

Arab Studies, MA and Government, PHD (Joint program)

Modality

On Campus

Program URL

<https://grad.georgetown.edu/arab-studies/#about-the-program>
<https://government.georgetown.edu/ph-d-in-government/>

The joint program in Arab Studies and Government provides students with the analytical skills and substantive knowledge needed to generate and evaluate research focused on the Arab Middle East and North Africa.

Academic Policies

Students in the joint program in Government and Arab Studies are expected to comply with the policies outlined in the program handbooks and the Graduate Bulletin.

Requirements

Arab Studies

Students have considerable flexibility in designing their program in order to meet their academic and professional goals and interests. To complete the program, students must meet the following requirements:

Code	Title	Credits
ARST 500		
ARST 501		
Select three of the following:		
ARST 625		
ARST 619		
ARST 518		
ARST 532		
ARST 640		
ARST 564		
HIST 563		
7 Electives		
A minimum of three electives should be offered through the Arab Studies Program, Department of History, or the Department of Arabic & Islamic Studies.		
A maximum of four electives may be taken from other departments within the university.		
Pass the oral and written Arabic Language Proficiency Examinations		
Pass the Oral Comprehensive Exam or Complete a Thesis		

Government

Students in the joint program follow the course requirements for the Comparative Government Field of Study. The course requirements are outlined below.

Major Field Requirements (12 credits)

- Four 8000-level GOVT classes (12 credits) in major field
- Pass a Comprehensive Exam in the major field, typically within the spring semester of the second year of study.

Distribution Requirements (9 credits)

- GOVT 8800: Fundamentals of Political Theory (3 credits) in the first semester of study
- Two additional 8000-level GOVT classes in one or more substantive fields other than the major field of study.

Methods Requirements (6 credits)

- GOVT 8001: Quantitative Methods I (3 credits) or an approved equivalent quantitative methods class.
- One additional methods class (3 credits)

Electives (21 credits)

- 7 graduate-level courses in any field. At least one elective must be in a field that is neither the student's major field nor methods. Electives taken to satisfy the Master of Arts in Arab Studies requirements may be used to satisfy the elective requirement for the Ph.D. in Government, per the approval of the Department.

Required Examinations

Arab Studies

Students must pass the program's oral and written exams for Modern Standard Arabic by the end of their tenure in the program.

Additionally, students have the option of taking an oral comprehensive examination in lieu of a thesis. The exam is designed to provide a cross-disciplinary conclusion to the student's coursework and total educational experience in the program. The exam is administered by a panel of three faculty members and takes place after the student as completed all course requirements.

Government

The Comparative Government Comprehensive Exam is offered over eight hours in one day. Part I of the exam addresses political methodology. Students select one question and provide a written response. Part II covers topics in Comparative Government, and students select three questions to answer.

Thesis Requirements

Arab Studies

Students may opt to write a master's thesis in lieu of the oral comprehensive examination. The thesis is written in the final semester of the program. Students are required to take a methods course and enroll in the three-credit Thesis Colloquium. Both courses count as electives.

Government

Once students have completed the comprehensive exams, they must form a Dissertation Committee who have special competence in the area or topic and who collectively can help with the theoretical, methodological, and empirical dimensions of the student's research.

Once the dissertation prospectus is written and students have received approval from their committee members, students will present their prospectus at a 90-minute colloquium that is open to Government Department faculty and students.

Students will spend at least two years researching and writing the dissertation. Results of the research will be presented at a public dissertation defense where anyone in attendance may ask the candidate questions. At the conclusion of the defense, the committee will vote in private to determine whether the student may proceed with submitting the dissertation to the Graduate School and ultimately graduating.