

# Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

## Program Overview

The academic study of religion is a scholarly discipline involving historical, critical, analytic and constructive methodologies to understand religious phenomena, including texts, beliefs, doctrines, practices and world views. It provides excellent background and thinking skills for various academic pursuits, career goals and community leadership. This department aims to help students gain the following skills: (a) acquire a sympathetic and critical understanding of the Bible and other sacred texts, the Christian faith, and other world religions, (b) articulate and reflect upon the core claims that distinguish the Christian tradition, (c) become acquainted with the major methodologies and issues in the study of religion, (d) prepare for graduate study and (e) understand a world in which compassion reveals the divine.

## Degree Requirements

To earn this degree, students must have a GPA of 2.0 or higher in the Major as well as an overall GPA of 2.0, complete a minimum of 120 credit hours, and fulfill the course requirements of the program listed below.

\*This is a sample plan; specific courses may vary from year to year. Academic advisors will work with each student to develop their individual schedule.

Major-Specific Required Courses		CREDITS
✓		
REL 106^	Becoming Who You Are	3
REL 121^	Sacred Traditions	3
REL 244^	Religions of Abraham	3
REL 325	Feminist & Womanist Theologies	3
REL 435	Contemporary Christian Thought	3
	Four courses selected from departmental offerings:	CREDITS
REL XXX	ELECTIVE	3
REL XXX	ELECTIVE	3
REL XXX	ELECTIVE	3
REL XXX	ELECTIVE	3

CORE		CREDITS
✓	Foundation	
LA-FWS	First-Year Writing Seminar	3
LA-FCS	First-Year Communication Seminar	3
LA-FQR	Quantitative Reasoning	3-4
LA-FSS	First Year Success Seminar	1
LA-FCG	Cultural and Global Understanding	3-5
	Exploration	
LA-EAH	Arts and Humanities	3
LA-ENS	Natural Sciences	3-6
LA-ESS	Social Sciences	3-4
	Transformation	
LA-TFR	Faith, Reason, and Ethics	3
LA-TBI	Big Issues - 2 courses	6-7
LA-TCE	Creative Expression	1-3
	Additional credits to bring total to 120+ credits	CREDITS
✓	Electives	
	Experiential Learning	

**Total Program Credits: 120+**

MAJOR	*Options
CORE	^CORE equivalent
ELECTIVE/MINOR	
EXPERIENTIAL	

Example Course Sequence:

The following is a sample of a semester-by-semester approach to completing this program in 4 years.

YEAR 1			
FIRST SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	PREREQUISITES
REL 121 <sup>^</sup>	Sacred Traditions	3	
REL 106 <sup>^</sup>	Becoming Who You Are	3	
LA-FWS	First-Year Writing Seminar	3	
LA-FCS	First-Year Communication Seminar	3	
LA-FSS	First Year Success Seminar	1	
JAN TERM			
COURSE		CREDITS	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
SECOND SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	
REL XXX	ELECTIVE	3	
LA-FQR	Quantitative Reasoning	3	
LA-ENS	Natural Sciences	3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
		28	

YEAR 2			
THIRD SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	PREREQUISITES
REL 244 <sup>^</sup>	Religions of Abraham	3	
LA-ESS	Social Sciences	3	
LA-TCE	Creative Expression	3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
JAN TERM			
COURSE		CREDITS	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
FOURTH SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	
REL 325	Feminist & Womanist Theologies	3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
EXPERIENTIAL		3	
		30	

4-Year Sample Schedule Cont.

YEAR 3			
FIFTH SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	PREREQUISITES
REL XXX	ELECTIVE	3	
LA-TBI	Big Issues - 2 courses	3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
JAN TERM			
COURSE		CREDITS	
EXPERIENTIAL		3	
SIXTH SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	
REL XXX	ELECTIVE	3	
LA-TBI	Big Issues - 2 courses	3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
EXPERIENTIAL		3	
		30	

YEAR 4			
SEVENTH SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	PREREQUISITES
REL XXX		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
EXPERIENTIAL		3	
JAN TERM			
COURSE		CREDITS	
EXPERIENTIAL		3	
EIGHTH SEMESTER			
COURSE		CREDITS	
REL 435	Contemporary Christian Thought	3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
ELECTIVE/MINOR		3	
EXPERIENTIAL		3	
		33	
	TOTAL CREDITS	121	