

# 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 Terry Clark

**Students majoring in Religion must choose one track.**

**Department:** Religion

**Type:** B.A.

Religious Studies Track	33 hours
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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/>	

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
	<b>Total credits:</b>	<b>33</b>