



CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

LEADERSHIP FOR
A MULTI FAITH WORLD



CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

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An Institute Unlike Any Other

MECCA Institute is an Abrahamic Institution. As a nonprofit organization, whose mission is to expand progressive theology through education and research, we focus our work in creating an alternative perspective that supports inclusive people in communities that have been inundated with extremism and discontent.

Our objective is to create affirming, inclusive, and welcoming Muslim spaces led by tomorrow's future leaders.

We live in a changing world. Patterns of identification and connecting the world have shifted.

Old paradigms have been called into question as Muslims. Individuals are seeking new ways of connecting to one another and the larger Muslim community.

Leaders for Today and Tomorrow

A vibrant future dependent on leaders who can:

- a) Speak a Spiritual language that is authentic and accessible.
- b) Teach faith that is relevant to the challenges facing humanity in our time.
- c) Create vibrant and welcoming communities where individuals, their families, diversity of friends and neighbors, can feel at home.





A Different Approach

MECCA Institute is uniquely positioned to meet this need. Our approach brings together:

- 1) Serious textual engagement in an inclusive and authentic learning environment filled with openness and excitement for reimagining Islam for our times.
- 2) Cultivation of a pluralistic, multi-faith community with support for individual journeys to find honest and authentic expressions of our faith.
- 3) Academic rigor with a commitment to spiritual growth.

Join us as we help shape an Islam for the 21st Century and beyond.

A close-up portrait of Imam Daayiee Abdullah, a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a white head covering. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage and a tree trunk.

Building on Our Voices

Imam Daayiee Abdullah
Executive Director
MECCA Institute

“Our goal is to establish a global institution that focuses on progressive and inclusive theological studies of the rich and varied paths of our faith.

MECCA Institute brings a new approach to Islamic education where the application of Quranic ethics thrives within a multifaith and secular world; where human rights are every day rights; respecting the diversity of all human beings is our norm; and respecting the law of the land and being responsible citizens is a given. These foundational values have not always been used for the full benefit of all people.

My Islamic education and the study of several Islamic scholars worldwide have been instrumental in my honing clearly articulated, alternative renderings of the faith, thereby providing an expansive spiritual ethic that shapes how I as a person must respond to improve our modern world for today and tomorrow. Below are quotes from several contemporary global scholars that have influenced the dialogue today.

Leila Ahmed

The first professor of women's studies in religion at Harvard University, Ahmed has been a revolutionary force in Islamic feminism. She has continuously discussed the reality of Muslim lives, and women specifically, and how the “differences of class, ethnicity, and local culture critically qualify the experiences of women and give specificity to the particular ways in which they are affected by the broad discourses on gender within their societies” (Women and Gender in Islam, 1993, p. 7).

Abdullahi Ahmed An-Na'im

As an expert on human rights and Islamic law, this academic is an example of the kind of Muslim scholar we aspire to. He has bravely noted how our faith allows us to be good citizen by saying “as an American Muslim, I have wholeheartedly embraced my Americanness, which entitles and enables me to contribute to what it means to be American” (What Is an American Muslim?, 2014, p. 1).

Khaled Abou El Fadl

This academic has been heard all over world on issues relating to Islam and non-Muslims. He has said that “Shariah is an ongoing discourse on how to be a good Muslim within a communal system and a metanarrative on being a good human being within human society. As the history of the Islamic law guilds demonstrates, it is not important that Muslims agree on the same legal determinations or laws. What is important is that they recognize shared common standards of virtue or godliness...” (Reasoning with God, 2014, p. 326).

Reza Aslan

No Muslim scholar has presented the widespread spectrum of the faith to the masses. Thanks to him people understand that Islam is an Abrahamic faith that values Abrahamic figures like Jesus. In his book about Jesus, he described his background: “In Iran, the place of my birth, I was Muslim in much the way I was Persian. My religion and ethnicity were mutual and linked. Like most people born into a religious tradition, my faith was as familiar to me as my skin, and just as disregardable” (Zealot, 2014, xviii).

Bringing change for a better future begins with teaching our students the spiritually-rich Quranic ethics available to us today, and to do this we must relearn the essence of early Islamic truths, devoid of cultural interpretations of a distant past, and shape them to meet our contemporary needs and contemplate future ones.



Quality Education

Exploring core texts, gaining practical skills

Our program instructors are qualified individuals; whose academic background affords them the necessary qualifications to impart their students with a quality education.

Our program provides students with three different formulations of the traditional chaplaincy training: Pastoral Counseling, Muslim Leadership, and Interfaith Programming.

Pastoral Counseling

Graduates would be certified to fulfill chaplain positions in public agencies, local, state and federal governments, hospitals, military, and mosques.

Muslim Leadership

Graduates would be certified to fulfill general pastoral counseling roles, but also have the additional training in establishing and developing Muslim community centers.

Interfaith Programming

Graduates would be certified to fulfill general pastoral counseling roles, but also have the additional training in establishing and developing interfaith and intra-faith

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM YEAR ONE

SUMMER ABRAHAMIC INDUCTION COURSE	WEEK ONE JUDAISM	WEEK TWO CHRISTIANITY
<p>Induction course will be a powerful tool in getting incoming students of various backgrounds grounded in the Abrahamic faiths that preceded Islam and the connections between them.</p>	<p>Course materials will cover earlier covenants within the Judaic faith, as well as other materials on early prophets.</p>	<p>Course materials will cover earlier covenants within the Christian faith, as well as other materials on later prophets.</p>
YEAR ONE	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
<p>Core Courses</p>	<p>Early Islamic History (3)</p> <p>Introduction To Quran (3)</p> <p>Introduction To Pre-Islamic And Islamic Theological Thought-Abrahamic (3)</p>	<p>Modern Islamic History (3)</p> <p>Philosophy Of The Quran (3)</p> <p>Continuation Of Later Islamic Theological Thought-Madhabs (3)</p>
<p>Arabic Language Requirements*</p>	<p>Arabic 101 (3)</p>	<p>Arabic 102 (3)</p>

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM SUMMER SESSIONS

SUMMER SESSION	FIRST SESSION	SECOND SESSION
INTENSIVE LANGUAGE STUDY COURSES	BEGINNING ARABIC 101 BEGINNING ARABIC 102	INTERMED. ARABIC 201 INTERMED. ARABIC 202

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM

ONE YEAR	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER
INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDY	6-CREDITS PART-TIME INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES	6-CREDITS PART-TIME INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE CLASSES



Our Standards

Faith Commitments

As an open-door certificate program, the MECCA Institute do not require a specific faith commitment. Our Chaplaincy program does focus on the Abrahamic faiths, and their derivatives. Our program recognizes that graduates in their roles as Chaplains, community leaders in Muslim and interfaith organizations, will interact with persons of other non-Abrahamic faith traditions. Acknowledging there is a need to be aware of other faiths and religions in our multi-religious society, our program does teach other world faiths and religions as part of our educational training of students.

Readiness

We have an expectation that all students entering our graduate program will express a maturity of intellectual development and frame of mind that reflects an individual and collective openness to evaluate the diversity of opinions and alternative points of view that may arise in the classroom setting(s) that may differ from their own. Thus, the ability to differentiate opinion and dogma will be an important aspect of developing an inclusive and progressive understanding of the Islamic theological training taught at MECCA Institute.

Financial Ability

We require our students to sign a Financial Liability Form acknowledging their responsibility to pay for their education. MECCA Institute recognizes that some students may at some point during their study may require additional financial aid, and we encourage students to be proactive in seeking and obtaining financial aid through grants and financial aid organizations to meet their tuition needs.

MECCA INSTITUTE
CHAPLAINCY CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

ACADEMIC CALENDAR
YEARS – 2017 – 2018 – 2019

INDUCTION COURSE: (ALL ENTERING STUDENTS)

Monday, August 8 through August 18, 2017

FALL SEMESTER: 2017

Monday, August 21 through December 13, 2017
Exams: December 15 through December 21, 2017

SPRING SEMESTER: 2018

Monday, January 8 through May 4, 2018
Exams: May 7 through May 13, 2018

SUMMER SEMESTER I: Language Courses

Monday, May 21 through June 22, 2018
Exams: Weekly

SUMMER SEMESTER II: Language Courses

Monday, June 25 through July 27, 2018

Exams: Weekly

INDUCTION COURSE - FALL 2018: (ALL ENTERING STUDENTS)

Monday, August 6 through August 17, 2018

FALL SEMESTER: FALL 2018

Monday, August 20 through December 7, 2018

Exams: December 10 through December 15,
2018

SPRING SEMESTER: 2019

Monday, January 7 through May 3, 2019

Exams: May 5 through May 11, 2019

SUMMER SEMESTER I: Language Courses

Monday, May 13 through June 20, 2019

Exams: Weekly

SUMMER SEMESTER II: Language Courses

Monday, June 24 through July 28, 2019

Exams: Weekly



Life After MECCA

Skilled, and ready for the world

Our program prepares our students for the real world. Whether they choose a career as a spiritual leader, researchers, or even as public intellectuals, MECCA Institute will impart the kind of education that opens more doors for the future.

In the following pages you will learn what life after MECCA Institute can look like.



Spiritual Leaders

MECCA Institute is the result of a vision to help progressive Muslims build inclusive communities in the United States and the world.

Thus, leaders trained in our inclusive Islamic theology will have a chance to be placed in the growing number of inclusive mosques. A sister organization, Association of Inclusive Mosques, is making an effort to create centers across the United States and the world where MECCA trained individuals can be directly hired to lead. Such centers provide much needed spaces and opportunities to live an Islamic faith without the imposition and limitations imposed by Wahhabism, freeing Muslims from their tyranny.

Aside from mosques, as previously mentioned, our graduates would be certified to fill chaplain positions in public agencies, local, state and federal governments, hospitals, military, and other places where such trained individuals are needed.



Innovative Researchers

MECCA Institute is home to Saloonaat, a think tank that advances research for Qur'anic interpretations for modern times, public results, and turns such research into courses for general consumption.

Trained individuals don't have to just work with MECCA Institute's Saloonaat, as they can also join other research entities that are continuously seeking qualified individuals who can research into the issues relating to Islam, Muslims, and the Muslim World.



Media Personalities

The media is always talking about Islam. As such, there is a growing interest in individuals who have the qualifications to discuss about subjects affecting Muslims globally.

Whether one discusses the growing number of extremists in our communities, or participates in interfaith dialogue to seek solutions to global issues such as human rights violations, a MECCA Institute trained leader will be able to stand on her or his own and knowledgeably address the needs of the day.



With the training one gets from MECCA Institute the sky is the limit. Whether one chooses to become a writer, a researcher, or even a pundit on her or his own, there is really very little to stop that individual.

Do you want to write the next historical bestseller?

Are you planning to research a topic institutions are afraid of tackling?

Or, perhaps, you're planning to have your own video website?

Do it your way with a MECCA Institute education!



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