Middle Eastern & North African Studies

FROM STUDY TO SKILLS

All academic programs offered at the UM help students develop valuable transferable skills. Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENAS) is concerned with the region from the western coast of Morocco and the southern borders of the Sahara to the eastern end of Afghanistan and Islamic Central Asia. The MENAS concentration is an interdisciplinary program designed to give students a broad background including language, history, and culture to help students understand the development and current issues of this strategically important region.

As a MENAS concentrator, you will develop the ability to understand cultural differences and cultural development. Through language training and study, you will also develop excellent analytical and communication skills.

**Related fields include** Near Eastern Studies, History, Anthropology, Political Science, Philosophy, Judaic Studies, History of Art, Ancient Civilizations and Museum Studies, as well as Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

SKILLS AND ABILITIES

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<th>Research/Analytical Skills</th>
<th>Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills</th>
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<td>Recognizing word patterns and structures</td>
<td>Generating and developing ideas</td>
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<td>Interpreting complex language</td>
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<td>Reading for tone and attitude</td>
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<td>Evaluating translations and original texts</td>
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BUILDING YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Employers seek out individuals who can demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills, teamwork and interpersonal skills, initiative, and a strong work ethic. Student organizations and campus employment offer valuable opportunities to add to the skills you are developing in your classes. Other options include off-campus employment or volunteering in the community. Study abroad experiences are particularly helpful to improve language proficiency and gain intercultural skills. Finally, a summer internship may be the best way of all to test out a career field and develop marketable skills.
FROM SKILLS TO CAREER

MENAS concentrators develop both general and technical skills applicable to a wide range of careers. For example, cross-cultural sensitivity may be equally useful whether working as a foreign-service officer, an international hotel manager, or a journalist.

Many concentrators go on to graduate or professional school. The list below is a sample of careers undertaken by MENAS graduates.

Language Skills
- United Nations interpreter
- Consular assistant
- Translations specialist
- Foreign affairs journalist

Research/Analytical Skills
- State Department analyst
- International finance analyst
- Immigration inspector
- Congressional staff member
- Foundation researcher
- Intelligence agent
- College professor
- Librarian
- Archaeological Assistant
- Historian

Interpersonal/Cross-Cultural Skills
- Affirmative action officer
- Foreign service officer
- Consultant, cross-cultural relations
- Travel agent
- Export import sales manager
- International hotel manager

Communication Skills
- K-12 teacher
- Textbook sales representative
- Advertising copywriter
- Museum exhibit assistant
- Museum curator
- Journalist/writer, all media
- Editor, all media
- Arts reviewer

Research/Analytical Skills
- State Department analyst
- International finance analyst
- Immigration inspector
- Congressional staff member
- Foundation researcher
- Intelligence agent
- College professor
- Librarian
- Archaeological Assistant
- Historian

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

Curriculum requirements include 2 years of Arabic, Armenian, Hebrew, Persian, Turkish, or Uzbek and at least 24 additional credits in upper level courses. We also offer fifteen-credit minors in MENAS and Islamic Studies.

For more information, see the LSA bulletin, the MENAS website, or make an appointment with a MENAS academic advisor.

NEXT STEPS/RESOURCES

To begin exploring opportunities for overseas study and work, go to: http://lsa.umich.edu/cgis/ or http://globalportal.umich.edu/study.php

To begin connecting to professionals in fields that interest you, create your own LinkedIn account: www.careercenter.umich.edu/students/networking/linkedin_intro.html

To identify internships or job opportunities, visit Career Center Connector: www.careercenter.umich.edu/c3student/

On-campus jobs (work-study and non work-study jobs) are listed at: https://studentemployment.umich.edu/JobX_Home.aspx

For more career information, see O*Net at http://online.onetcenter.org/

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Maize Pages list hundreds of organizations for students to get involved in: http://studentorgs.umich.edu/maize

Volunteer Connection lists volunteer opportunities in local organizations: http://volunteer-connection.umich.edu/

The Career Center
3200 Student Activities Building
734-764-7460
www.careercenter.umich.edu
www.facebook.com/careercenter.umich
http://twitter.com/careercenter

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www.lsa.umich.edu/advising

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