

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, B.A.

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies helps students understand a wide range of social issues and offers insights into politics, ethnicity, economics, public policy and family life.

Students will develop critical-thinking abilities, analytical reading and writing skills and deepen their capacity for interpretation and comparison, abilities essential to every field of study. Undergraduates may choose the general major or the intensive track, which requires additional coursework, consistent academic excellence and an advanced senior thesis project.

Graduates with a B.A. in religious studies will be prepared for graduate school in areas related to religious studies, such as anthropology, philosophy, history, English, psychology and more. While some may consider a graduate degree in theology or pastoral ministry, students will be prepared for careers in a variety of fields. Religious studies graduates also have gone on to professional schools, including law and business schools.

Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to apply the concept of situatedness in the description and analysis of data, which they will contextualize with reference to at least one religious tradition.
2. Students will be able to evaluate the history of the academic field of religious studies, including issues related to its present-day iterations; advanced methodological and theoretical approaches; and the analytical category of "religion."
3. Students will compare and evaluate multiple approaches within the study of religion in order to create their own perspective, which they will apply toward an original analysis of a range of religious data.