

**APPROVED BY SENATE**  
**04/27/2020**

# 10KS5312MA: SOUTH ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES, MA

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## In Workflow

1. U Program Review (dforgacs@illinois.edu; eastuby@illinois.edu; aledward@illinois.edu)
2. 1954 Head (amyelli@illinois.edu)
3. KV Dean (las-catalog@illinois.edu)
4. University Librarian (jpwilkin@illinois.edu)
5. Grad\_College (agrindly@illinois.edu; jch@illinois.edu; lowry@illinois.edu)
6. Provost (kmartens@illinois.edu)
7. Senate EPC (bjlehman@illinois.edu)
8. Senate (jtempel@illinois.edu)
9. U Senate Conf (none)
10. Board of Trustees (none)
11. IBHE (none)
12. DMI (eastuby@illinois.edu; aledward@illinois.edu; dforgacs@illinois.edu)

## Approval Path

1. Thu, 02 Apr 2020 18:05:59 GMT  
Deb Forgacs (dforgacs): Approved for U Program Review
2. Thu, 02 Apr 2020 18:08:44 GMT  
Amy Elli (amyelli): Approved for 1954 Head
3. Thu, 02 Apr 2020 18:58:39 GMT  
Kelly Ritter (ritterk): Approved for KV Dean
4. Thu, 02 Apr 2020 19:24:51 GMT  
John Wilkin (jpwilkin): Approved for University Librarian
5. Tue, 14 Apr 2020 14:49:37 GMT  
Allison McKinney (agrindly): Approved for Grad\_College
6. Tue, 14 Apr 2020 15:03:10 GMT  
Kathy Martensen (kmartens): Approved for Provost

Date Submitted: Wed, 01 Apr 2020 15:54:42 GMT

## Viewing: 10KS5312MA : South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, MA

Changes proposed by: Beth McKown

## Proposal Type

### Proposal Type:

Major (ex. Special Education)

### This proposal is for a:

Revision

Proposal Title:

**if this proposal is one piece of a multi-element change please include the other impacted programs here. *example: A BS revision with multiple concentration revisions***

Revise the requirements for the M.A. in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies to replace the Master's examination with a Master's thesis, and change the language requirement from fourth-year level to third-year level.

**EP Control Number**

EP.20.168

**Official Program Name**

South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, MA

**Effective Catalog Term**

Fall 2021

**Sponsor College**

Liberal Arts & Sciences

**Sponsor Department**

S. Asian & MidEast Studies

**Sponsor Name**

Hadi Salehi Esfahani

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**College Contact**

Kelly Ritter

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## **Program Description and Justification**

**Justification for proposal change:**

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies offers a Master of Arts in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. Graduation requires 32 hours of language and area studies coursework and a written examination. Candidates in the program may focus their coursework on either South Asian or Middle Eastern Studies. This proposal revises the existing M.A. language requirements and replaces the examination with completion of a Master's thesis.

The proposed revisions to the M.A. program requirements are as follows:

(1) reduction of the reading knowledge of an appropriate regional language from the fourth-year level to the third-year level;

- (2) addition of a restriction that language courses, other than those at the fourth-year level, used to fulfill the language requirement will not count toward the 32 hours required for the degree;
- (3) replacement of the requirement of a written examination with a Master's thesis, with the thesis option counting towards 8 hours of elective courses.

The reasons for the revisions to the requirements for the M.A. degree are as follows:

- (1) Currently, our M.A. candidates are required to demonstrate a reading knowledge of one of the languages related to their regional specialization at the fourth-year level. This is excessive by national standards, and also exceeds the requirements of other area study centers at the University of Illinois. We propose reducing this to three years, which is in keeping with comparable M.A. programs at the University of Illinois and at peer institutions.
- (2) Some of our M.A. candidates enter our program with language proficiency and take 32 hours of content courses on the region of their concentration, whereas others have taken language classes in order to meet the language requirement and have counted those among the 32 hours required for the degree. It does not make sense for some of our candidates to have less actual area studies content in their degree than others. Language is considered a tool for area study, not an end in itself. It is therefore proposed that 0 hours be entered under the language requirement, and that the 8 hours currently listed under the language requirement be reallocated to "elective courses," for a total of 20 hours of elective courses, in addition to the 12 required hours of graduate-level (400- and 500-level) courses in the candidate's area of concentration. Four hours of fourth-year language courses in the candidate's area of concentration could count towards the fulfillment of elective hours.
- (3) The interdisciplinary nature of the degree was formerly provided by a written examination. However, this examination is not the best teaching tool and is physically arduous—candidates must write four substantial essays in a 24-hour period. We propose that candidates instead complete a thesis. This new structure will ensure that candidates have the appropriate breadth and depth required of them in this program. Currently, there is no option for our M.A. candidates to write a Master's thesis, although most of them would like to do so. This is one of the reasons why revising the current requirements is requested.

**Corresponding Degree**

MA Master of Arts

**Is this program interdisciplinary?**

No

**Academic Level**

Graduate

**Will you admit to the concentration directly?**

No

**Is a concentration required for graduation?**

No

**CIP Code**

050199 - Area Studies, Other.

**Is This a Teacher Certification Program?**

No

**Will specialized accreditation be sought for this program?**

No

## **Admission Requirements**

Is this revision a change to the admission status of the program?

No

## **Enrollment**

Describe how this revision will impact enrollment and degrees awarded.

N/A

Estimated Annual Number of Degrees Awarded

What is the matriculation term for this program?

Fall

## **Delivery Method**

Is this program available on campus and online?

No

This program is available:

On Campus

## **Budget**

Are there budgetary implications for this revision?

No

Will the program or revision require staffing (faculty, advisors, etc.) beyond what is currently available?

No

## **Resource Implications**

Facilities

**Will the program require new or additional facilities or significant improvements to already existing facilities?**

No

Technology

**Will the program need additional technology beyond what is currently available for the unit?**

No

Non-Technical Resources

**Will the program require additional supplies, services or equipment (non-technical)?**

No

## **Resources**

Faculty Resources

**Please address the impact on faculty resources including any changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc. Describe how the unit will support student advising, including job placement and/or admission to advanced studies.**

The changes to the language requirement and the addition of the thesis should have little to no impact on overall course enrollments or on other university resources.

Library Resources

**Describe your proposal's impact on the University Library's resources, collections, and services. If necessary please consult with the appropriate disciplinary specialist within the University Library.**

The proposed changes will have no impact on the University Library, since our library holdings in this area are already fairly substantial. Also, most library resources are electronic nowadays and the marginal cost of using them is practically zero.

Instructional Resources

**Will there be any reduction in other course offerings, programs or concentrations by your department as a result of this new program/proposed change?**

No

**Does this new program/proposed change result in the replacement of another program?**

No

**Does the program include other courses/subjects impacted by the creation/revision of this program?**

No

## Financial Resources

**How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?**

There are no budgetary implications to the proposed changes. There are no staff implications to creating the graduate concentrations for our current M.A. Moving the language credit requirements towards non-language courses and the replacement of the written examination with two term papers or a thesis should not have any tangible effect on course offering or faculty time.

**Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources?**

No

**Will an existing tuition rate be used or continue to be used for this program?**

Yes

**Is this program requesting self-supporting status?**

No

## Program Regulation and Assessment

**Briefly describe the plan to assess and improve student learning, including the program's learning objectives; when, how, and where these learning objectives will be assessed; what metrics will be used to signify student's achievement of the stated learning objectives; and the process to ensure assessment results are used to improve student learning. (Describe how the program is aligned with or meets licensure, certification, and/or entitlement requirements, if applicable).**

N/A

**Is the career/profession for graduates of this program regulated by the State of Illinois?**

No

## Program of Study

"Baccalaureate degree requires at least 120 semester credit hours or 180 quarter credit hours and at least 40 semester credit hours (60 quarter credit hours) in upper division courses" (source: <https://www.ibhe.org/assets/files/PrivateAdminRules2017.pdf>). For proposals for new bachelor's degrees, if this minimum is not explicitly met by specifically-required 300- and/or 400-level courses, please provide information on how the upper-division hours requirement will be satisfied.

**All proposals must attach the new or revised version of the Academic Catalog program of study entry. Contact your college office if you have questions.**

### Revised programs

CSAMES MA Appendix A Side by Side Comparison.docx  
CSAMES MA Statement for Academic Catalog.docx

Attach a side-by-side comparison with the existing program AND, if the revision references or adds “chosed-from” lists of courses students can select from to fulfill requirements, a listing of these courses, including the course rubric, number, title, and number of credit hours.

Catalog Page Text

Statement for Programs of Study Catalog

## Master of Arts in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Code	Title	Hours
	Three 500-level courses in the major field in area related courses	12
	Elective hours	20
	Language Requirement: Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of one South Asian language or Middle Eastern language at the fourth-year level by satisfactory completion of appropriate (400-level) coursework or examination.	8
	Language Requirement: Third-year competency in South Asian or Middle Eastern language, demonstrated by satisfactory completion of appropriate coursework or by proficiency examination.	0
	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>32</b>

### Other Requirements <sup>1</sup>

Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	12
Upon Completion of their coursework, candidates must pass a written examination covering the coursework on area studies and complete two satisfactory research/seminar papers.	
Upon completion of their coursework, candidates will complete a Master's thesis. Candidates may take up to 8 hours of SAME 599(Thesis Research), which may be counted toward their elective hours.	
Minimum GPA:	3.25

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's Graduate Programs (<http://www.csames.illinois.edu/program/ma>) and the Graduate College Handbook (<http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook>).

<sup>2</sup> For a list of approved courses, see the SAME course archive (<http://www.csames.illinois.edu/program/courses/archive/all>) and visit the CSAMES website to see current course offerings (<http://www.csames.illinois.edu/program/courses>) each semester.

## EP Documentation

## DMI Documentation

**Banner/Codebook Name**

MA: SAMES - UIUC

**Program Code:**

10KS5312MA

**Degree Code**

MA

**Major Code**

5312

Key: 188



## STATEMENT FOR ACADEMIC CATALOG:

Overview tab

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[www.csames.illinois.edu](http://www.csames.illinois.edu)

Director: Hadi Salehi Esfahani

Associate Director: Angela Williams

221 International Studies Building

Phone: (217)-244-7331

E-mail: [csames@illinois.edu](mailto:csames@illinois.edu)

Major: South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Degrees offered: M.A.

## Graduate Degree Program

The Center for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies offers an MA in South Asian Studies and an MA in Middle Eastern Studies. The MA program provides preparation in language and area studies for students intending either to pursue a Ph.D. in a related field or to enter a career requiring language and regional expertise, such as in government, an NGO, business, media, international law, private foundations, or cultural exchanges.

## Admission

Applicants to the graduate program must submit an application for admission online ([www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/admissions/apply)) and submit a statement of purpose, three letters of reference completed by teachers, advisers, or recent employers, and a 10-20 page writing sample. Original transcripts (with English translations if applicable) showing all undergraduate and graduate work completed. Applicants are expected to have a strong background in at least one South Asian or Middle Eastern language; normally, this means a minimum of two years of formal study. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores are required and should be submitted to institution code 1836. Applicants whose native language is not English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and must score at least 103 on the internet-based test (iBT) for admission with full standing; they must also pass the speaking sub-section of the iBT with a minimum score of 24 (see [www.grad.illinois.edu/Admissions/instructions/04c](http://www.grad.illinois.edu/Admissions/instructions/04c)). Applicants must have a BA or a BS degree to apply to the MA program. Applications are accepted for fall admission only.

## Financial Aid

The Center makes every effort to assist graduate students in securing financial aid. Financial aid packages usually combine some form of fellowship support with teaching or research assistantships in a manner that allows for both teaching experience and timely completion of the degree. Financial aid may include: University Fellowships, Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships, Minority Academic Partnership Plan (MAPP) Fellowships, teaching assistantships, and research assistantships. All awards of financial aid are made following competitive application.

[www.csames.illinois.edu/program/ma/funding/](http://www.csames.illinois.edu/program/ma/funding/)  
[www.flas.illinois.edu/](http://www.flas.illinois.edu/)

## Master of Arts in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies,

Course List		
Code	Title	Hours
Three 500-level core courses in Middle Eastern Studies		12
Elective hours		20
Third-year competency in a South Asian or Middle Eastern language, demonstrated by satisfactory completion of appropriate coursework or by proficiency examination.		0
Total Hours		32

### Other Requirements<sup>1</sup>

Grad Other Degree Requirements Requirement	Description
Other requirements may overlap	
Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall:	12
Upon completion of their coursework, candidates will complete a Master's thesis. Candidates may take up to 8 hours of SAME 599 (Thesis Research), which may be counted toward their elective hours.	
Minimum GPA:	3.25

<sup>1</sup> For additional details and requirements refer to the department's [Graduate Programs](#) and the [Graduate College Handbook](#).

<sup>2</sup> For a list of approved courses, see the SAME [course archive](#) and visit the CSAMES website to see [current course offerings](#) each semester.

## Appendix A:

### Comparative Table of Proposed Changes, Master of Arts in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

<b>Current Requirements</b>	<b>Current Hours</b>	<b>Proposed Requirements</b>	<b>Proposed Hours</b>
Three 500-level courses in the major field in area related courses	12	Three 500-level courses in the major field in area related courses	12
Elective hours	12	Elective hours	20
Candidates must demonstrate knowledge of one South Asian language or Middle Eastern language at the fourth-year level by satisfactory completion of appropriate (400-level) coursework or examination and passage of a written examination covering material studied while in residence.	8	Language Requirement: Third-year competency in a South Asian or Middle Eastern language, demonstrated by satisfactory completion of appropriate coursework or by proficiency examination.	0
<b>Other Requirements:</b> Upon completion of their coursework, candidates must pass a written examination covering the coursework on area studies and complete two satisfactory research/seminar papers.		<b>Other Requirements:</b> Upon completion of their coursework, candidates will complete a Master's thesis. Candidates may take up to 8 hours of SAME 599 (Thesis Research), which may be counted toward their elective hours.	
Total Hours	32	Total Hours	32
Minimum 500-level hours required overall	12	Minimum 500-level hours required overall	12
Minimum GPA	3.25	Minimum GPA	3.25