

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. Will there be classes in Ramadan?

No, classes will be paused during Ramadan and resume after Eid

2. Will there be a virtual option?

This will vary on a per-class basis. The class registration page will indicate which classes have a zoom option with a “(z)” trailing the class name. We encourage students to attend in person as that is the most conducive to paying adequate attention during class. However, we also recognize the challenges this may present for people with a busy professional or family life. Please see the attendance policy for more information on virtual attendance.

3. What is the attendance policy?

Attendance is vitally important to getting the most out of class. However, some classes will have an attendance policy where others do not. The following classes WILL have an attendance policy:

- Islamic Essentials Track classes
- Qur’anic Arabic Track classes

Classes in those tracks will require a 60% physical attendance rate, and a combined 75% physical+virtual attendance rate. Failure to reach either of those marks disqualifies the student from receiving credit from the class. Of course, we aim to be reasonable and will duly consider mitigating circumstances. The 60% physical attendance rate will be waived for students for whom physical attendance presents a recurring difficulty due to physical distance or other difficulty in attending in-person. Please contact administration ahead of time if you believe you’ll have difficulty attending in person.

4. Why do you charge for Islamic Knowledge, shouldn’t it be free?

There’s a fair argument to be made for that, however we charge for three reasons:

- To make sure the students are committed to the class
- To make sure that we hold ourselves to account and deliver a quality product
- To invest back into the institution to help us pay for visiting scholars, field trips, technology improvements and other operating costs.

5. Where can I find the class descriptions?

Please check our website

6. How many classes should I take?

As many or as few as make you comfortable. There is no expectation on any individual's pace. If you want to take one class and then perhaps skip a year, feel free to do that. We do caution you against spreading yourself too thin with multiple classes.

7. What is the target age group?

Primarily adults, but high schoolers are also welcome.

8. What is the academic calendar?

Please see the academic calendar on the website

9. How long will an individual class be?

Between 50 minutes and an hour

10. How do I contact the Garden of Knowledge Admin team?

Please email garden@themuslimcenter.org

11. Will recordings be available if classes are missed?

Recordings will be available for the Islamic Essentials and Qur'anic Arabic Track classes. Recordings may or may not be available for the other classes.

12. Will there be exams and quizzes?

There will be exams and quizzes for the Islamic Essentials and Qur'anic Arabic Track classes.

13. Can I take a class but not take the exam or quiz?

You can, but you won't get credit for the class towards whichever certification the track leads to.

14. Where can I find the teacher bios?

Please see the website.

15. Are you looking for volunteers for the Garden of Knowledge?

We can always use volunteers. Please email at garden@themuslimcenter.org if interested.

16. What if I can't comfortably afford a class but still want to take it?

Financial aid is available. We never have and never will deny entry to a class for financial reasons. Please email garden@themuslimcenter.org for any financial aid requests.

17. How will you verify that I qualify for financial aid?

We will take your word for it. You can just email garden@themuslimcenter.org with your request and we will take care of the rest.

18. What classes should I be taking now if I want to take enroll in the Alimiyyah course in 2026?

You should get started on the Islamic Essentials and the Qur'anic Arabic Track classes. You'll definitely want to take the level 1 class for Qur'anic Arabic and we recommend choosing one of the Islamic Essentials classes for '24/25. In '25/26 you can take 2 Essentials classes and level 2 of the Qur'anic Arabic Track. We might potentially offer summer courses which might help spread the load out.

19. What is the refund policy?

We will issue full refunds up until the 4th class of each course. After that there will be no refunds.

20. Why do some classes have two sections?

The same content will be taught in both classes as well as the same syllabus. The reason for having two sections is to provide flexibility to the students to attend whichever they want. They can even switch up which class they attend on a week-by-week basis.

21. How much time-commitment is required outside of class?

That depends on the individual and how much you want to excel. Generally speaking, we think 30-45 minutes should be enough per registered class.

22. Will there be sisters-only classes offered?

We are exploring this and will make it a priority In Sha Allah.

23. Are these the only classes and instructors that will be offered during the 24/25 academic year?

No, we aim to roll out more short classes during the academic year and arrange for visiting scholars. Please stay tuned.