

Religious Studies

Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science

The religious studies program promotes the study of religion—in all its complexity, richness, and variety—as a phenomenon of human existence in a liberal arts environment.

Its goals are to:

- foster an understanding of human values through the study of religious traditions such as myth, ritual, and sacred texts;
- prepare students for success in further educational pursuits and/or professional endeavors by teaching critical thinking, communication, and other relevant skills;
- stimulate an appreciation of lifelong learning in the humanities, both on and off campus;
- uphold the merit criteria of teaching, scholarship, and service outlined in the Faculty Handbook.

Students who major in religious studies explore the important role played by faith traditions in shaping our intellectual tradition. Religions have played, and continue to play, a profound role in the way people shape their lives. The religious studies program examines the nature of religious conviction and explores how those convictions shape our perception of life and death, good and evil, justice and mercy.

A person majoring in religious studies can expect to build a solid foundation for his or her own religious experiences and lay the groundwork for further exploration of the Bible, religion, and theology. He or she can also expect to develop an enlightened perspective from which to approach other religious traditions and academic disciplines. Students in religious studies strive toward a career and lifestyle guided by religious faith and understanding, in religious fields as well as other fields of study.

Students who graduate with a degree in religious studies pursue a wide variety of careers and graduate programs. No matter what your career goals are, a religious studies major can prepare you with skills for a variety of professions while enhancing lifelong learning.

Religious Studies Requirements:

- General Education Requirements
- Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science Requirements
- Major Requirements
- Electives
- Internship (optional, but encouraged)

Total Credit Hours | 120

General Education Requirements

See details in the General Education section of the catalog.

Bachelor of Arts Requirements

Proficiency in a foreign language, demonstrated through:

- Graduation from a high school where all instruction was conducted in a language other than English;
- Passing a CLEP or other designated examination at the intermediate level;

- Completion of one of the College's language sequences through the intermediate level (non-Spanish). Intermediate level proficiency (for students enrolled in Spanish) will be demonstrated by the successful completion of SPA 211 or a higher level 3-hour SPA course.

OR

Bachelor of Science Requirements

6-8 additional hours in math or science, not duplicating core coursework, taken from:

Prefix	Course Number
BIO	101, 102, 105, 114, 115, 121, 122
CHM	101, 111
MAT	111, 112, 116, 117, 215, 220, 227
PHY	101, 111, 112
SCI	211

Major Requirements | 36 Credit Hours

Including a total of 15 hours of 300 and 400 level courses.

Class Name	Credit Hours
Foundation and Capstone 15 Credit Hours	
REL 110 Introduction to Religion	3 credit hours
REL 116 Sacred Texts and Popular Culture	3 credit hours
HUM 231 Advanced Research and Composition	3 credit hours
REL 381 Religious Traditions of India, China, and Japan	3 credit hours
REL 499 Senior Research Seminar	3 credit hours
Culture, Tradition and Biblical Studies 21 Credit Hours	
REL 225 Issues in Ethics	3 credit hours
REL 226 Readings in Ethics	3 credit hours
REL 241 Religion and Ultimate Questions	3 credit hours
REL 243 Mythology and the Religion of Ancient Greece	3 credit hours
REL 271 Christianity in History and Tradition	3 credit hours
REL 311 Monotheistic Religious Traditions	3 credit hours
REL 321 Life and Letters of Paul	3 credit hours
REL 341 Prophetic Literature	3 credit hours
REL 361 Life and Teachings of Jesus	3 credit hours
REL 365 Theology and Film	3 credit hours
REL 366 Jesus in Hollywood	3 credit hours
REL 391 The Book of Genesis	3 credit hours
REL 432 The Gospel of John	3 credit hours
REL 441 Women and Redemption	3 credit hours

Class Name	Credit Hours
REL 455 Critical Perspectives on Religion	3 credit hours
REL 461 The Art of Biblical Narrative	3 credit hours
REL 471 Religious Studies Internship	3 credit hours

Electives | 9 Credit Hours

Students interested in careers in counseling, youth ministry or camp environments, or integrating the arts into sacred or secular experiences, may also fulfill up to 9 hours of elective credit by taking any of the following courses:

Class Name	Credit Hours
LHF/ORM 102 Outdoor Living Skills	3 credit hours
LHF 231 Rock Climbing	2 credit hours
PSY 204 Theories of Personality	3 credit hours
PSY 202 Abnormal Psychology	3 credit hours
SOC 251 Social Problems	3 credit hours

Internship | 3 Credit Hours

Students are encouraged to complete an internship (REL 471) for up to 3 hours of course credit.

Religious Studies

Minor

The religious studies minor requires 18 credit hours of credit beyond general education and degree requirements, 9 of which must come from the foundation and capstone category.

Required Classes | 18 Credit Hours

Class Name	Credit Hours
Foundation and Capstone Choose 9 Credit Hours	
REL 110 Introduction to Religion	3 credit hours
REL 116 Sacred Texts and Popular Culture	3 credit hours
REL 381 Religious Traditions of India, China, and Japan	3 credit hours
Culture, Tradition and Biblical Studies Select 9 Credit Hours	
REL 225 Issues in Ethics	3 credit hours
REL 226 Readings in Ethics	3 credit hours
REL 241 Religion and Ultimate Questions	3 credit hours
REL 243 Mythology and the Religion of Ancient Greece	3 credit hours
REL 271 Christianity in History and Tradition	3 credit hours
REL 311 Monotheistic Religious Traditions	3 credit hours
REL 321 Life and Letters of Paul	3 credit hours
REL 341 Prophetic Literature	3 credit hours
REL 361 Life and Teachings of Jesus	3 credit hours
REL 365 Theology and Film	3 credit hours
REL 366 Jesus in Hollywood	3 credit hours
REL 391 The Book of Genesis	3 credit hours
REL 432 The Gospel of John	3 credit hours
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