

General

Program Name

Middle East & N African St

Primary Contact Name

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Plan Code

MENASBA

Last Admit Term

Spring 2026

Career

Undergraduate

Terminal Degree

No

Research Master's

No

Professional Master's

No

Stackable

No

Associated Plans for Stacking

-

Accelerated Master's Program

No

Associated Plans for AMP

-

Disestablishment Details

Justification for Disestablishment

The Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENAS) BA degree program will be discontinued to address concerns about the low number of majors. It will become a new emphasis entitled "Middle Eastern and North African Studies" within the redesigned Global Studies BA to go into effect Fall 2026. (We anticipate that the redesigned Global Studies BA will be approved by Curricular Affairs in Spring 2026.) The new emphasis will ensure the vitality of MENAS faculty and course offerings. The MENAS minor will continue. Note: Since Summer 2024, Middle Eastern and North African Studies has been housed within the School of Global Studies.

Teach Out Plan

Detailed plan how you will handle current students, if any

Introduction:

The Middle Eastern and North African Studies (MENAS) BA degree, which is now housed in the School of Global Studies, will be discontinued to address concerns about the low number of majors. It will

become a new emphasis entitled “Middle Eastern and North African Studies” within the redesigned Global Studies BA that will go into effect Fall 2026. The new emphasis will ensure the vitality of MENAS faculty and course offerings. The MENAS minor will continue.

Program Closure Timeline:

The last admit term for the major is Spring 2026. The redesigned Global Studies major will launch in Fall 2026. All current MENAS majors will have the option to switch to the Global Studies major with a “Middle Eastern and North African Studies” emphasis or complete their MENAS major. The MENAS BA degree program will remain active so that students in the program can finish. After 8 years, Curricular Affairs will change the status of the BA to “inactive.”

Student Support:

Advisors have been notified of the disestablishment and will work with students on an individual basis during the transition. Global Studies academic advisor Megan Denney will send an Email to MENAS majors in August 2026 to make them aware of the option to switch to a Global Studies major. She will meet with students to offer support. The MENA BA disestablishment should have no effect on student scholarships or financial aid.

Note: As of Spring 2026, there are 7 students in Middle Eastern and North African Studies major (6 active and 1 inactive). All are main campus students.

Curriculum Transition:

Most MENA-prefix courses will continue to be offered. MENA 498 Senior Capstone, however, will not be offered after Spring 2026. Students who elect to switch to the Global Studies: Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis and those who continue as MENAS majors will take GLS 498 Senior Capstone. Advisors may substitute MENA 499 Independent Study for GLS 498 on a case-by-case basis for MENAS majors. MENA 160A1 Global Islam will be added to Global Studies Core II curriculum. All other electives will either still be offered as part of the Global Studies: Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis or advisors will find appropriate substitutions. A new course list for the Global Studies: Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis was created as part of the Global Studies BA Substantial Change Request form submitted to Curricular Affairs in December 2025.

Faculty and Staff Transition:

MENAS faculty will continue teaching courses in the Global Studies: Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis and MENAS minor. Some MENAS faculty may create and teach new Global Studies Core II courses in the future. MENAS faculty will also be incorporated into the teaching rotation for the following Global Studies courses: GLS 250 Dimensions of Globalization: States, Societies, and Institutions, GLS 251 Dimensions of Globalization: Language, Literature, and Culture, and GLS 498: Senior Capstone.

Some service responsibilities may shift. One MENAS faculty member will continue to serve on the

School of Global Studies Undergraduate Studies Committee. However, beginning Fall 2026, MENAS will not have a Director of Undergraduate Studies service position. Rather, a MENAS faculty member will serve as “curricular lead” for the emphasis. This person will work with the MENAS program director and academic affairs coordinator to update and follow 2-year curricular plans and faculty teaching assignments, schedule MENA emphasis courses each semester, and manage any new course adds and modifications in the new emphasis.

The discontinuation of the MENAS BA degree will not affect Global Studies staff.

Communication Plan:

Megan Denney, Global Studies academic advisor, will send an Email to MENAS majors in August 2026 to notify them of the option to switch to a Global Studies major with a “Middle Eastern and North African Studies” emphasis or continue with the MENAS major.

Email script: “The University of Arizona is excited to launch a new Global Studies major with a Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis starting in the Fall 2026 term. The Middle Eastern and North African Studies major will no longer be accepting new students. As a current Middle Eastern and North African Studies major, I wanted to reach out to let you know your options. You may continue your Middle Eastern and North African Studies degree or you may switch to the new Global Studies major with Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis. [Add link to emphasis web page.] Please let me know which option you would like to take. I am happy to meet with you to discuss your options and plan starting Fall 2026.”

The MENAS BA degree web pages will remain up and available as long as there are active, enrolled students in the major. However, in August 2026, the following message will be added to the website: “No new students for the MENAS BA degree are being admitted as of Fall 2026. This degree is now being offered as Global Studies: Middle Eastern and North African Studies. [LINK to Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis web page].”

As soon as the reconfigured Global Studies major is approved, we will update the Global Studies web page to include information about the Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis. The following message will be included on the web page: “Available starting August 2026.”

Compliance and Reporting: N/A

Timeline of Teach-Out Events

--Spring 2026 (End of May) - No longer admit students to MENAS major. If a student wants to declare over summer, advisors will recommend that they wait until the new Global Studies: Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis starts accepting students in Fall 2026.

--Spring 2026 (February-April) - Work with SBS marketing to write descriptions and other content for each new emphasis, to be shared on relevant University of Arizona web pages and marketing materials.

--Spring 2026 (May)- As soon as the new Global Studies BA major is approved by Curricular Affairs, update the School of Global Studies website to include a description and courses for the Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis. Include message on emphasis web page: "Available August 2026 and after"

--Fall 2026 (August) - Add message to MENAS BA degree website. "No new students are being admitted for the Middle Eastern and North African Studies BA degree. This degree is now being offered as Global Studies: Middle Eastern and North African Studies. [LINK]."

--Fall 2026 (August) - Megan Denney, Global Studies advisor, will notify MENAS majors of the new Global Studies major with Middle Eastern and North African Studies emphasis via Email.

--Fall 2026 - Advisor will move MENAS students to the Global Studies major as needed.

Catalog Display Notifications

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Campus and Location Offerings

Campuses

Campus	Sub Plan Required
University of Arizona - Main	No
Locations	
-	

Emphases/Subplans

Subplan Campus & Locations

Subplan Campuses

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Dependencies