



HIGHER EDUCATION FOR  
A HIGHER PURPOSE

THE ZAYTUNA COLLEGE BA PROGRAM



The greatest, truest, and only permanent good bestowed upon humanity is that of true knowledge. From such knowledge, all other goods flow, even faith.

And this is why, at Zaytuna College, we have adorned our seal with the prayer *Qul Rabbi zidnī ‘ilman* (“Say: O Lord, increase me in knowledge”).

For it is our knowledge of the world alone that enables us to discern a creator; hence, true knowledge will always lead to true faith. The greatest Qur’anic commandment is “Know that there is no god but the One True God.”

It is knowledge alone—and most importantly, knowledge of God—that differentiates us from beasts, making us unique among God’s glorious creation.

THE QUR’ANIC QUOTATION IS FROM  
SURAH ṬĀ HĀ, VERSE 114.

## SEEKING THE ARTS THAT FREE MINDS AND HEARTS

Dear Prospective Students, *salam alaykum*.

SHOULD YOU CHOOSE to study at Zaytuna College, be assured that there is a design and a provident purpose in mind for everything we study here.

At Zaytuna College, we set our sights on nothing less than a true liberal arts education—the unique educational tradition that remains the common heritage of the three great faiths of Abraham: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

In fact, more than any other previous civilization, the Muslim civilization preserved and developed our most important arts: grammar, logic, rhetoric, arithmetic, geometry, harmonics, and astronomy. We at Zaytuna are reclaiming our heritage: the arts that free minds and hearts.

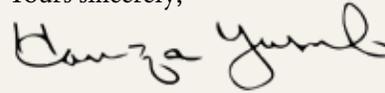
With that purpose always at the center, we will do our utmost to help you acquire the tools that you will need to pursue an active life of learning, reflection, and action—and to do so with humility and fallibility while rooted in purpose and piety.

You'll study some of the most important timeless texts of Islam as well as a portion of the great works from our Western heritage—all this with students who we hope will become your lifelong friends and with a faculty that will be your devoted guides.

God willing, when our efforts along with yours come to fruition, we hope that you will join a growing line of Zaytuna graduates who are contributing to the betterment of a beleaguered world as human beings who have learned how to learn—and, with God's help, will succeed in any vocation—law, medicine, religious leadership, scholarship—to which God calls them.

The promise of a liberal arts education awaits you at Zaytuna College.

Yours sincerely,



Hamza Yusuf

PRESIDENT, ZAYTUNA COLLEGE



## A BRIEF HISTORY

# A COLLEGE WHERE TRADITIONS COME ALIVE

FOUNDED IN 2009 in Berkeley, California, Zaytuna College seeks to ground students in the Islamic scholarly tradition as well as in the cultural currents and critical ideas shaping modern society. Zaytuna was accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 2015, becoming the first accredited Muslim liberal arts college in the United States.

Zaytuna offers an innovative BA in Liberal Arts and Islamic Studies that integrates the Islamic and Western traditions of higher learning, with emphasis on teaching the tools of learning, the foundational texts of both traditions, and the Arabic language. It also offers an MA program in Islamic Texts that provides students with higher-level access to the Islamic tradition through the study of Islam's primary sources.

The College has two campuses in a neighborhood known as "Holy Hill," home to the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), the largest consortium of seminaries and centers for the study of religion in the nation, and within blocks of UC Berkeley, a premier research university. This setting gives Zaytuna's students an unparalleled opportunity to engage with educational communities from different faith traditions.

## An Education for All

Our financial aid policy removes economic barriers to seeking knowledge by offering any admitted student who cannot afford the cost of a Zaytuna education—**\$29,000 for tuition and housing**—one of the most generous financial assistance options in the country.

We do our best to ensure our students complete their education debt-free. Students apply for and receive financial aid directly from Zaytuna in the form of merit scholarships and need-based aid. Our admissions decisions do not take financial need into consideration as we seek dedicated students from all socio-economic backgrounds and experiences.



THE BA DEGREE PROGRAM

# TEACHING THE LIBERAL ARTS IN TWO TRADITIONS: THE WESTERN AND THE ISLAMIC

AT ZAYTUNA COLLEGE, we are restoring the broad-based, holistic tradition of what in the West was called the liberal arts and in the Muslim civilization was known as comprehensive studies (*al-dirāsāt al-jāmi‘ah*), which lead one to become an *adīb*, which approximates the English concept of the erudite person.

The curriculum for Zaytuna’s bachelor of arts in Liberal Arts and Islamic Studies begins with the trivium—courses in grammar, rhetoric, and logic—and an intensive study of the Arabic language as students progress through courses in theology, law, history, philosophy, science, and literature while studying classical texts from both the Islamic and Western traditions.

Term	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
<b>Summer</b>		Intermediate Arabic 3 (10 units) and pass Arabic qualification exam		
<b>Fall</b>	Intermediate Arabic 1 (5 units)	Arabic Grammar and Texts 1 (4 units)	Advanced Arabic Morphology	Arabic Rhetoric and Literature
	Islamic Law 1	Prophetic Tradition	Islamic Family Law	Metaphysical Foundations
	Introduction to the Qur’an	Qur’anic Sciences	Constitutional Law	Ethics
	Trivium Seminar in Grammar	Logic in the Islamic Tradition	Kalam Theology	Astronomy in the Islamic Tradition
	Prophetic Biography	Islamic History	Philosophy	Contemporary Muslim Thought
			Research Methods Seminar (1 unit)	BA Thesis Writing (1 unit)
	Swimming*	Archery*	Horseback Riding*	
<b>Spring</b>	Intermediate Arabic 2 (5 units)	Arabic Grammar and Texts 2 (4 units)	Advanced Arabic Grammar	Senior Arabic Seminar
	Islamic Law 2	Seminal Ancient Texts	Principles of Islamic Jurisprudence	Islamic Commercial Law
	Trivium Seminar in Logic	Euclid’s Elements	Comparative Theology	Islamic Inheritance Law
	Trivium Seminar in Rhetoric	Politics	Readings in Muslim Spirituality	Al-Ghazālī
	Creedal Theology	Economics	Classical Muslim Texts and Commentaries	Principles of Democracy
			BA Thesis Research (1 unit)	BA Thesis Completion (1 unit)
	Swimming (1 unit)	Archery (1 unit)	Horseback Riding (1 unit)	
<b>Other</b>		Qur’anic Orthoepy ( <i>tajwid</i> ) (1 unit)		Qur’anic Memorization ( <i>hifz</i> ) (1 unit) Senior Thesis Service Learning

All courses are 3 units, except where noted otherwise.

\*Students receive instruction for each sport over two semesters and are granted one credit unit each at the end of the corresponding academic year.



“There are a million things unique about Zaytuna College, but if I had to pick one, it would be the cohort system. The classes we take in all four years are with the same group of students. It’s really fostered this community where all the students are just trying to help each other. We’re going to make sure that no one gets left behind, and I’m confident that every student will leave this college trying to help the Muslim ummah as a whole.”

**Nida Ahmed** (SECOND FROM RIGHT),

A 2019 GRADUATE, NOW STUDYING MEDICINE AT UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

## A FACULTY THAT BRIDGES TWO INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS

*In keeping with the teaching of two traditions, Zaytuna's faculty members have qualifications from traditional Islamic institutions and from modern Western universities, providing students a distinctive and integrated educational experience.*



### **“Read Them Again and Again”**

*“An undergraduate education built upon the foundational books of the Western and Islamic traditions enlarges your view of very contemporary realities. At Zaytuna College, the Great Texts that you will encounter, some of which have influenced human cultures for millennia, provide you with an inexhaustible source of inspiration and learning. Read them again and again.”*

FR. FRANCISCO NAHOE teaches courses on the trivium, ethics, and politics.



### **Cultivating Intellectual and Moral Virtue**

*“A Zaytuna education provides the knowledge and tools of learning that are foundational for cultivating virtue, both intellectual and moral, as an expression of the remembrance of God. Moreover, its unique curriculum prepares students for the critical task of engaging modernity through Islam's rich scholarly heritage.”*

SHAYKH FARAZ KHAN teaches courses in Islamic theology, logic, and prophetic biography.



### **A Graduate Looks Back on How Zaytuna Inspired Him**

*“The logical rigor and clarity of expression demanded by Zaytuna College inspired me to pursue further training in philosophy and religion. The inspiring lectures, class discussions, and conversations with Zaytuna's esteemed faculty continue to guide my intellectual aspirations.”*

SOHABE MOJADDIDY, a member of the class of 2017, is pursuing graduate studies in philosophy at Katholieke Universiteit in Belgium.

## EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

**Service Requirement:** Students at Zaytuna complete at least 50 hours of community service or civic engagement as part of their graduation requirements. They participate in projects, either during the semester or during their breaks, that place them in a variety of real-world experiences, from teaching and mentoring to service projects in underserved communities. Through guided reflections and writing assignments, students connect these experiences to what they learn inside the classroom and to their efforts toward spiritual and moral growth.



**Sunnah Sports:** The tradition of sunnah sports is based on the saying of the Prophet ﷺ, “Teach your children swimming and archery,” and on ‘Umar b. al-Khaṭṭāb’s statement, “Teach your children swimming, archery, and horse riding.” Inspired by these traditions, Zaytuna College includes swimming, archery, and horseback riding in its curriculum. Liberal education cultivates lifelong habits that are a result of deliberate, focused, and disciplined effort. The College’s Sunnah Sports curriculum aspires to cultivate these virtues through athletics and integrates the spiritual development with the development of the mind and of the body.





ZAYTUNA COLLEGE'S UPPER CAMPUS, HOME OF ITS BA PROGRAM



ZAYTUNA COLLEGE  
[zaytuna.edu/admissions](http://zaytuna.edu/admissions)

2770 Marin Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708

For more information about admissions or financial aid, please email [admissions@zaytuna.edu](mailto:admissions@zaytuna.edu) or call 510-369-5920