middle East Studies tracks (students who entered the program in AY11/12 have the option of meeting the AY12/13 requirements for graduation):

**Core Middle East (CME):** The CME is designed to train Arabists, with a focus on language skills. Of the 6 courses, only 1 may be cross-listed starting with a prefix other than SA.860.XXX. Students are highly encouraged to take additional Arabic language courses beyond the minimum SAIS graduation requirements.

**Broader Middle East (BME):** The BME is designed to help students acquire a broader regional perspective and training in comparative politics. Of the 6 courses, students must take a minimum of 3 regional courses related to the Broader Middle East, including offerings from African, European and South Asia Studies. To see a full list of approved courses, [CLICK HERE](#).

**INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS**

All candidates for the M.A. degree must complete a concentration in the field of International Economics by taking 4-6 economics courses at SAIS. Students can also pursue a specialization within International Economics by taking additional course work.

Students in Middle East Studies also have the option of pursuing a specialization in Emerging Markets.

**CORE COURSES**

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

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

Middle East Studies MA candidates in the CME Track must pass exams to demonstrate proficiency in Arabic. Students pursuing the BME 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 speakers must pass proficiency in a second language which can include English. Native Hindi-Urdu or Persian (Farsi) speakers in the BME track must also pass proficiency in a second language which can include English.

**CAPSTONE**

Middle East Studies concentrators must produce an M.A. 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. For those whose final semester is fall, consult the Program Director for due date.
A total of 16 courses taken for credit are required for an MA degree (unless a student has advanced standing or is in a dual-degree program).

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS BY ACADEMIC YEAR (AY)**

**AY 2011-2012 Entering Class**
**AY 2010-2011 Entering Class**
**AY 2009-2010 Entering Class**

**DEGREE AUDIT (CHECKLIST) BY ACADEMIC YEAR (AY)**

**AY 2011-2012**
**AY 2010-2011**

Students should be enrolled in a minimum of one
Middle East course per semester.