

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, BA

Degree: Bachelor of Arts (BA)

Major: Religious Studies

Program Overview

The study of religion at Case Western Reserve University is multicultural, non-sectarian and interdisciplinary. Religious studies is a multicultural and multi-disciplinary field, drawing on such disciplines as anthropology, history, philosophy, psychology and textual studies to help us understand the character and role of religion and religions in human life. In addition students have the opportunity to explore various important religious traditions—Bible, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, for example—in greater depth.

A major in religious studies provides a well-rounded liberal arts education or can be combined conveniently with a second major. The academic study of religion provides an excellent background for a variety of professional careers—including law, engineering, medicine and health care delivery, journalism, and social work -and for graduate studies in a number of fields. The Department of Religious Studies also contributes courses to and supports a number of the college's interdisciplinary programs such as Asian Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, Environmental Studies, Judaic Studies and International Studies.

The major program in Religious Studies is designed around three main learning objectives: (a) to provide solid grounding in the theories, methods, and critical questions of academic religious studies; (b) to ensure a depth and breadth of understanding in a diverse range of religious traditions; and (c) to enable students to pursue a particular focus at an advanced level.

Undergraduate Policies

For undergraduate policies and procedures, please review the Office of Undergraduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

Accelerated Master's Programs

Undergraduate students may participate in accelerated programs toward graduate or professional degrees. For more information and details of the policies and procedures related to accelerated studies, please visit the Office of Undergraduate Studies section of the General Bulletin.

Program Requirements

Students seeking to complete this major and degree program must meet the general requirements for bachelor's degrees and the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences. Students completing this program as a secondary major while completing another undergraduate degree program do not need to satisfy the latter set of requirements.

Students majoring in religious studies must complete a minimum of 30 semester hours. The program is designed with three main learning objectives in mind: (a) to provide a solid grounding in the theories, methods, and critical questions of academic religious studies; (b) to ensure a depth and breadth of understanding in a diverse range of religious traditions; and (c) to enable students to pursue a particular

focus at an advanced level. The requirements for the major are as follows:

Code	Title	Hours
RLGN 101	Religion and Culture	3
RLGN 201	Interpreting Religion: Approaches and Current Issues [*]	3
Seven electives, with at least three being 300-level, to be determined in consultation with one's religious studies advisor ^{**}		21
ONE CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE:		3
RLGN 399	Major/Minor Seminar or RLG 395 Honors Research II	
Total Hours		30

* RLG 201 Interpreting Religion: Approaches and Current Issues focuses on the history and development of the field of academic religious studies, canonical theories and methodologies, and current academic approaches, issues, and debates. This course replaces the former RLG 299.

** Up to six of these elective credit hours may be taken outside the Department of Religious Studies, provided that the courses relate to the overall character of the major.