

SunniPath

The Online Islamic Academy



SEEKERS

Seeking knowledge and scholarship



Curriculum Guide

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Introduction

This advanced series of courses deepens and broadens knowledge acquired in the Foundations curriculum. It provides solid, reliable, and comprehensive knowledge.

Seekers is about “seeking knowledge and scholarship.” Seekers is designed for English-speaking students seeking scholarship, i.e. mastery of the scholarly tradition, taking them on the shortest path to Inheritors. Seekers is also for students who want to pursue other fields of study but want to learn the most important communally obligatory knowledge for Muslims living in the modern world.

Courses allow you to cover a main classical manual in each Islamic discipline. Specialized courses also provide knowledge extremely relevant to living your life as a Muslim.

The goal of the Seekers Degree is to give you a broad overview of all the central religious disciplines using classical texts and to move you slowly to Arabic reading fluency so that you can smoothly transition to the Inheritors Ijaza program. You will be given sufficient understanding of your religion for you to be able to speak coherently about all aspects of your faith.

This program will also equip you to answer challenges that are prevalent in modern times, such as questions regarding the preservation of the Quran and hadith or concerns regarding the justice and equity of Islamic Law.

Course Requirements

The following chart summarizes the courses in the Seekers program.

	Goal	Course Name	Course Code
Arabic (Miftah)	Prepare you for study of classical manuals in their original Arabic form	Basic Arabic Reading	ARB101
		Introductory Arabic, Part 1	ARB111
		Introductory Arabic, Part 2	ARB112
		Intermediate Arabic, Part 1	ARB201
		Intermediate Arabic, Part 2	ARB202
		Intermediate Arabic, Part 3	ARB203

	Goal	Course Name	Course Code
Supplements to Classical Manuals: Provide the most important communally obligatory knowledge	Cover practical fiqh knowledge that is required today	Modern Financial Transactions	LAW120
		Family Law	LAW160
		Living Islam (choose either Hanafi or Shafi'i)	LAH140 LAS140
Traditionally, this knowledge was known to someone who completed the track of scholarship, but was not explicitly treated at the first level of study. However, our modern needs require this knowledge to be moved to the beginning because of the communal need that Muslims in the modern world have for it.	Answer modern doubts related to Islamic Law, Hadith, and Quran raised against the truth of Islam	The Objectives of Islamic Law	LAW201
		The Historical Development of Islamic Law & The Sources of Islamic Law	LMT101 & LMT102
		The Hadith and Its Disciplines	HDT111
		The Quran and Its Disciplines	QRN111
		Study Quranic commentary without extensive technical knowledge of Arabic	Tafsir of the Short Surahs
Some knowledge of history, particularly knowledge of the Prophet's life, is vital religious knowledge that is assumed in other technical disciplines		The Dawn of Prophethood	HST101
		The Rise of the Ummah	HST102

	Goal	Course Name	Course Code
Classical Manuals	Classical manuals represent the Muslim scholarly tradition and are hence the core of all religious learning. These courses give you a taste of real scholarship by studying classical manuals in English in a variety of religious disciplines.	The Pearl of Divine Oneness	BLF201
		Ghazali's Kitab al-Arba'in Explained	SPR201
		The 40 Hadith of Imam Nawawi	HDT101
		The Bayquniyya Explained	HDT201
		The Waraqat Explained	LMT201
		Quduri's Manual Explained (Hanafi)	
		or	
		The Reliance Explained (Shafi'i)	
		(choose either Hanafi or Shafi'i)	
		Part 1: Worship (Ibadat)	LAX211
Part 2: Transactions (Mu'amalat)	LAX212		
Part 3: Personal Law (Ahwal)	LAX213		
Part 4: Justice (Qada)	LAX214		

Suggested Completion Charts

The Foundations, Seekers, and Miftah programs combined consist of 30 courses. While you can complete each of these programs separately, many of you will want to set a roadmap starting now to help you complete all 30 courses over the coming years. See our suggestions on how you can do this. If you're able to dedicate more a full-time schedule, please see our 2-year completion chart. If you have other full-time commitments, then see our suggested 4-year schedule.

2-Year Completion Chart

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3
1st Year	ARB101	ARB111	ARB112
	LAH101	LAH111	LAH112
	LAS101	LAS111	LAS112
	LAM101		
	QRN101	BLF101	HDT101
	SPR101	LAH140 LAS140	LAW160
	HST101	LMT101-102	QRN111
2nd Year	ARB201	ARB202	ARB203
	HST102	BLF201	HDT201
	HDT111	SPR201	LMT201
	LAW201	LAX212	LAX213
	LAX211	LAW120	LAX214

4-Year Completion Chart

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Light Courses
1st Year	LAH101 LAS101 LAM101	LAH111 LAS111	LAH112 LAS112	SPR101
	QRN101	BLF101	HDT101	ARB101
2nd Year	LAW120	LAW160	LAH140 LAS140	LMT101-102
	ARB111	ARB112	HDT111	
3rd Year	ARB201	ARB202	ARB203	HST101
	QRN111	LAW201	LAX211	HST102
4th year	LAX212	LAX213	LAX214	SPR201
	BLF201	HDT201	LMT201	

Upon Completion

After successfully completing the Seekers courses and taking the final assessment and oral interview, you are eligible to apply for the Seekers Degree.

At the personal level, successfully completing the Seekers Degree means that you have acquired a sound religious context within which to navigate the modern world. At the community level, you will be able to effectively discharge leadership roles such as public speaking, community activism, teaching, and explaining Islam to people of other faiths. Most of the knowledge taught in this learning track is communally obligatory for Muslims to acquire.

In addition, if you are interested in going abroad for in-depth religious studies, you will find that these courses give you a solid preparatory grounding in the various religious disciplines, saving you precious time in your later studies.

Specifically, you will be ready for the Inheritors Ijaza track at SunniPath or for intensive study with scholars in the Muslim world. You will also be ready to pursue academic degrees at universities across the world.

Auditing and course credit also available for anyone who wishes to complete the courses in the program without gaining full certification.

Course Details

Below are more details about courses in the Seekers Curriculum.

Arabic:

For details on the Arabic courses, please see to the Miftah Diploma Guide.

Belief:

The Pearl of Divine Oneness (BLF201) - Gain a comprehensive and systematic overview of orthodox Muslim creed using the classical manual *Jawharat al-Tawhid* that was a standard text of instruction across the Muslim world for hundreds of years. Learn to clearly identify where the beliefs of others differ from orthodox Islamic positions. This will allow you to negotiate, dialogue, and interact with people of different sects, faiths, and worldviews.

Islamic Law:

Modern Financial Transactions (LAW120) - Contemporary issues and practical applications are the main focus of this course, in which you will receive indispensable instruction on fulfilling your financial duties and ensuring that your earnings, transactions, and investments are halal.

Family Law (LAW160) - Look at the laws related to marriage and marriage contracts, divorce, child custody, alimony, lineage, and adoption through the lens of the Shariah in the context of today's world where a pro-active knowledge is essential. The goal of this course is to give Muslims practical guidance on marriage and divorce—namely, an understanding of how the laws of the fuqaha are implemented in real life situations.

Living Islam (LAH140/LAS140) - Live in the modern world in accordance with the radiant example of the Messenger of Allah, peace and blessing be upon him, through learning the rulings related to food, dress, gender interaction, earning a living, and more.

The Objectives of Islamic Law (LAW201) - Drawing on classical works of *maqasid*—particularly Shatibi's *Mawaqif* and 'Izz bin 'Abd al-Salam's *al-Qawa'id al-Kubra*—as well as advanced manuals of legal methodology, this course will explain the wisdom and rationale behind misunderstood rulings of Islamic Law, particularly those that relate to women, conflict, non-Muslims, and criminal laws. The goal is clarify how the intent of the Lawgiver is not oppression and hardship, but justice, equity, and social well-being.

The Reliance Explained (Shafi'i) or Quduri's Manual Explained (Hanafi) (LAX211, LAX212, LAX213, & LAX214) - This series of four courses (Part 1: Worship, Part 2: Transactions, Part 3: Personal Law, and Part 4: Justice) will cover a classical manual of Islamic Law from cover to cover. You will leave with a real understanding of what it means for Islam to be a "way of life" and how we are responsible for fulfilling the command of Allah Most High with every single action that we do. By gaining a comprehensive understanding of Islamic Law, you

will be able to attain godfearingness (taqwa) in your lives because you will know how Allah's command relates to everything you they do. In addition, you will become familiarized with more and more fiqh terminology in Arabic. Each course is a double course-load (meaning it involves double the number of instructional hours than a regular full-course).

Spirituality:

Chazali's Kitab al-Arba'in Explained (SPR201) - A second-level course on Islamic Spirituality that will cover Imam Ghazali's summary of the fundamentals of religion. Organized into forty chapters, Imam Ghazali—the master of Islamic psychology and spirituality—covers a spectrum of issues that relate to outward works, good character, Islamic psychology, and closeness to Allah Most High. The book is essentially a synopsis of his magnum opus, the Ihya 'Ulum al-Din.

Quran:

Tafsir of the Short Surahs (QRN101) - Designed to help you relate with the chapters that you recite most frequently, this tafsir course offers detailed and inspiring commentary of the short chapters at the end of the Quran. The meanings in these chapters will help you both gain insights about your own life and draw closer to Allah and His revelation.

The Quran and Its Disciplines (QRN111) - An introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an, including its revelation, collection, arrangement, writing down, types of verses and chapters, occasions of revelation, styles of recitation, and methods of interpretation.

Hadith:

The 40 Hadith of Imam Nawawi (HDT101, formerly HDT102) - Examine a selection from Imam Nawawi's cherished and timeless collection of hadiths, focusing on the language of the hadiths, their implications in Sacred Law, and their relevance to our lives as Muslims in the 21st century. Through reflecting upon and implementing these hadiths, you will understand the beauty of Islamic beliefs, ethics, and morals.

The Hadith and Its Disciplines (HDT111) - Learn about the history of hadith transmission, its development into various disciplines, and how hadith literature is organized in this introduction to hadith science. Lessons will increase your appreciation of the intricacy, depth, and sophistication of hadith science and our scholarly legacy, as well as your understanding of the claims of orientalist and modernists.

The Bayquniyya Explained (HDT201, formerly HMT111) - The course details the science of hadith methodology (mustalah al-hadith) using al-Bayquniyya, a 34-line poem covering over 30 different hadith terminologies, as well as an abridged translation of one of the most famous commentaries of al-Bayquniyya. You will cover key concepts, terminology, and methods of analysis in how hadiths are authenticated, and then apply the theoretical concepts to practical case studies of hadith analysis.

Legal Methodology:

Historical Development of Islamic Law (LMT101) - This course will examine the foundation of the legal schools through a historical analysis of Islamic law in the era of the Prophet, rightly

guided caliphs, tabi'in, and the great imams. Using the Hanafi school as the model, you will see how a legal school was developed and refined over time. Short course.

Sources of Islamic Law (LMT102) - Along with LMT101, this will serve as an introduction to LMT201. You will be given an overview of Islamic Law and how its rulings are derived, and an overview of the four agreed-upon sources of Islamic Law, namely the Quran, the Sunna, scholarly consensus (ijma'), and analogy (qiyas). Short course.

The Waraqat Explained (LMT201, formerly LMT112) - Discover the fascinating methods by which legal rulings are derived through studying the legal methodology that has been used by scholars over the centuries.

History:

The Dawn of Prophethood (HST101) - The first of a pair of courses focused on providing a detailed, historical look at the Prophet's life. Part 1 begins with a broader discussion of the 6th century world and Arab society, and then focuses on the Prophet's childhood, his household, the beginning of Prophethood, Islam in Makkah, and the migration to Madinah.

The Rise of the Ummah (HST102) - The second of a pair of courses focused on providing a detailed, historical look at the Prophet's life. Part 2 focuses on the creation of community in Madinah, battles and conquests, the reentering into Makkah, the farewell pilgrimage, and the last days of the life of the Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him.

Ready to Apply?

Please check the Seekers Degree page at <http://www.SunniPath.com/Curriculum/Seekers/> for application details.

Questions?

Contact Academic Advising through the Helpdesk at
<http://support.SunniPath.com>