

Annual Academic Assessment Report

ARABBA: Arabic BA Program Assessment AY 2024-25

Overview Since the inception of the ARABBA in 2019, the Arabic program has worked steadily towards achieving our ultimate goal: to help students achieve high levels of fluency in Arabic language, literature, and culture while developing tools to think about and engage critically with the Arab world. Arabic majors have taken advantage of the opportunity to combine their Arabic language study with Middle East Studies and International Area Studies, further strengthening and broadening their language and culture studies.

Arabic majors opting to elect a MEST co-major qualify for a variety of scholarship opportunities from MEST. In AY 2024-25, 7 of our 16 Arabic majors were MEST co-majors, and 4 were supported by MEST scholarships (\$5,000-10,000/year). The Arabic major program has amply prepared its majors for study abroad; 100% of graduates since 2019 who have applied for graduate programs were accepted. Two recent graduates (Spring 2024 and Spring 2025) were accepted to medical school at UAMS, while another (Fall 2023) has been accepted to University of Southern California in Los Angeles to attain her Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Two (Spring 2024 & Spring 2025) were accepted into the UA's Master's in Comparative Literature program with a GA-ship from Middle East Studies. Another recent graduate (Spring 2021) was accepted to UT Austin's MA program in MEST with a teaching assistantship in Arabic. Other graduates are currently in PhD and MA programs in comparative literature, literary translation, anthropology, history, political science, economics, information systems, accounting, and gender studies.

Arabic BA recipients by semester (since inception 2019)

Semester & Year	Number of BA's graduating
Fall 2019	2 (Sadie Fruth, Mattie Harris)
Spring 2020	3 (Cole Spencer, Zac Smith, Summer El-Shahawy)
Fall 2020	0
Spring 2021	5 (Jessi Amason, Quincy Bair, Ally Layman, John Levine, Paeton Outman)
Fall 2021	0
Spring 2022	2 AMARAB (Zachary Lewandowski, Emma Towe)
Fall 2022	1 (Samuel Mosher)
Spring 2023	4 (Sarah Falknor, Caroline Adkins Ford, Faris Nabeel, Arden Howard (AMARAB))
Fall 2023	1 (Keriman Alsein)
Spring 2024	5 (Jenna Allemand, Khadeeja Asif, Blaise Becan, Emma Bryans, Andrea Lauren Kuykendall)
Fall 2024	1 (Chiharu Izumi)
Spring 2025	5 (Erwin Arellano, Gretchen Bode, Jayakumar Nair, Alexander Rahal, Frankie Williams)
TOTAL	29 (5-year average = 4.8/year; 3-year average = 5.7/year)

Current Declared Arabic majors & minors

Academic Year	Number of declared ARABBA or AMARAB	Number of Arabic minors* ARAB-M
AY 2021-2022	11 (8 ARABBA; 3 AMARAB)	9
AY 2022-2023	16 (15 ARABBA; 1 AMARAB)	8
AY 2023-2024	20 (all ARABBA)	10
AY 2024-2025	16 (all ARABBA)	15

*Since being instituted in 2008, **153 students have completed the Arabic Minor.**

Arabic Minors since 2019 (ARABBA)

Academic Year	Number of completed minors
AY 2019-2020	13
AY 2020-2021	5
AY 2021-22	1
AY 2022-23	3
AY 2023-24	2
AY 2024-25	4

Assessment Results of Arabic majors in upper-level courses

Arabic majors are making excellent strides towards achieving the goal of Advanced language proficiency (according to the ACTFL scale) in all language acquisition skill areas: speaking, listening, reading, writing and culture. Required language courses for the major include all levels of Modern Standard Arabic as well as courses in colloquial Levantine and/or Egyptian Arabic. Arabic majors are encouraged to spend a summer or semester abroad in an Arabic-speaking country where they can be immersed in the culture of the language. We are proud of the fact that the majority of UA Arabic students studying in intensive summer and/or semester-long programs are placed via OPI into Advanced level – often outpacing their peers from Ivy League universities. The Arabic language curriculum is centered upon the guidelines established by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), advanced language proficiency. Through coursework offered by the major, students aim to achieve ACTFL proficiency targets in Speaking, Listening, Reading, Writing, and Culture.

In addition to course-based assessments, a special opportunity arose through the Arabic program's participation in the Virtual Tabadul Program (funded by the Stevens Initiative) in Spring 2025. This initiative provided funding for students enrolled in ARAB 10106, 20106, and 40106 to take the OPI-c (Oral Proficiency Interview – computer).

The tables below present two sets of data: the grade distribution among Arabic majors in upper-level courses, based on overall performance in core language acquisition skills, and the OPI-c scores of students across all course levels who participated in the assessment in Spring 2025.

Grade Distribution Arabic Majors & Minors in Upper-level Courses in AY 2024-25	
Fall 2024	Spring 2025
ARAB 30106/ARAB 301H6 Immersive III 1 major, 6 minors: A = 4; B = 3	ARAB 30303 Colloquial Arabic – Egyptian 4 majors, 3 minors: A = 5; B = 1; W = 1
ARAB 40203 Advanced Arabic I 5 majors: A = 5	ARAB 40106/401H6 Immersive IV 1 major, 6 minors: A = 6; B = 1

ARAB 40503 Arabic Readings 5 majors: A = 5	ARAB 41003 Arab Cinema 5 majors, 1 minor A = 4; B = 2
	ARAB 399HV Honors Arabic Course 1 major A = 1

Official OPI-c Scores Spring 2025	
Course	ACTFL Oral Proficiency Level
ARAB 10106 Immersive I	8 students Novice Low = 3; Novice Mid = 2; Novice High = 1; Intermediate Low = 2
ARAB 20106 Immersive II	9 students Novice Low = 1; Novice High = 1; Intermediate Low = 7
ARAB 40106 Immersive IV	7 students Intermediate Low = 2; Intermediate Mid = 3; Advanced Low = 2

General Education Learning Outcomes

Beginning in Spring 2023, assessment and reporting on General Education Learning Outcomes (GELOs) was carried out according to University policies and procedures. ARAB 2016 satisfies two Gen Ed requirements: 3.2 and 4.1. ARAB 4213 satisfies Gen Ed Learning Outcome 6.1. Details are described below.

GELO 3.2

ARAB 2016 Immersive Arabic II incorporates learning indicators a, c, d, and e. These are assessed via the following instruments: -Composition (Arabic story/poetry recitation reader response essay) (a, e); -Oral Presentation (Arabic story/poetry recitation project;) (a, d);-Quizzes & HW (a, b, d, e);-Written Exams (a, b, d);-Reading Exam (a)

Student mastery scores are on a scale of 0 to 4. Scores of 2, 3, or 4 are considered mastery.

GELO 4.1

ARAB 2016 Immersive Arabic II incorporates learning indicators a,b, and c. These are assessed via the following instruments: Composition (Arabic story/poetry project) (a, b); -Oral Presentation (Story/poem; Virtual Tabadul exchange sessions and follow-up video assignments) (a, b, c); -Quizzes & HW(a, b, c); -Written Exams(a, b, c); -Reading Exam(c)

GELO 1.2 & 6.1

ARAB 40503 Arabic Readings – Assessment of student accomplishment of Learning Outcomes 1.2 and 6.1 are based on achievement on various assignments, activities, quizzes, oral presentations and papers throughout the semester. Gelo 1.2 & 6.1 assessed through the following instruments: Response papers summarizing, reflecting on, and raising questions about assigned readings; two short papers, which students write in Arabic; In-class presentation and discussion-leading; Long final paper delivering an analytical reading of a topic of students' choice.

Arabic Gen Ed Courses in AY 2024-25	
Student mastery scores are on a scale of 0 to 4. Scores of 2, 3, or 4 are considered mastery.	
Fall 2023	Spring 2025
ARAB 40503 Arabic Readings GELO 1.2: 3 majors scored 4; 2 scored 4 GELO 6.1: 4 majors scored 4; 1 scored 3	ARAB 20106 Immersive Arabic II GELO 3.2: 2 minors scored 4 GELO 4.1: 2 minors scored 4
ARAB 20106 Immersive Arabic II GELO 3.2: 2 majors scored 3 GELO 4.1: 2 majors scored 3	



Virtual Tabadul participants who completed all four virtual exchange activities and submitted post-exchange tasks received the Micro-credential digital badge. Vetted by the U.S. Department of State, the micro-credential is valid and internationally-recognized evidence of demonstrated skills and career readiness. These badges document students' hard work and demonstrate the value of their virtual exchange experience as an asset for the 21st century job market. **In AY 2024-2025, 13 Arabic majors and 10 minors earned the badge.**

In addition to language studies, Arabic majors are attaining a broad knowledge of Arabic literature and culture through new and existing courses such as Arab Culture & Civilization, Arabic Readings and Independent Study. A new upper-level course on Arab Film was launched in Fall 2022 and one on Media Arabic was launched in Spring 2024.

In the various upper-level Arabic courses offered in AY 2024-25, Arabic majors were introduced to some of the following **literary and cultural topics**:

1. Arabic prose selections from the Arabic novel, drama, the short story, and experimental prose in the twentieth-century
2. Selected readings from Arab history, literature, the Islamic Tradition, and the Holy Qur'an
3. Arab cultures through film, how Arab societies have engaged with their socio-political contexts while negotiating questions of colonialism and imperialism, gender, and Arab national identities.
4. Representations of Arab cultures and civilization in writing, film, and art. The ways in which Arab women's contributions contest conceptions of Arab women as oppressed. Exploration of the production and operation of power relations in different social, political, class, gender, ethnic, and religious/ideological groups in the Arab world.

Innovative Courses: Our ARAB 1100V Special Topics in Arab Culture course was offered in Spring 2025. The course was team-taught by three faculty and one teaching assistant. It is a one-credit course offered during the second 8-week session that brought together 22 students from a variety of Colleges, departments, and majors across campus to learn about various aspects of Arab Culture. At least 2 new Arabic students have enrolled in ARAB 10106 in Fall 2024 after taking this course. We plan to offer this course every semester with a different theme. In Fall 2025, it will be "Learning Arabic Language and Culture through Video Games" (taught by a TA) and in Spring 2026, it will be "Flavors of the Arab World," team taught by three Arabic section faculty.

Honors Sections: A proposal for *ARAB 101H6: Honors Immersive Arabic I* is currently moving through the approval process and is on track to be available for registration once the campus-wide pause on new courses is lifted, with an anticipated launch in Spring or Fall 2026. Once approved, this course will increase the total honors Arabic offerings to 24 credit hours. We also hope it will attract honors students to Arabic earlier in their academic careers, making it easier for them to add a minor or major in the language.

Recruitment Efforts: We participated in several campus-wide promotional events, including HogFest in Fall 2024, WLLC tabling at the CORD, and additional Arabic tabling sessions held outdoors during Fall pre-registration. Outreach efforts also included meetings with Fulbright advisors and targeted email campaigns in both Fall and Spring semesters aimed at freshmen and sophomores in ARSC and WCOB. Promotional materials were shared through social media, Arkansas News stories, printed flyers, and video monitor displays across campus. Our one-credit course, *ARAB 1100V: Special Topics in Arab Culture*, continues to serve as an effective recruitment tool.

Creative Scheduling: Beginning in Spring 2025, *ARAB 10106: Immersive Arabic I* adopted a new Lecture/Drill format to provide students with greater scheduling flexibility. Under this structure, students enroll in the Tuesday/Thursday lecture and choose one of two Monday/Wednesday/Friday drill sections. Lecture sections are capped at 28 students, while each drill section is limited to 14.

More frequent offerings of ARAB 10106 & 20106 Beginning in Spring 2024, *ARAB 10106: Immersive Arabic I* and *ARAB 20106: Immersive Arabic II* began being offered every semester. Previously, *ARAB 10106* was available only in the fall, and *ARAB 20106* only in the spring. *ARAB 10106* was offered in the spring for the first time in Spring 2024, while *ARAB 20106/201H6* was introduced in the fall for the first time in Fall 2024.

Recruitment efforts are already showing positive results in enrollments, with the expectation of further increases going forward. Most significantly, enrollment numbers in introductory courses (pre-requisites for minor or major) have dramatically increased as follows:

Course	Enrollment AY 2022-23			Enrollment AY 2023-24			Enrollment AY 2024-2025		
	Fall 2022	Spring 2023	AY Total	Fall 2023	Spring 2024	AY Total	Fall 2024	Spring 2025	AY Total
ARAB 10106	7	n/a	7	20	12	32	18	17	35
ARAB 20106	n/a	4	4	n/a	15	15	5	10	15

Social Media and Webpage Followers of our two social media accounts and YouTube channel launched in Fall 2019 (“Arabic at the U of A - @uarkarabic” FaceBook and Instagram) have increased over the past year to 610 and we have published 299 posts. Our YouTube channel features videos made by students and recordings of various Arabic-section sponsored events. Arabic.uark.edu webpage has been updated regularly.