

# IUPUI Form for Creation of a New Undergraduate Minor

## Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health

**Date:** September 30, 2019

**School:** School of Liberal Arts

**Department:** World Languages and Cultures

**Additional academic units involved in this minor?** Yes

**Academic units with contact people:** Fairbanks School of Public Health  
Jack Turman, Jr., Ph.D., Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences

### Minor Name, Description, and Implementation

Proposed name of minor: **Arabic Culture & Public Health**

\*Projected semester and year of implementation: Fall 2020

*\*This does not guarantee that the minor will be approved by the semester requested. It must still go through the appropriate approval process.*

**Brief description** (in 100 words or less):

The minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health connects the study of the Arabic Language and Culture with Public Health Study in an empirical approach to serve the Indiana population of Arab immigrants and refugees as well as to build bridges with Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). The minor has an interdisciplinary approach to establish new critical paradigms. The minor can also be a first academic step for students in the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program allowing them to get an internship working in Hassan 1st University in Morocco.

### Future Employment Prospects

**Possible careers for students with this minor:**

The Minor will build a cohort of students with basic skills and knowledge to help grow public health in the MENA region and serve immigrants and refugees from this world region living in our area. This minor will serve the needs of diverse constituencies: students learning Arabic and planning to seek professional degrees in Medical, Nursing, Dentistry or Public Health; Liberal Arts students interested in Arabic Language and culture who intend to pursue graduate studies or careers (public policy, law, business, philanthropy) in the Muslim World, MENA or national organizations related to these regions; Medical and para-medical students seeking careers in the Muslim World, MENA, or serving local Arab and Muslim communities.

**Impact on future graduate or professional training or employment:**

Students in this minor would be uniquely positioned for internship or employment opportunities associated with public health or community development in the MENA region. To the best of our knowledge, this minor is unique in our nation and will add a unique element to the resumes and transcripts of the students participating in it, thus making them more competitive for graduate or professional programs or job opportunities. The School of Public Health is working on collaborating with the Faculty of Medicine in the Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt to grow bi-directional undergraduate and graduate student collaborations focused on addressing public health and community health needs in the Ismailia region of Egypt. As this collaboration grows, students in the minor will be able to collaborate (virtually) with students at Suez Canal University in community based health initiatives prioritized by Egyptian communities. Dr. Turman is working directly with Agency for Public Health Education Accreditation (international public health accrediting body) and the Fulbright Commission, and indirectly through these agencies with the World Health Organization and the Islamic Development Bank, to help grow public health education programs throughout the MENA region. This network will provide wonderful connections to students in this proposed minor to help foster their ability to advance public health in the MENA region.

**Restrictions**

Is the minor open to all majors for a baccalaureate degree? Yes

**Rationale**

The attainment of global health requires that public health leaders from different countries have the opportunity to come together to discuss: a) public health issues and their social, economic, political and environmental determinants, b) effective solution strategies for these issues, and c) innovate collaboration opportunities to jointly address problems that know no geographic boundary. The MENA region has traditionally lacked participation in these discussions as they have lacked education programs dedicated to training public health practitioners, researchers, educators and leaders. It is essential that the concerns and opinions of people from this vital world region be brought to the global community and that we all work collectively to honor and address these concerns.

Addressing this need to build public health leaders within the Middle East requires that we:

- work to establish public health education and research university programs within the MENA nations
- educate students in our own institution about the rich history, culture and assets of the MENA region, and increase the awareness about its public health needs and strategies to help build the capacity for public health education, research and advocacy.

In executing its mission to create and exchange knowledge that promotes understanding of the human experience, the IUPUI School of Liberal Arts has pledged itself to an interdisciplinary and international approach to the liberal arts. Establishing an interdisciplinary minor that focuses on Arabic Culture and Public Health is an urgent need and a unique opportunity to build a cohort of students with basic skills and knowledge to help grow public health in the MENA region and serve immigrants and refugees from this world region living in our area.

### **How the minor upholds IUPUI's mission and vision:**

The "Strategic Plan for a New Era of Internationalization" issued in 2007 by the IUPUI Office of International Affairs states: "We envision IUPUI as a leader in developing new modes of internationalization that make our city, state and the two university systems to which we belong not only a "Crossroads of America", but also a "crossroads of the world." In 2018, the Campus Statement on the Role of the Liberal Arts at IUPUI, which supports the value of Liberal Arts, stresses on the importance to "ensure that undergraduate students have ample opportunities to apply and integrate their learning across their degree programs, as articulated in IUPUI's Profiles of Learning for Undergraduate Success (PLUS)", and acknowledges "that the purpose of general education is to provide breadth of exposure to ideas, concepts and skills outside of the major in order to foster multiple "ways of knowing" among our students. We champion liberal education as an opportunity to balance specialized, practical education with a general liberal education that can foster transferable skills (highly valued by employers), as well as contribute to an enlightened, engaged citizenry and a well-functioning democracy". The Campus Statement defines ways to achieve that such as:

- "Redesign liberal arts courses, when possible, to clarify applications to professional contexts (e.g., social work, engineering, business)
- Develop interdisciplinary certificates and minors that include coursework in the liberal arts
- Strongly encourage students in professional programs to complete a minor related to the liberal arts in order to enhance the value of their degree".

Thus, the Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health will be a way "to remove barriers and/or streamline pathways to students' pursuit of double majors and other combinations of academic credentials that align with their interests, strengths, and post-baccalaureate plans."

### **How the minor enhances what the department or unit currently offers:**

The Department of World Languages and Cultures defines its mission as being "committed to the development of students' linguistic and intercultural competence through a curriculum that fosters the multiple connections between language, culture and their applications to other disciplines. While promoting an international perspective, coursework and other activities enable students to become linguistically and culturally competent language users who can employ their knowledge and skills for academic and professional purposes as well as for personal enrichment."

The Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health is a well needed addition to complement the international development mission of IUPUI and the Campus Statement on the role of the Liberal Arts at IUPUI, as well as the Department of World Languages & Cultures' mission. It will respond to the students increasing demand for a better understanding of the cultural changes and needs in

the world, the Arab World and Arab communities. Working to address the public health concerns of MENA's governments and peoples is an important step toward building bridges of understanding and humanitarianism, which can only foster better social, economic, political and environmental collaboration and cooperation.

### Prerequisites and Required Courses

#### **Total credits required for minor:**

Students complete 12/14 credits from the required courses list in Arabic language and culture along with Public Health courses, in addition to 3-credit course chosen from the elective courses list to complete the **15-17 credits** required for the minor.

Are prerequisites required for minor? No

#### **Required courses for the minor** (minimum grades required: "C"):

Students must complete the introductory courses, 8 credits (or 6 credits, Intermediate or Advanced Arabic) of the Program in Arabic at IUPUI, in order to achieve a functional knowledge of **Arabic**, accumulating **8 credits** by taking:

NELC A131 Beginning Arabic I (4 credits)

NELC A132 Beginning Arabic II (4 credits)

#### **Or 6 credits** from:

NELC A200 Intermediate Arabic I (3 credits)

NELC A250 Intermediate Arabic II (3 credits)

NELC A300 Advanced Arabic I (3 credits)

NELC A350 Advanced Arabic II (3 credits)

In addition, students must complete **one three-credit course in Arabic Culture** choosing from:

NELC N397 Peoples & Cultures of the Middle East

NELC F360 Women & Islam

Students are also required to complete a **one three-credit course in Public Health**:

PBHL S460 Biosocial Approach to Global Health

#### **Elective or substitute courses:**

One elective Course, 3 credits, chosen from:

R257 Intro to Islam

PBHL S120 Intro to Community Health

PBHL S335 Health Equity & Social Determinants of Health

All courses needed for the "Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health" are already approved.

## Learning Outcomes, Experiences, and Assessment

### Expected student learning outcomes for the minor:

Students with a Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health will have a basic knowledge in standard Arabic at the beginning level in all four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as defined by ACTFL. In addition, they will have knowledge of some Arab countries' dialect. The minor will also emphasize the IUPUI's Profiles of Learning for Undergraduate Success (PLUS) by preparing "students to communicate, innovate, and engage local and global communities to solve the problems of the 21st century."

Performances objectives are:

- Students engage in conversation, provide and obtain information, express feelings, emotions, and exchange opinions.
- Students understand, interpret written and spoken Arabic on a variety of topics.
- Students develop basic knowledge of Arabic culture
- Students build basic skills and knowledge to embark on opportunities to help grow public health in the Middle East and the MENA region.

### Assessment:

Outcome	Where will students learn this?	How will student achievement of the outcome be assessed?	In what setting will the assessment take place?
Students engage in conversation, provide & obtain information, express feelings emotions and exchange opinions.	A131 Beginning Arabic I A132 Beginning Arabic II A200 Intermediate Arabic I A250 Intermediate Arabic II A300 Advanced Arabic I A350 Advanced Arabic II	Practice and improve use of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation for communicative purposes.	Assignments and evaluation: Short compositions, translations, exams, short papers, audio log, grammatical and cultural readings in Arabic, class discussion, oral presentations, and grammar exercises.
Students understand and interpret written and spoken Standard Arabic on a variety of topics.	A131 Beginning Arabic I A132 Beginning Arabic II A200 Intermediate Arabic I A250 Intermediate Arabic II	Increase ability to speak and comprehend spoken Arabic Increase vocabulary and improve grammar skills.	Oral presentation, written exams, written responses to questions about the readings. Assignments and quizzes focusing on acquisition of

	A300 Advanced Arabic I A350 Advanced Arabic II		vocabulary, idioms and grammar in Arabic.
Students develop basic knowledge of Arabic culture.	W300 Women and Islam A300 Cultures of the Middle East R257 Intro to Islam	Through essays, tests, class presentations, multimedia projects, research, firsthand experience projects, country projects, media analysis, guest speakers, and service learning.	Reading of Arabic texts, study of Arab figures, cultures, societies and religions. The setting will be the classroom and internship in Arab countries.
Students build basic skills and knowledge to embark on opportunities to help grow public health in the MENA region.	PBHL S460 Biosocial Approach to Global Health PBHL S120 Intro to Community Health PBHL S335 Health Equity & Social Determinants of Health	Classroom discussions, critical reading, writing and making presentations meaningful to a multilingual/multicultural audience. Engaging in community-based projects.	Critical reading, writing persuasive presentations, literature search & review, didactic teaching sessions, practical field experience, program planning, implementation and evaluation.

How will the effectiveness of the program be assessed and continuously improved?  
(Look below “Innovative Features of the Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health”)

Do any of the required courses carry RISE credit (optional)?  
Yes, NELC- A350

<b>Faculty and Resources</b>
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This minor was conceived with the goal of making the most of existing resources and reconfiguring them in a cohesive set of courses. All the required courses are already offered through the Department of World Languages and Cultures, other departments and programs in the School of Liberal Arts (Anthropology, Religion, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies) and the Fairbanks School of Public Health.

The director of the Program in Arabic in the Department of World Languages & Cultures along with the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health will manage the Minor in Arabic Culture & Public Health. Focused advertisement by both departments will require a minimal amount of administrative procedures.

### **Innovative features of the Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health:**

The Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health is a flexible program. By offering a variety of Arabic Language and Culture courses, as well as Public Health courses, it will allow the students to shape it according to their projected needs and interest. Also, by creating a partnership between IU Fairbanks School of Public Health and Hassan 1st University, Morocco, IUPUI has started addressing public health needs in the MENA region. Professor Jack Turman, Jr., Ph.D., Professor of Social and Behavioral Sciences in the Fairbanks School of Public Health has a six-year history of working with Hassan 1st University. He developed the course (S460/660: Biosocial Approach to Global Health) wherein IUPUI undergraduates and MPH students work with MPH students at Hassan 1st university to develop a community health plan to address a Moroccan public health issue. This course is required for the Arabic Culture and Public Health minor, thus allowing the students to apply the content of the minor to address a real public health issue in a MENA nation. Dr. Turman also created the first IU public health internship for an MPH student to spend six weeks working at Hassan 1st University. The internship focuses on maternal and child health (MCH) and in doing so improve the health of communities across the country. Students in the minor will participate with Hassan 1st University MPH students in a classroom based MCH course.

In addition, the School of Public Health is working on collaborating with the Faculty of Medicine in the Suez Canal University, Ismailia, Egypt to grow bi-directional undergraduate and graduate student collaborations focused on addressing public health and community health needs in the Ismailia region of Egypt. Dr. Mashhour's personal and academic expertise in Egyptian culture is critical to growing this collaboration. This collaboration provides opportunities for students to begin to work together on projects and practice knowledge and skills learned through the Arabic Culture and Public Health minor.

#### **Potential Negative Impact**

Does the curriculum have the potential to negatively impact enrollment in the courses or degrees in other departments or academic units?

No. The Minor in Arabic Culture and Public Health is expected to attract students from professional programs thus increasing enrollment in the School of Liberal Arts:

- Department of World Languages and Cultures' Program in Arabic
- Other departments and programs offering required and elective courses listed for the minor (Anthropology, Religious Studies, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.)

A similar effect is expected for required and elective courses offered by the School of Public Health.

### **Additional Comments and Information**

Two of the required listed courses (NELC- N397, NELC- F360) are in the process of being added to the Gen Ed Core.

### **Contact Information**

**Contact person for this minor in the Department of World Languages and Cultures:**

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**Contact person for this minor in The Fairbanks School of Public Health:**

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