

Religion Major (REL)

In keeping with Georgetown's tradition and mission, the curriculum of the Religion Department prioritizes the study of Christianity. It does so in an ecumenical context and within the broad scope of religious studies as they are encountered in the past and present. The core curriculum is designed not only to introduce students to content, but also to foster healthy critical thinking and writing skills in religious studies. Students can choose from two Religion major tracks. The Religious Studies track emphasizes critical analysis of a broad scope of religious topics to prepare students for further academic study and a variety of careers, including politics, legal work, social work, and teaching. The Ministry Studies track incorporates practical ministry experience with classroom experiences to prepare students for vocations in church or faith-based non-profit ministries. Some Religion majors choose to double-major to enhance their vocational preparation. Outside the traditional classroom, students may have the opportunity to enroll in travel courses, join the Religion honor society (Theta Alpha Kappa), gain experience through supervised ministry internships, lead campus worship, participate in a variety of other ministry activities, and engage in other intellectual and spiritual growth opportunities.

Students who successfully complete the Religious Studies track major will:

- Demonstrate core content knowledge in the fields of biblical studies, Christian theology, cultural-historical studies in religion, and world religions.
- Develop critical analysis skills in religious studies.

Students who successfully complete the Ministry Studies track major will:

- Demonstrate core content knowledge in the fields of biblical studies, Christian theology, and Christian ministry.
- Demonstrate core knowledge in the field of world religions or cultural-historical studies in religion.
- Develop critical analysis skills in religious studies.
- Engage in practical ministry experience.

Through the core courses, the department additionally seeks to introduce all students to the varieties of religious expression and critical reflection upon religious belief and practice. Both majors and minors in the department have the opportunity to gain experience in ministry through courses and an optional supervised internship.

DEGREE TYPE: BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

PROGRAM CONTACT: PROFESSOR Derek Hatch

Students majoring in Religion must choose one track.

Department: Religion

Type: B.A.

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|-----------------------------|----------|
| Religious Studies Track | 33 hours |
| <hr/> | |
| Core Courses | |
| <hr/> | |
| Biblical Studies | |
| <hr/> | |
| Cultural Historical Studies | |
| <hr/> | |
| World Religions | |
| <hr/> | |
| Christian Theology | |
| <hr/> | |
| Elective Courses | |
| <hr/> | |
| Ministry Studies Track | 33 hours |
| <hr/> | |
| Core Courses | |
| <hr/> | |
| Biblical Studies | |
| <hr/> | |

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|---|----|
| Cultural Historical Studies and World Religions | |
| Christian Theology | |
| Ministry Studies: Lower Level | |
| Ministry Studies: Upper Level | |
| Option 1 | |
| Option 2 | |
| Total | 33 |

Religious Studies Track

Core Courses

Biblical Studies

Select three courses, including at least one 300-level course:

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|---|----------------|
| REL117 | The Biblical Canon | 3 |
| REL231 | New Testament: Gospels | 3 |
| REL233 | New Testament: Acts, Letters, Apocalypse | 3 |
| REL235 | Old Testament: Story of Ancient Israel | 3 |
| REL237 | Old Testament: Prophecy and Poetry | 3 |
| REL371 | Advanced Topics in New Testament Interpretation | 3 |
| REL373 | Advanced Topics in Old Testament Interpretation | 3 |

Cultural Historical Studies

Select one 100 or 200-level and one 300-level course.

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|--|----------------|
| REL218 | Topics in Baptist Studies | 3 |
| REL243 | History of Christianity | 3 |
| REL245 | Religion and Popular Culture | 3 |
| REL247 | Religion and Politics in America | 3 |
| REL341 | Women in the Christian Tradition | 3 |
| REL345 | Advanced Topics in Cultural/Historical Studies | 3 |

World Religions

Select one 100 or 200-level and one 300-level course.

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| REL253 | Religions of the Modern World | 3 |
| REL255 | Religions of the Ancient World | 3 |
| REL353 | Advanced Topics in World Religions | 3 |

Christian Theology

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|--|----------------|
| REL257 | Basic Christian Thought | 3 |
| REL357 | Advanced Topics in Theological Studies | 3 |

Elective Courses

Select six additional hours among 300-400 level REL courses.

Ministry Studies Track

Core Courses

Biblical Studies

Select one 100 or 200-level and one 300-level course.

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|---|----------------|
| REL117 | The Biblical Canon | 3 |
| REL231 | New Testament: Gospels | 3 |
| REL233 | New Testament: Acts, Letters, Apocalypse | 3 |
| REL235 | Old Testament: Story of Ancient Israel | 3 |
| REL237 | Old Testament: Prophecy and Poetry | 3 |
| REL371 | Advanced Topics in New Testament Interpretation | 3 |
| REL373 | Advanced Topics in Old Testament Interpretation | 3 |

Cultural Historical Studies and World Religions

Select one 200-level and one 300-level course.

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|--|----------------|
| REL218 | Topics in Baptist Studies | 3 |
| REL243 | History of Christianity | 3 |
| REL245 | Religion and Popular Culture | 3 |
| REL247 | Religion and Politics in America | 3 |
| REL253 | Religions of the Modern World | 3 |
| REL255 | Religions of the Ancient World | 3 |
| REL341 | Women in the Christian Tradition | 3 |
| REL345 | Advanced Topics in Cultural/Historical Studies | 3 |
| REL353 | Advanced Topics in World Religions | 3 |

Christian Theology

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|--|----------------|
| REL257 | Basic Christian Thought | 3 |
| REL357 | Advanced Topics in Theological Studies | 3 |

Ministry Studies: Lower Level

In addition to REL211, complete two other courses from the following:

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|------------------------------|----------------|
| REL211 | Love of God and Neighbor | 3 |
| REL213 | Missional Community | 3 |
| REL215 | Biblical Storytelling | 3 |
| REL219 | Youth and Family Ministries | 3 |
| REL279 | Topics in Ministries Studies | 3 |

Ministry Studies: Upper Level

Complete either Option 1 or Option 2 below.

Option 1

Select two different sections of:

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|--|----------------|
| REL379 | Advanced Studies in Christian Ministry | 3 |

Option 2

Note: To complete this requirement, REL460 must be taken for the maximum 3 hours.

| Item # | Title | Credit Hour(s) |
|--------|--|----------------|
| REL379 | Advanced Studies in Christian Ministry | 3 |
| REL460 | Internship | 1-3 |
| | Total credits: | 33 |