

Religious Studies B.A.

Religious Studies Major

The B.A. Religious Studies major requires a minimum of 120 total hours to graduate. This total includes UNIFI/General Education requirements, 30 hours of coursework in the major, plus electives to complete the minimum of 120 hours.

The Religious Studies major emphasizes multiple ways that religions shape and reflect the world around us. The major is flexible, so that students can tailor their coursework to suit their interests and career pathways. The Religious Studies major is organized around three programmatic learning outcomes and practical skills students can transfer across fields and industries, like oral and written communication, critical thinking, problem-solving, ethical responsibility, and working on teams.

Required:

Religious Studies Core Course **3**

One course from the following:

RELS 1020	Religions of the World
RELS 1040	The Power of Myth: (Topic)
RELS 1060	American Religious Diversity

Applied Religious Studies **3**

RELS 4490	Professional Development Seminar
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Electives: **24**

Students can choose from courses not used above or from the following courses in Religious Studies. All RELS courses (including any RELS 3159 course) that do not already fulfill other requirements for the major are considered Electives:

RELS 1510	Religion, Ethics, and Film
RELS 2001	Old Testament and Other Hebrew Scriptures
RELS 2002	New Testament and Early Christian Writings
RELS 2100	Hinduism and Buddhism
RELS 2110	Confucianism, Daoism, and Zen
RELS 2120	Judaism and Islam
RELS 2130	Christianity
RELS 2140	Philosophy of Religion
RELS 2220	Faith and Reason: Philosophy in the Middle Ages
RELS 2600	Religion and the Public Schools
RELS 3080/5080	Individual Readings in Religion
RELS 3110	Perspectives on Death and Dying
RELS 3150	Women and Christianity
RELS 3180	Religion and Politics: (Topics)
RELS 3200	Religion and Law

RELS 3300	Bible and Ethics
RELS 3400	Religion and Race
RELS 3500	Religion and Ethics
RELS 3974/5974	Ethics, Responsible AI, and Business
RELS 4230/5230	Religion in America
RELS 4186/5186	Studies in Religion
RELS 4600	Internship in Religion
and not more than two courses from:	
PHIL 1580	Ethics for Professional Life
RELS 1540	Ethics in Business
RELS/PHIL 2550	Environmental Ethics
RELS/PHIL 2570	Good Sex: The Ethics of Human Sexuality
RELS/PHIL 3510	Bio-Medical Ethics

Total Hours **30**

Four-Year Plan

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This is a sample plan of study with a suggested sequencing of classes for the major. University electives may be applied to earn additional academic majors, minors, or certificates. Students should regularly meet with their academic advisor to plan their specific semester schedule to include UNIFI/General Education program and/or university elective hours required.

Course	Title	Hour
Freshman		
Fall		
RELS 1020	Religions of the World (or RELS 1040 or RELS 1060)	3
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives		12
		Hours
		15
Spring		
RELS 2120	Judaism and Islam (or RELS 2130 Christianity)	3
One RELS course in Textual & Analytical Explorations		3
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives		9
		Hours
		15
Sophomore		
Fall		
RELS 2100	Hinduism and Buddhism (or RELS 2110 Confucianism, Daoism and Zen)	3
One RELS course in Religion & Culture		3
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives		9
		Hours
		15
Spring		
One RELS Course in Interactions/Traditions		3
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives		12
		Hours
		15
Junior		
Fall		
RELS 4490	Professional Development Seminar (If Even Fall)	3

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Two RELS Courses	6
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives	6
Hours	15
Spring	
Two RELS Courses	6
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives	9
Hours	15
Senior	
Fall	
RELS 4490	3
Professional Development Seminar (IF Even Fall)	
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives	12
Hours	15
Spring	
One RELS Course	3
UNIFI/General Education or University Electives	12
Hours	15
Total Hours	120

Learning Outcomes

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GOAL #1: Majors in the Religious Studies reflect critically and empathetically on the subject.

- To demonstrate that they have fulfilled this goal they are able to: differentiate between devotional practices and the academic study of religion, examine the meanings and functions of religion in human life and/or think critically about themselves and their place in the world.

GOAL #2: Majors in the Religious Studies have knowledge of the practices, beliefs, values, and worldviews of major religions: Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

- To demonstrate that they have fulfilled this goal they are able to: describe similarities and differences among traditions, explain diverse religious viewpoints within each tradition, identify the impact of religions on a local, national, and/or global scale, and/or describe examples of important religious disagreements, controversies, or issues.

GOAL #3: Majors in the Religious Studies have skills that are highly valued by employers; they are able to relate their major to their career and to their future goals.

- To demonstrate that they have fulfilled this goal they are able to: explain and interpret a variety of texts, produce professional-quality documents for a variety of audiences, identify and use quality resources to conduct research on religion, competently and comfortably present research or ideas orally, and/or work effectively in teams. They can also persuasively explain to prospective employers outside the field of religion how what they have learned in the study of religion will enable them to be excellent employees who can do a variety of different tasks competently.

Related Programs

- Ethics Minor
- History B.A.
- Philosophy B.A.