

Notes on Completing the Middle Eastern & South Asian Studies Declaration of Minor Advising Form

Name of Advisor: Typically this is the Director of Undergraduate Programs for MESALC, but it can be any regionally appropriate departmental faculty member, as long as that faculty member agrees to become the student's minor advisor. It is, however, solely the student's responsibility that all prerequisites and requirements for the minor are fulfilled.

Prerequisite: Usually the student will complete two semesters of a regionally appropriate language at the first-year level (or a single semester for HIND 1060), 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.

Requirements: Students minoring in either Middle Eastern Studies or South Asian Studies must complete 6 courses (minimum 18 credit hours) such that the following criteria are met:

MESALC: Students must complete at least one regionally appropriate MESALC course that is not a first- or second-year language course. (The College of Arts and Sciences does not allow first- or second-year language courses to count toward any major or minor.) Any regionally appropriate language class within MESALC with a number higher than 2020 (or 2060) can be counted toward the minor, as can any content course from MESALC. Remember, MESALC as a department offers many courses with a variety of subject areas (what used to be called "mnemonics") that may be used for this requirement.

Distribution: This requirement assures a degree of disciplinary breadth of study in the minor. As an interdisciplinary minor, 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, etc., but will not allow more than three such courses from any single department **other than MESALC**. If you would like to complete your minor requirements by taking, say, six courses from the MESALC Department, you are welcome to do so. But you cannot use, say, six Religious Studies courses to complete your MEST or SAST minor.

Concentration: This requirement assures a degree of disciplinary focus in the minor. Students must complete 3 regionally appropriate courses from any single department on Grounds (or, if the student wishes, more than three for MESALC courses).

If the student declaring the Minor has not already actually taken 6 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 Minor 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 minor is declared. With the large number of courses across Grounds each semester which may conceivably be used to fulfill the Minor 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, 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 Minor.