Arabic Language and Cultures

The only one of its kind in the Midwest, the Arabic Language and Cultures certificate program combines the rigor of a great university with the flexibility of a noncredit program designed for working adults.

About the Program

Students will learn to:

• Communicate practical, everyday information in Arabic
• Develop Arabic language skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing
• Gain an understanding of the culture and history of the Arabic world

Program Structure

The Arabic Language and Cultures certificate program has three levels. The foundation of each level is a yearlong series (Autumn–Summer) of Arabic language courses. A certificate is awarded upon completion of each level:

• Beginning Arabic
• Continuing Arabic
• Spoken Colloquial Arabic

Program Requirements

The requirements are the same for all three certificate levels:

• 4 Arabic language courses (80 hours total)
• 1 Cultural elective course (10 hours total)

For more information contact:
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grahamschool.uchicago.edu/arabic
Application/Registration Requirements

• Current professional and educational résumé
• Brief 250-word statement of purpose
• Completed application form and $40 application fee

Deadlines

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. You must apply and be admitted to the program before registering for your first certificate course.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition ranges from $115–$580 per course.

Required Courses

Beginning Arabic, Parts 1–4
This is a yearlong series that provides a general introduction to Modern Standard Arabic, the language of media and official discourse throughout the Middle East. This course will serve to familiarize beginners with the look and feel of the language. Emphasis will be placed on learning to read, write, and pronounce the Arabic characters, learning basic words and key phrases for making very simple conversation, and surviving while traveling in various Arabic-speaking countries. This course is for students seeking exposure to the rudiments of Modern Standard Arabic, the literary language of the Middle East and North Africa.

Continuing Arabic, Parts 1–4
This is a yearlong series with a primary emphasis on the review and acquisition of grammatical structures in Modern Standard Arabic. Through both oral and written media, students will be able to ask questions and make comparisons using complex sentences and expressions. In addition, students will be introduced to short narratives, conversations, and media pieces. This course is for students who want a better understanding of Modern Standard Arabic, the official, literary language used in the media.

Spoken Colloquial Arabic, Parts 1–4
This yearlong series is an alternate or additional route for students after two years of Arabic study. This course will focus on building the necessary vocabulary and expressions to hold a basic conversation in colloquial Egyptian Arabic. The course will also focus on corresponding patterns of morphology and verb conjugations. Students will not read or write extensively, but rather they will have regular conversations, watch videos, and read comic strips in colloquial Arabic.

Cultural elective course (10 hours total)
Participants may fulfill the cultural elective requirement with any Graham School course on a region of the world in which Arabic is a dominant language.

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