

MA Program



Master's Program in South Asian Studies

CSAS offers an interdisciplinary Master of Arts program in South Asian studies (SAS) designed to introduce students to the area and to one or more of its languages. It is intended to provide broad area and language training at the graduate level for students with either academic or professional interests. It is ideal for students with in-country experience who want to channel their experience into a more formal direction, acquire further language competence, and interact with other specialists in an interdisciplinary environment; students interested in augmenting their professional training (in business, public policy, law, etc.) with a rigorous grounding in South Asian languages and regional knowledge; and students interested in pursuing a doctoral degree with a South Asia focus who wish to develop their language skills and foundational knowledge in the region and chosen discipline prior to applying to a PhD program. This program is offered through the University of Michigan **Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies** and administered by the **International Institute**.

The annual application deadline is December 15.

– Requirements



The normal program of study for the SAS M.A. takes two years and includes the following requirements:

- **Minimum Credit Requirement.** Students must complete a minimum of 24 credit hours of graduate-level work in SAS-approved courses, at least 12 credits must be at the 500-level or above, and one course must include substantial writing (usually at the 600-level).
- **Course Distribution.** Courses must be distributed in at least three disciplines, such as art, anthropology, history, literature, music, political science, religion, or sociology. Language is not considered a discipline for the purpose of this requirement.
- **Proseminar in South Asian Studies.** SAS 501, which is typically offered each fall (3 credits).
- **Language Proficiency.** Students must attain at least second-year proficiency in a SA language (equivalent to four terms at U-M). The language requirement may be fulfilled by coursework or by demonstrating competency via a placement exam. Credits earned in advanced language courses (400-level or above) may be counted toward the minimum credit requirement.
- **Master's Essay.** A substantial research paper, which is the product of an individual research project. The paper should achieve the quality of a publishable academic article. Students may enroll in SAS 798 during the semester that the thesis is completed.

– Advising

MA students should meet with the CSAS Advisor at least three times throughout the course of their degree: once at orientation, again near the end of their first year to discuss plans for the thesis and for guidance in selecting a thesis advisor, and early in their final semester to conduct a degree audit. Additional appointments can be scheduled as necessary. **Schedule an advising appointment**

– How to Apply

The MA program admits students once per year for the fall term. Individuals **apply online** through the **Rackham School of Graduate Studies**. Online applications will go directly to Rackham and CSAS. The online application opens in early September and the deadline is **December 15**. If you are applying for a dual degree program, you must also complete an application for the other program. Please note in both applications that you are applying for a dual degree program.

A UMID number will be issued to you by email once you complete the first five pages of the online application and advance to page 6. Having your UMID number to include on all your application materials ensures accurate and timely processing, **so we encourage you to complete pages 1-5 early in the process.**

The Rackham online application requires the following:

- **Statement of Purpose:** A concise, well-written statement about your academic and research background, your career goals, and how Michigan's SAS program will help you meet your career and educational objectives.
- **Personal Statement:** A concise, well-written statement about how your personal background and life experiences, including social, cultural, familial, educational, or other opportunities or challenges, motivated your decision to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Michigan. This is not an Academic Statement of Purpose, but a discussion of the personal journey that has led to your decision to seek a graduate degree in SAS.
- **Recommendations:** Three letters of recommendation are required. These should be from academic sources if possible. Applicants may request and track recommendations using the Rackham online application. For tips on how to manage your recommendations online, **see this Rackham web page.**
- Academic writing sample in English. Maximum 20 pages.

Transcripts/Academic Records

- All applicants are required to send to Rackham a complete set of official academic records/transcripts from undergraduate and postgraduate institutions from which you have or will receive a degree.
- E-transcripts are preferred but paper transcripts are also acceptable. More information on transcripts sent to Rackham can **be found here**; graduates of non-US institutions should also see **additional instructions here**

- In addition, CSAS encourages the submission of transcripts from other postsecondary institutions at which you have completed relevant language and area studies courses, such as study abroad programs, junior colleges, and summer sessions. Transcripts may be submitted electronically at ii-gradadvising@umich.edu or mailed to:

International Institute Graduate Academic Services
ATTN: CSAS Transcripts
Suite 300, Weiser Hall
500 Church Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1042

Test Scores

- Applicants must send GRE scores to Rackham, institutional code 1839. Dual-degree applicants may use GMAT or LSAT scores in place of the GRE.
- Applicants whose native language is not English must demonstrate English proficiency or meet the criteria for an exemption. More information can be found at rackham.umich.edu/admissions/tests.

For more information, contact ii-gradadvising@umich.edu.

– Financial Aid



Applicants to the MA program who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents are encouraged to apply for **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships** and for need-based financial aid through the **Office of Financial Aid**. Students are also encouraged to investigate the **fellowships and grants** offered by the International Institute and the **Funding information provided by Rackham**.

Dual Degree Masters Programs



In addition to the stand-alone MA, CSAS offers dual degree programs that combine the MA with graduate degrees offered by other programs at U-M. In addition to pre-defined dual degree programs, students may also combine the SAS MA with graduate degrees in other units as a self-initiated dual degree. Applicants may apply for admission simultaneously to both programs, or start in one program and apply to their second program during their first year.

Interested applicants should contact both programs to which they wish to apply, and must gain separate and independent admission to both programs. Applicants will need to submit applications, fees, and other required materials to each program separately. When filling out application forms, applicants should be sure to check the dual degree boxes on both forms.

– South Asian Studies and Business



The **Stephen M. Ross School of Business** and CSAS offer a pre-defined dual degree program leading to concurrent MBA and MA degrees. This program combines professional training in the fundamentals of business administration with intensive interdisciplinary study of South Asia. Students completing the program will be prepared to pursue business careers and other opportunities in the region.

This dual degree program may begin with studies in either school; however, because of the sequential nature of core courses in the MBA program, most students will find it advantageous to devote their first year to business courses. The 69-credit hour program is arranged so that all requirements for both degrees may be completed within three years of full time, day time enrollment, and the degrees are awarded simultaneously. This program is not open to students who have earned either an MBA or MA in SAS from another institution.

For more information including a sample plan of study, see the **Business School's dual degree page**. The application for admission to the MBA program is available through the Ross School of Business website.

For further information on the SAS MA, see **Master's Degree Program**.

*GMAT scores may be submitted to both programs and will be considered in place of the GRE for SAS MA admissions.

– Other Dual Degree Options



In addition to the established dual degree program in business, qualified students may combine a SAS MA degree with another U-M graduate or professional degree to create a self-initiated dual degree program. In recent years, SAS students have received dual degrees in SAS and architecture and urban planning, environment and sustainability, law, public health, public policy, and social work. Interested students must seek admission from both degree programs; students may apply simultaneously to both

programs, or start in one and apply to the second during their first year. Dual degree students are advised to work closely with advisors from both units to ensure that the requirements for both degrees are met in a timely manner.

For further information on student-initiated dual degree programs, please refer to Rackham Graduate School's **dual degree policies**.

CSAS FAO Program



CSAS is proud to offer the MA program to Foreign Area Officers (FAOs).

Why choose the University of Michigan?

- U-M is a low cost institution, **providing in-state tuition** for all active duty military students
- U-M is recognized as a “Military Friendly University” by Military Advanced Education Magazine
- Home to the Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, which promotes scholarship to better understand the conditions and policies fostering transformations from authoritarian rule to democracy.
- MA program can be completed in 12 or 18 months

Requirements

FAO students complete the CSAS **MA requirements** in a compressed timeframe.

Term	Course	Course Title	Credits
Fall	SAS 501	Proseminar in South Asian Studies	3
	SAS Elective	Selected in Coordination with Advisor to meet distribution requirements	3
	Language Course	Determined by Current Language Level	6
Winter	SAS Electives	Selected in Coordination with Advisor to meet distribution requirements	3
	Language Course	Determined by Current Language Level	3
Summer	SAS 798	MA Essay in South Asian Studies	3
		Total	24

Winter Term (January) Admissions

Students seeking a January start date will need to complete the application for the fall term preceding enrollment. Please contact the **academic services** office for more information.