



Z A Y T U N A C O L L E G E

Zaytuna Q&A

August 23, 2010

How many students will be enrolled at Zaytuna College in the inaugural semester?

There will be fifteen (15) students this Fall.

What is the mix of the freshman class in terms of religion and ethnicity?

All of the students of Zaytuna College's incoming class are Muslims and come from a diverse ethnic background, which reflects the diversity of Muslims in America. In our incoming class, we have: six (6) African-American students, two (2) Caucasian students, three (3) Arab-American students, one (1) Hispanic student, and three (3) South-Asian students.

Must a student or teacher be Muslim to attend or teach at Zaytuna?

No. Zaytuna College welcomes students and teachers of all faiths and perspectives.

How difficult will it be for a student to get accepted into Zaytuna?

Zaytuna College is very competitive. The average GPA of our incoming class is 3.5. Students will be required to complete 138 semester hours of classes, including general education and major and specialization courses. At least 48 upper-division units are required for the completion of the degree.

How many students do you hope to have in the future?

Our plan calls for slow growth and the number of students will be dependent on internal institutional developments as well as the availability of financial resources.

Why is it so important to balance American culture with Islamic teachings?

We believe it is very important for Muslim religious teachers to understand the culture of American society so they can be more effective teachers.

What are some examples of Islamic-based classes that the students will be required to take at the school?

Some of courses that Zaytuna College will be offering are: Islamic Theology, Islamic Ethics, Introduction to Islamic Jurisprudence, Islamic Business and Finance Law, Muslims in America: Community and Institutions

Are you requesting or receiving government funding for the school? How is the college funded?

No, we are not currently receiving any government funding. We receive financial

contributions from the Muslim community in the United States. Zaytuna donors come from all regions of the United States, and their financial contributions reflect the broad spectrum of socioeconomic strata in our community.

How long do you think it will take to get fully accredited?

We have begun the process of working toward accreditation with Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), and will focus energy toward this goal. That said, it can be a very time-intensive process and takes any new academic institution at least four years to achieve. According to WASC, a typical accreditation process is 4-8 years.

Do you think graduates of Zaytuna will find it challenging to find jobs or get accepted into good graduate schools? It seems as though that will be especially challenging until Zaytuna itself is accredited.

No. Zaytuna College is a high-quality educational institution with world class instruction and a challenging curriculum. We have carefully designed a rigorous curriculum in Islamic Studies and Arabic, as well as in the humanities and social sciences, so our students can confidently navigate the cultural, political, and intellectual currents that are shaping our world. We are also seeking accreditation from the most demanding accrediting bodies in the United States, as well as recognition from major educational institutions in the Muslim world, such as Egypt's al-Azhar University. Finally, we are building an endowment in due time will rival that of comparable academic institutions.

Have you experienced any backlash yet? If so, what is your response?

We have not received any backlash.

Are you trying to convert Americans into Muslims through this college? Is that part of the unspoken mission?

No. The mission of Zaytuna College is to educate and prepare morally committed professional, intellectual, and spiritual leaders who are grounded in the Islamic scholarly tradition and conversant with the cultural currents and critical ideas shaping modern society.