

Notes on Completing the Middle Eastern & South Asian Language & Literature Declaration of Major Advising Form

Name of Advisor: This is determined in consultation with MESALC's Director of Undergraduate Programs (DUP) at the time the major is declared. It is, however, solely the student's responsibility that all prerequisites and requirements for the major are fulfilled.

Prerequisite Courses: Usually the student will complete two years of a regionally appropriate language, but if the student has taken non-U.Va. language courses or has developed the requisite proficiency in some other manner, the student has the option of taking a proficiency examination and, upon passing, being exempted from the language prerequisite. Please be aware, however, that no actual course credit can be given for such language exemption.

Required Courses: Students majoring in either Middle Eastern Language & Literature or South Asian Language & Literature must complete 10 courses (minimum 30 credit hours) such that the following criteria are met:

Language study beyond 2020- (or 2060-) level: Students must complete 6 courses in a single, regionally appropriate language beyond the intermediate level, or, in special cases (and in consultation with the student's advisor), 4 such courses in one language and 2 such courses in a second language from the same region. In the latter case, the College of Arts and Sciences does allow elementary- and intermediate-level language courses to count toward this particular major, so the 2 courses in a second language may be at any level.

Four Regionally Appropriate Content Courses: Students are encouraged to take regionally appropriate content courses from any department on Grounds that might offer such courses, as long as such courses devote more than 50% of their syllabus to the region in question. We will gladly approve Middle East- or South Asia-related courses from, e.g., History, Anthropology, Studies in Women and Gender, Sociology, Media Studies, Politics, Religious Studies, etc., as long as at least two such departments are represented

If the student declaring the major has not already actually taken 10 courses that meet the above criteria, it may seem a bit daunting to put together a proposed course of study that hasn't actually occurred yet. As was mentioned above, students are strongly encouraged to look for regionally appropriate content courses from any relevant department on Grounds, and finding such courses is greatly aided by consulting MESALC's website (<http://www.virginia.edu/mesa/Courses/courses.html>). The "Browse Catalog" feature in SIS is also very useful in selecting courses.

And please recall, the Language & Literature Major Declaration Form is not a binding contract which obliges the student to take *only* those courses he or she may have originally specified. Rather, it is a best-guess roadmap, given the information at hand at

the time the major is declared. With the large number of courses both within MESALC and across Grounds each semester which may conceivably be used to fulfill the Language & Literature Major requirements, it is all but impossible to predict with complete accuracy which particular courses will be offered during which particular semesters. From semester to semester students are free to make substitutions to their proposed course list (in consultation with their major advisor), provided the requirement criteria described above are still met. The “Academic Requirements” report in SIS is indispensable in keeping track of the requirements for the major.