

Regardless of whether they are heritage learners or not, WPI students can benefit significantly from studying Arabic. According to the World Economic Forum, Arabic is the 5th most important and powerful language in the world; it ranks 4th in geography and in diplomacy, is one of the 6 official languages of the United Nations (UN) and is the official language in 23 countries across North Africa and the Middle East. Learning Arabic distinguishes students in the sense that they learn more about a very diverse and often misunderstood part of the world, they become more familiar with Arab cultures and they expand their career and employment horizons.

WPI students can fulfill their HUA requirement through the following trajectories:

- Arabic: Elementary Arabic I (A-term), II (B) and III (C) in their freshman year; Intermediate Arabic I (A), II (B) and III (C) in their sophomore year.
- MENA (Middle East & North Africa) Studies: 5 courses (a combination of Arabic courses and courses with significant MENA-related content from PY/RE, HI and INTL), followed by HU 3900 (inquiry seminar) with MENA-related content. A student could take Elementary Arabic I, II and III in A, B and C terms, then travel to Morocco in D term and complete their HUA requirement in 1 year.

WPI students can minor in Arabic and / or MENA Studies through the following trajectories:

- Arabic Minor: 6 Arabic courses (as outlined above), followed by 3 additional courses on campus (structured as independent studies) or at the Morocco HUA Project Center. If students take the 6-course Arabic sequence in their first and second years, then work at the Morocco HUA Project Center in D-term of their second year, they will complete their minor in Arabic by the end of their 2nd year at WPI.
- MENA Studies Minor: 5 courses and HU 3900, as outlined above, followed by 3 additional courses, including independent studies in Arabic and / or catalog courses or independent studies with MENA-related content. Only 1 can be 1000-level; the 3rd must be a minor capstone project (either an independent study or a catalog course with an additional research component). As with the minor in Arabic, this can be completed on campus or at the Morocco HUA Project Center: if students complete coursework in Morocco, they can complete a minor in D-term of the sophomore year.

Bottom line:

- HUA requirement in Arabic: 6 Arabic courses
- Minor in Arabic: 6 Arabic courses + 3 additional courses (on campus or in Morocco)
- HUA requirement in MENA Studies: 5 courses (a combination of Arabic and MENA content) + HU 3900 (inquiry seminar)
- Minor in MENA Studies: HUA requirement + 3 additional courses (can be completed on campus or in Morocco)

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