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| category | Autumn 2012 requirements | Proposed Autumn 2016 requirements | Changes |
| Admission requirements | BA (in practice, MA) | MA | Formalizing existing practice |
| Core seminar(s) | 5568 (3 credit hours): Studies in Orality and Literacy | 5101 (1 credit hour): Intro. to the Field of NELC | change foundational course/ NELC 5568 becomes elective. |
| Elective requirements | 1 of the following (3 credit hours each):  NELC 5401, NELC 7301,  CS 7360, CS 7370 | 2 of the following (3 credit hours each):  NELC 5401, 5568, 7301;  CS 7360, 7370; HIST 7900 | Increasing from 1 from list of 4 to 2 from list of 6. [This broadens the range of theory/methods courses available and required.] |
| Primary language/  Culture specialization | 24 graduate credit hours | no credit hour specification; fields to be defined and designed in consultation with advisors | abandoning sub-disciplines by language alone and credit hour requirements in favor of proficiency exam |
| Secondary language/  Culture specialization | 9 undergraduate or graduate credit hours | proficiency exam OR 9 undergraduate or graduate credit hours | proficiency exam may stand in for 9 undergraduate or graduate credit hours |
| ancillary/allied/minor  Field | 15 credit hours, with advisor approval | [none] | eliminated; interdisciplinarity promoted within planned specialization categories |
| general / core elective coursework | [none] | 18 graduate credit hours in NELC-department graduate courses (prefixes: Arabic, Hebrew, NELC, Persian, or Turkish) | in place of coursework requirement for specializations, to ensure disciplinary coursework coherence |
| Advanced coursework | 18 credit hours at 7000- or 8000-level, any of which can duplicate coursework for other requirement categories | 15 credit hours at 7000- or 8000-level, any of which can simultaneously count for other requirement categories | reduced from 18 to 15 credit hours |
| Maximum credit hours assessed Satisfactory/  Unsatisfactory | 12 | 12 | [no change] |
| Languages of ‘modern secondary scholarship’ | French and German, with exceptions by GSC approval, with undergrad or graduate language coursework, formal proficiency exam or waiver for undergraduate degree | French and German, with exceptions by GSC approval, with undergrad or graduate language coursework, formal proficiency exam or waiver for undergraduate degree | [no change] |
| Qualifying exams  in Near Eastern research languages | [none] | Translation exams in both primary and secondary languages. Waiver in one for advanced native speakers. | Proficiency exam substituted for coursework requirement for both primary and secondary specializations. |
| Candidacy Exams | Format and timing established by duo of Advisors | Format and timing established by duo of Advisors, only after successful completion of Qualifying Exams, expected by Summer after 3rd academic year. | Requiring Qualifying/ Translation exam passed prior to Candidacy Exam, Specifying target completion of Candidacy Exam before start of 4th year in program. |
| Dissertation | As stipulated by Graduate School and in consultation with Advisory Committee of four NELC graduate faculty members | [no change] | [no change] |