

Al-'Aqabah One-Year Certificate: Foundations of Integrated Islamic Learning

The Al-'Aqabah Certificate is a foundational one-year program designed to cultivate sound Islamic knowledge, spiritual formation, and righteous character. Rooted in the Qur'an and Sunnah, the curriculum integrates the classical Islamic sciences with practical application, preparing students to faithfully embody Islam in their personal lives, families, and communities.

Students are required to complete twelve courses to earn the Al-Aqabah One-Year Certificate. Unless special circumstances apply, students must complete the seven courses marked with an asterisk (). To fulfill the remaining five course requirements, students may then select two elective courses, one language course, and two bonus courses.*

Required and Bonus Courses:

Belief I: Foundations of Islamic Creed*

Text: 'Aqīdah al-'Awām

- ❖ An introduction to Sunni Islamic theology covering the attributes of Allah, prophethood, revealed books, angels, the afterlife, and foundational matters of faith according to orthodox Islamic belief.

Fiqh I: Beginners Maliki Jurisprudence*

Text: Kitāb al-Akhḍarī

- ❖ A study of foundational Mālikī jurisprudence with emphasis on purification and prayer, and the practical application of sacred law in everyday life.

Fiqh II: Beginner Maliki Jurisprudence

Text: Al-Murshid al-Mu'īn

- ❖ This course introduces students to the fundamentals of Maliki fiqh, Islamic creed, and spirituality through the timeless poem Al-Murshid al-Mu'īn by Imam Ibn Ashir.

Forty Hadith I: Prophetic Ethics and Spiritual Formation*

Text: Imam An-Nawawi's Collection of Forty Hadiths

- ❖ A guided study and explanation of seven foundational hadiths emphasizing character, sincerity, worship, social conduct, and spiritual development.

Forty Hadith II: Prophetic Guidance and Ethical Living

Text: Imam An-Nawawi's Collection of Forty Hadiths

- ❖ A continuation of hadith studies through an additional seven hadiths emphasizing ethics, leadership, social responsibility, and spiritual excellence.

Islamic Spirituality I: Purification of the Heart and Spiritual Psychology*

Text: Maṭharat al-Qulūb

- ❖ An introduction to Islamic spirituality focusing on diseases of the heart, sincerity, repentance, gratitude, patience, and spiritual refinement.

Tafsir I: Commentary on Five Short Chapters of the Qur'an*

Text: Tafsir al-Munir and Tafhim-ul-Quran

- ❖ An introductory study of the meanings, themes, vocabulary, and moral teachings of Sūrahs an-Nās through an-Naṣr (Qur'an 114–110), providing students with a foundational understanding of the final five chapters of the Qur'an.

Tafsir II: Commentary on Five Short Chapters of the Qur'an

Text: Tafsir al-Munir and Tafhim-ul-Quran

- ❖ An introductory study of the meanings, themes, vocabulary, and moral teachings of Sūrahs al-Kāfirūn through al-Fil (Qur'an 109–105), providing students with a foundational understanding of these five chapters of the Qur'an.

Tafsir III: Commentary on Five Short Chapters of the Qur'an

Text: Tafsir al-Munir and Tafhim-ul-Quran

- ❖ An introductory study of the meanings, themes, vocabulary, and moral teachings of Sūrahs al-Humazah through al-Ādiyāt (Qur'an 104–100), providing students with a foundational understanding of these five chapters of the Qur'an.

Biography of Prophet Muhammad (Seerah) I: Pre-Islamic Arabia to Birth*

Text: Alfiyyah al-ʿIrāqī

- ❖ Explore the historical, social, and religious landscape of pre-Islamic Arabia and the events leading to the birth of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, laying the foundation for the study of his life and mission.

Biography of Prophet Muhammad (Seerah) II: Birth to Revelation

Text: Alfiyyah al-ʿIrāqī

- ❖ Trace the early life of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from his birth to the first revelation, exploring the formative events, relationships, and experiences that prepared him for prophethood and the beginning of his divine mission.

Biography of Prophet Muhammad (Seerah) III: Revelation to the First Migration to Abyssinia

Text: Alfiyyah al-ʿIrāqī

- ❖ Trace the early Makkan period of the Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ mission from the first revelation to the first migration to Abyssinia, exploring the challenges faced by the early Muslim community, the foundations of daʿwah, and the lessons of faith, perseverance, and reliance upon Allah.

Usul I: Introduction to Islamic Legal Theory (Uṣūl al-Fiqh)

Text: Al-Waraqāt

- ❖ Students study the foundational principles used by jurists to derive legal rulings from the Qurʾan and Sunnah.

Science of Hadith I: Introduction to Hadith Methodology*

Text: Al-Bayqūniyyah

- ❖ Students are introduced to the terminology, classification, preservation, and transmission sciences of Prophetic hadith.

Arabic Language:

Beginning Arabic I: Foundations of Qur'anic Arabic

Text: Qāʿidah al-Nūrāniyyah

- ❖ Learn the Arabic alphabet, letter pronunciation, and vowel system while developing the foundational reading skills needed for the study of the Qur'an and Islamic texts.

Beginning Arabic II:

Text: Madinah Book 1

- ❖ This course develops students' foundational skills in reading, writing, vocabulary, and grammar, providing a structured introduction to Classical Arabic and preparing them to understand the Qur'an, Hadith, and other Islamic texts in their original language.

Arabic Morphology I: Introduction to Verb Forms I–III

Text: The Ultimate Morphology Workbook

- ❖ This course introduces the foundational principles of Arabic morphology through the study of Verb Forms I–III, enabling students to recognize word patterns,

understand how meanings are derived, and strengthen their ability to read and comprehend classical Arabic texts.

Electives:

Family I: Foundations of Islamic Marriage

Text: Tadrib As-Sālik and Selected Texts

- ❖ Explore the Islamic foundations of marriage through the study of sacred law, healthy communication, and the psychological and social dynamics that cultivate strong, faith-centered relationships.

Family II: Parenting & Child Development

Text: Riyāḍah al-Şibyān

- ❖ Examine the Islamic principles of parenting and child development, integrating Prophetic guidance with contemporary insights to nurture children with faith, character, emotional well-being, and resilience.

Islam in America I: Black American Muslim Thought and Leadership

Text: Islam in Black America

- ❖ This course explores the lives, leadership, and diverse approaches to Islam of influential Black American Muslim figures, including Imam W. D. Mohammed, Malcolm X, and others, while examining their lasting contributions to the growth and development of Islam in the United States.