

SALAM Center for Higher Islamic Learning (Located in the First Floor)

The Center occupies the entire first floor of about 12,000 sq. ft. to achieve the following vision:

1. The Center positions itself as a preeminent source for Islamic learning by providing extensive resources of Islamic knowledge and modern delivery methods for all members of the community regardless of religion or gender.
2. The Center, through its extensive educational programs, promotes Islamic learning at intellectually higher levels based on research, concepts, analysis, contemplation, and critical thinking.
3. The Center fills a growing need for providing authentic Islamic knowledge by establishing close affiliations with various educational and religious institutions to sponsor or support a variety of educational programs.
4. The Center employs *ijtihad* methods as a processor reasoning in order to find Islamic answers to contemporary issues and promote them for adoption by the community and the governing political structures as a matter of policy.
5. The Center develops and provides curriculum resources to area teachers in private and public schools and to other educational institutions through curriculum resource services.
6. The Center reaches out to local colleges to establish joint academic programs where faculty and students can visit SALAM and its facilities to learn, first hand, about Islamic teachings.
7. The Center receives groups such as congregations and school and college classes to visit the Masjid and the Center. We conduct tours of the facilities for them and answer their questions about Islam and Muslims. Some of the groups visit on Fridays to observe Friday prayer service with us.
8. The Center conducts a series of lectures and seminars in the new Auditorium on various Islamic topics directed at enhancing Islamic education and resolution of issues through Islamic perspective.
9. The Center alters as necessary the Islamic educational plans for SALAM community, including the plans for adults, men and women, youth and children, through a variety of training classes.
10. College students (Muslims & Non-Muslims) are encouraged to enroll in special projects and internships for credit in their colleges and be supervised by SALAM knowledgeable personnel. For instance, CSUS has the following lists available to students for up to 3 units of credit:

Undergraduate Students:

- 195 Internship: supervised work experience with outside organizations
- 196 Experimental Offerings
- 199 Special Problems

Graduate Students:

- 295 internship
- 296 Experimental Offerings
- 299 Special Problems

The Center consists of the following key facilities to achieve the above goals:

The Sharif Family Community Library

The heart and the brain of the center is the library which occupies over 1900 sq. ft. of floor space. The Library is planned to provide thousands of books, CD's, DVD's, and video tapes. It is planned to be equipped with an electronic catalog, computer work stations and audio/video stations, in addition to desks for circulation and reference services. It is planned to be furnished with tables for reading, individual study carrels, and a group study room. The library is planned to be electronically networked to access national and global information from resource and research centers. The online catalog is planned to be Internet accessible.

The library's learning environment is in a quiet area of the Center in order to encourage study and research.

The Auditorium

The auditorium has seating capacity for about 200 in auditorium format. It is the state-of-the art facility with 12x16 ft stage area, well equipped with latest audio/ visual, lighting and acoustic technology. The Auditorium caters to the growing need for variety of community programs such as conferences, seminars, panel discussions, large group lectures, town hall meetings, and Islamic programs. Additionally the auditorium also serves as a source of revenue through rental income.

The Conference Room

The Center has a Conference Room for meetings and/or workshops.

The Community Lounge:

The Center has a Community Lounge to provide refreshments for conferences, seminars and meetings. The Lounge includes youth recreation center with table games, ping pong tables, etc.

The Book and Gift Store

A 450 sq. ft. facility is configured as an Islamic Book and Gift Store, open to the community at large. It is intended to be operated professionally and is slated to be a significant source of revenue for SALAM. The demand for Islamic materials has grown significantly among both Muslims and non-Muslims and this facility is planned to fill that need.

The Administrative Offices

The offices of the Executive Director and the Office Manager are located in the Center For Higher Islamic Learning to be in charge of the daily operations.

Other Facilities

Special emphasis has been placed to attract the youth to this center by providing venues for socializing and recreation along with a multitude of educational activities.