Religious studies is an academic discipline that looks at religious phenomena worldwide from a variety of angles in order to understand the many roles that religion plays in human life. To this end, students of religion learn to use a variety of theoretical analyses and methods. These include historical methods to understand how religions develop in time; critical literary methods to understand religious ideas; aesthetic methods to understand religious art and material culture; social-scientific methods to understand the relationship between religion, society and culture. Religious studies can also engage a variety of professional disciplines in analysis of how religion functions in economic, educational or political contexts, healthcare and scientific research, to name some examples.

Some ways of studying religion emphasize understanding religions on their own terms, other ways use comparative methods to discern differences and similarities between religions. Students of religion also study ways that people use religious resources to make meaning outside the boundaries of religious institutions and identities. Above all, the field of religious studies requires a willingness to explore different ways of interpreting human life and diligent effort to develop understanding of how religious ideas, symbols, rituals and spaces serve as resources for people in a variety of contexts as they make sense of and live out their lives in the world. Thus, religious studies provides important preparation for thinking, communicating and functioning professionally and personally in a complex, multidimensional world.

COURSES

Because religious studies is an interdisciplinary program drawing upon many departments, some courses may have prerequisites in their home departments that must be fulfilled even though the prerequisites themselves have no bearing on progress within the religious studies major. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all the prerequisites to enter a course before they enroll in it. The current list of courses can be found in the Religious Studies course list page (http://guide.wisc.edu/courses/relig_st) in the Guide.

HOW TO GET IN

Students who wish to declare their intention to major in religious studies must meet with the undergraduate advisor during regular office hours or by making an appointment. Students are encouraged to do this early in their academic careers in order to plan for successful completion and take advantage of opportunities such as Honors, special research, internship, service learning, or study abroad opportunities in associate with the major or certificate.

REQUIREMENTS

UNIVERSITY GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

All undergraduate students at the University of Wisconsin–Madison are required to fulfill a minimum set of common university general education requirements to ensure that every graduate acquires the essential core of an undergraduate education. This core establishes a foundation for living a productive life, being a citizen of the world, appreciating aesthetic values, and engaging in lifelong learning in a continually changing world.

Various schools and colleges will have requirements in addition to the requirements listed below. Consult your advisor for assistance, as needed. For additional information, see the university Undergraduate General Education Requirements (http://guide.wisc.edu/undergraduate/#requirementsforundergraduatetext) section of the Guide.

General Education

- Breadth—Humanities/Literature/Arts: 6 credits
- Breadth—Natural Science: 4 to 6 credits, consisting of one 4- or 5-credit course with a laboratory component; or two courses providing a total of 6 credits
- Breadth—Social Studies: 3 credits
- Communication Part A & Part B *
- Ethnic Studies *
- Quantitative Reasoning Part A & Part B *

* The mortarboard symbol appears before the title of any course that fulfills one of the Communication Part A or Part B, Ethnic Studies, or Quantitative Reasoning Part A or Part B requirements.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

BREADTH AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.S.)

Students pursuing a bachelor of science degree in the College of Letters & Science must complete all of the requirements below. The College of Letters & Science allows this major to be paired with either a bachelor of arts or a bachelor of science curriculum. View a comparison of the degree requirements here. (https://pubs.wisc.edu/home/archives/ug15/images/babs2009.pdf)

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Mathematics

- Two (2) 3+ credits of intermediate/advanced level MATH, COMP SCI, STAT
- Limit one each: COMP SCI, STAT

Foreign Language

- Complete the third unit of a foreign language
- Note: A unit is one year of high school work or one semester/term of college work.

L&S Breadth

- Humanities, 12 credits: 6 of the 12 credits must be in literature
- Social Sciences, 12 credits
- Natural Sciences, 12 credits: must include 6 credits in biological science; and must include 6 credits in physical science

Liberal Arts and Science Coursework

- 108 credits

Depth of Intermediate/Advanced work

- 60 intermediate or advanced credits

Major

- Declare and complete at least one (1) major

Total Credits

- 120 credits

UW-Madison

- 30 credits in residence, overall

Experience

- 30 credits in residence after the 86th credit
Minimum GPAs

2.000 in all coursework at UW–Madison

2.000 in intermediate/advanced coursework at UW–Madison

NON–L&S STUDENTS PURSUING AN L&S MAJOR

Non–L&S students who have permission from their school/college to pursue an additional major within L&S only need to fulfill the major requirements and do not need to complete the L&S breadth and degree requirements above. Please note that the following special degree programs are not considered majors so are not available to non-L&S-degree-seeking candidates:

• Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics (Bachelor of Science–Applied Mathematics, Engineering and Physics)
• Journalism (Bachelor of Arts–Journalism; Bachelor of Science–Journalism)
• Music (Bachelor of Music)
• Social Work (Bachelor of Social Work)

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR

Students must complete 30 credits in Religious Studies course work, to include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 101</td>
<td>Religion in Global Perspective</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 102</td>
<td>Exploring Religion in Sickness and Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 103</td>
<td>Exploring Religion and Sexuality</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 300</td>
<td>America and Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/GEN&amp;WS 305</td>
<td>Women, Gender and Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/ASIAN/HISTORY 308</td>
<td>Introduction to Buddhism</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY/MEDIEVAL 309</td>
<td>The Crusades: Christianity and Islam</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY/MEDIEVAL 311</td>
<td>Medieval Social and Intellectual History, 1200-1450</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY/MEDIEVAL 327</td>
<td>Christianity and the Almighty Dollar</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/JEWISH/LITTRANS 328</td>
<td>Classical Rabbinic Literature in Translation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HIST SCI/MED HIST 331</td>
<td>Science, Medicine and Religion</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/CLASSICS/HEBR-BIB/JEWISH/LITTRANS 332</td>
<td>Prophets of the Bible</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 333</td>
<td>Early Christian Literature: Matthew-Revelation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY 334</td>
<td>The Reformation</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/CLASSICS/JEWISH 335</td>
<td>King David in History and Tradition</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/FOLKLORE/LITTRANS/MEDIEVAL 342</td>
<td>In Translation: Mythology of Scandinavia</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ANTHRO 343</td>
<td>Anthropology of Religion</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/CLASSICS/JEWISH 346</td>
<td>Jewish Literature of the Greco-Roman Period</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ASIAN 350</td>
<td>Introduction to Taoism</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ASIAN 352</td>
<td>Shamanism</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ASIAN 306</td>
<td>Hinduism</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/ENGL/HISTORY 360</td>
<td>Islam, Science &amp; Technology, and the Environment</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 361</td>
<td>Early Christian Literature: Pauline Christianity</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 362</td>
<td>Introduction to Confucianism</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/AFRICAN/ASIAN 370</td>
<td>Islam: Religion and Culture</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ART HIST 373</td>
<td>Great Cities of Islam</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY 379</td>
<td>The Rhetoric of Religion</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/COM ARTS 374</td>
<td>Islam in Iran</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY 379</td>
<td>Topics in Religious Studies - Humanities</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 400</td>
<td>Topics in Religious Studies - Social Studies</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 401</td>
<td>Topics in Religious Studies-US Ethnic Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 403</td>
<td>African American Religions</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST 406</td>
<td>The Amish</td>
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<td>RELIG ST 410</td>
<td>Children and Religion in America</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/HISTORY 411</td>
<td>The Enlightenment and Its Critics</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELIG ST/POLI SCI 433</td>
<td>Religion and Politics</td>
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<td>RELIG ST/ENGL 434</td>
<td>Milton</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Religious Studies, B.S.


HONORS IN THE MAJOR

Students may declare Honors in the Major in consultation with the Religious Studies undergraduate advisor.

HONORS IN THE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

To earn Honors in the Major, students must satisfy both the requirements for the major (above) and these additional requirements:

- Minimum 3.300 University GPA
- Minimum 3.500 GPA in all RELIG ST and all major courses
- Complete 19 credits, taken for Honors, with individual grades of B or better, to include:
  - RELIG ST 600
  - RELIG ST 601
  - RELIG ST 681 and RELIG ST 682 for at least 6 credits.
- 6 additional credits of Intermediate or Advanced level RELIG ST and major courses

UNIVERSITY DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Total Degree To receive a bachelor’s degree from UW–Madison, students must earn a minimum of 120 degree credits. The requirements for some programs may exceed 120 degree credits. Students should consult with their college or department advisor for information on specific credit requirements.

Residency Degree candidates are required to earn a minimum of 30 credits in residence at UW–Madison. “In residence” means on the UW–Madison campus with an undergraduate degree classification. “In residence” credit also includes UW–Madison courses offered in distance or online formats and credits earned in UW–Madison Study Abroad/Study Away programs.

Quality of Work Undergraduate students must maintain the minimum grade point average specified by the school, college, or academic program to remain in good academic standing. Students whose academic performance drops below these minimum thresholds will be placed on academic probation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

1. Proficiency in close reading, interpretation, and written and oral analysis.
2. Proficiency in accessing, appraising, and utilizing a variety of resources and methods for research across disciplinary lines.
3. Proficiency in categorizing, analyzing and comparing diverse systems of value and belief in a variety of contexts.
4. Global and local religious literacy; identifying, evaluating, and interpreting the interrelationships and impact of religious worldviews and communities in Wisconsin, the United States and globally.
Total Credits 120

### Electives

Science Breadth (numbered 300 or above)

RELIG ST Elective

RELIG ST 600

Fall

Elective

STAT (if needed for B.S.)

I/A COMP SCI, MATH or Social Science Breadth

RELIG ST Elective

Third Year

Second Year

First Year

Four-Year Plan

Fall

Credits

Spring

Credits

Fall

Credits

Spring

Credits

Fall

Credits

Spring

Credits

Fall

Credits

Spring

Credits

Fall

Credits

Spring

Credits

RELIG ST 101, 102, or 103

3 RELIG ST course meeting Literature Breadth

3

Communication A

3 RELIG ST elective

3

Quantitative Reasoning A

3-4 Biological Science Breadth

3

Foreign Language (if needed)

4 Social Science Breadth

3

Elective

3 Elective

3

RELIG ST course with Literature Breadth

3 RELIG ST/ILS 234 or 236 (meets Communication B requirement)

3

Quantitative Reasoning B

3 RELIG ST/FOLKLORE 352, 403, or 404 (meets Ethnic Studies requirement)

3

Social Science Breadth

3 Physical Science Breadth

3

Elective

I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for B.S.)

3

INTER-LS 210

1 Elective

4

RELIG ST Elective

6 RELIG ST Elective

3

Social Science Breadth

3 Science Breadth

3

I/A COMP SCI, MATH or STAT (if needed for B.S.)

3 Social Science Breadth

3

Elective

3 Electives

6

RELIG ST 600

3 RELIG ST 601

4

RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)

3 RELIG ST Elective (numbered 300 or above)

6

Science Breadth

3 Elective

4

Electives

6

15

15

Total Credits 120

1 Consult the Course Search & Enroll tool for a comprehensive list of RELIG ST courses designated for Literature Breadth.
PEOPLE

PROFESSORS
Bell, Bowie, Brenner, Bühnemann, Chamberlain, Cohen, Dale, DuBois,
Dunne, Gade, Hansen, Hardin, Hildner, Howard, Hsia, Koshar, Langer,
Livorni, Louden, Nadler, Ohnuki-Tierney, Phillips, Rosenblum, Schamiloğlu,
Schenck, Schweber, Stanford Friedman, Thompson, Wandel, Wink,
Wolf, Zaeske

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS
Beneker, Cerulli, Hutton, Livanos, Ridelgy, Shelef, Shoemaker, Thal,
Todorovic

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS
Al-Mohammad, Chamedes, Hollander, Mandell, Pruitt, Rock-Singer, Stern

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY ASSOCIATE
Brown

FACULTY ASSOCIATES
Mellor, Norman, Rosenhagen

ASSOCIATE FACULTY ASSOCIATE
Whelan

LECTURER
Carlsson

FACULTY DIVERSITY LIAISON
Program Director Rosenblum