



# AMERICAN ISLAMIC COLLEGE



## Programming and Outreach

During a time when society has become polarized and misunderstanding about Islam as a faith tradition is widespread, AIC offers an array of programs to the general public in an effort to build bridges, challenge Islamophobia, and provide a platform to discuss social justice issues from a distinctively American Muslim perspective. In doing so, AIC fulfills a major role in dismantling prejudice and expanding public education today when it is most needed. AIC is committed to representing the richness of Islamic practice and thought in a variety of venues and initiatives.



## Academic Forums

AIC regularly hosts rich academic lectures, film screenings followed by audience discussions, and a variety of workshops and symposia that focus on a vast array of contemporary debates and intellectual themes relevant to Islam in local and global contexts. Past presentations have covered topics such as Islamic history, Islamic art, political affairs, theological questions, great Muslim thinkers, medicine, Muslim mental health, and chaplaincy.

# Academic Programs

## BA in Islamic Studies

AIC is a liberal arts college, which means that students are not only trained in their field of focus, but are also equipped with a range of courses in the arts and sciences that impart a well-rounded education necessary for most forms of employment that value excellent communication skills and critical thinking as well as preparation for further professional or academic training. These “general education” or breadth courses include, but are not limited to, communications, media, anthropology, statistics, research methods, physical & biological sciences, psychology, and more.



The Islamic Studies program at AIC draws on the academic study of religion to think *about* the Islamic tradition while also training students to think *with* the tradition. To the former end—

thinking *about* the Islamic tradition—the Islamic Studies major employs a range of academic approaches to study Islam: history, literary and textual studies; religious law and theology; comparative religion, social theory (including gender, race, ethnicity, sociology, anthropology, and psychology); and philosophy. To the second end—thinking *with* the Islamic tradition—students are trained in the classical fields of Qur’anic and hadith studies, Islamic spirituality, philosophy, and theology as well as legal and ethical reasoning.



## MA in Islamic Studies

The MA degree program is designed to provide students with a rigorous background in Arabic as well as traditional and analytical approaches to Islamic Studies. The program offers two distinct areas of concentration: Islamic Theology and Islam and Global Studies. In both streams, students complete a thesis at the end of their program, and so they are well prepared to go on for doctoral study if they so desire.



## Muslim Chaplaincy Program and Master of Divinity in Islamic Studies

The Master of Divinity in Islamic Studies, which is our Muslim Chaplaincy Program, is a 72 credit degree program designed specifically for students who wish to become professional and credentialed Muslim leaders, spiritual caregivers, or chaplains. AIC's MDIV curriculum in Islamic Studies lays the groundwork for learning the foundational Islamic knowledge that equips students in core fields—such as religious history, theology, scriptural studies, Islamic spiritual counseling, and ethics of professional practice—that parallel for Muslim chaplains much of the seminary or rabbinical school training that many chaplains from other faiths undergo as part of their spiritual formation and preparation to serve as faith representatives



in public settings. Additionally, Muslim Chaplaincy Program students are required to complete Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) and Field Education, as well as courses related to counseling, spiritual care, interreligious studies, and applied leadership skills as a part of their holistic preparation to serve as Muslim faith leaders in multireligious and/or secular public institutions such as hospitals, prisons, the military, and universities.

## Arabic Language Institute

AIC's Summer Arabic Language Institute offers 140 contact hours—the equivalent of two semesters or one academic year (8 credits) of university Arabic study. Extracurricular activities rooted in cultural immersion, such as opportunities to enroll in supplementary sessions devoted to Qur'an recitation and calligraphy, are added incentives to joining this program. The summer Arabic Learning Institute curriculum is based on promoting the acquisition of the reading and writing proficiency that will allow students to eventually understand both modern and classical Islamic texts.



## Student Highlights:



**Nesrin Unlu**, *Bachelor of Arts in Islamic Studies*, Class of 2018 has been admitted to the Master of Social Work (MSW) program at The University of Illinois-Chicago. She aspires to work with teen women and young adults in underserved communities. Nesrin has been awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award by the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce for her work at *Center of Concern*. She also volunteers at Cook County Jail where she offers counseling services and attends to Muslim inmates'

religious needs. She intends on combining her education in Islamic Studies with Social Work to offer counseling and mental health support to Muslim families.



**Tauseef Akbar**: Tauseef, currently enrolled in AIC's Muslim Chaplaincy Program, has been accepted to Georgetown University's year-long chaplaincy residency program. After completion of this internship, which fulfills his Field Education requirements for the AIC Muslim Chaplaincy Program, Tauseef plans to continue his learning through starting a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program.



**Bill Chambers**: The education Bill received at AIC was foundational for inspiring his further studies in the history of American Islam. After his successful completion of the Master of Arts in Islamic Studies at AIC, Bill was admitted into the PhD program at Chicago Theological Seminary where his PhD dissertation builds on his MA thesis research at AIC.

## Faculty Highlights:

### **Dr. Shabana Mir is Awarded Prestigious Wabash Grant**

Dr. Shabana Mir, Associate Professor of Anthropology at American Islamic College, was awarded a prestigious grant by the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Religion.

The grant will support an innovative workshop on “Teaching Islam and Gender,” conceptualized and planned by Dr. Mir. The grant supports a workshop that will feature academics from both the US and Canada who are engaged in cutting edge scholarly work on gender studies.



### **Building on Success, Looking to the Future**

AIC received operating and degree granting authority from the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 2013. Join us now in celebrating the fact that AIC was awarded Candidacy for Accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, North Central Region in 2020.





## Arts and Music

AIC offers a variety of courses in Islamic arts and music such as: calligraphy, water marbling (ebru), and Oud.





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640 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60613

-  (773) 281-4700
-  [programs@aicusa.edu](mailto:programs@aicusa.edu)
-  [www.aicusa.edu](http://www.aicusa.edu)
-  [americanislamiccollege](https://www.facebook.com/americanislamiccollege)