

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES, BACHELOR OF ARTS (769)

## Program Coordinator

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The academic study of religion provides the student with the methodological orientation necessary to comprehend the central beliefs, ethical practices, ritual systems, and social institutions of diverse religious traditions in their historic, contemporary and global contexts. Study in this field is multicultural and comparative, examining the patterns of life and moral worlds of societies past and present, our own as well as others. The student learns to probe for the structure, function and meaning of religion through those rites of passage, sacred narratives, faith communities, and codes of behavior that give meaning to human existence.

## Program Requirements (31 hours)

A baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 120 unduplicated semester hours. More information can be found at [www.wku.edu/registrar/degree\\_certification.php](http://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php). ([https://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree\\_certification.php](https://www.wku.edu/registrar/degree_certification.php))

Students who began WKU in the Fall 2014 and thereafter should review the Colonnade requirements located at: <https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/colonnaderequirements.php>. (<https://www.wku.edu/colonnade/colonnaderequirements.php>)

The major in religious studies requires a minimum of 31 semester hours and leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree. At least four hours must be at the 400-level. A minor or second major is required. The thirty-one hours must be distributed as follows:

Code	Title	Hours
<b>Category I: World Religions</b>		
RELS 102	World Religions	3
<b>Category II: Religious Traditions</b>		
Select three courses from the following:		9
RELS 302	Buddhism	
RELS 303	Hinduism	
RELS 304	Judaism	
RELS 305	Christianity	
RELS 306	Islam	
RELS 317	Confucianism	
RELS 318	Daoism	
<b>Category III: Comparative Approaches to the Study of Religion</b>		
Select one course from the following:		3
RELS 103	Religions of Asia	
RELS 200	World Religious Literature	
RELS 222	Christians, Jews, and Pagans in the Greco-Roman World	
RELS 242	The Meaning of Life; Atheism to Zen	
RELS 320	Religions of the Middle East	
RELS 333	Women and Religion	
RELS 341	Religion and the Environment	

## Category IV: Electives

9 of the 15 hours must be in RELS: the remaining 6 should be selected from the following pre-approved list (or other courses approved by the Department Head) as well as from the departmentally - approved study abroad courses. <sup>1</sup>

ANTH 446	Anthropology of Religion
ART 316	Medieval Art & Architecture
ART 407	Islamic Art and Architecture
ENG 396	Mythology
ENG 487	Dante's Divine Comedy and Its Influences
HIST 318	Age of the Reformation
HIST 407	The Crusades: West Meets East
PHIL 343	Medieval Philosophy
PSYS 451	Psychology of Religion
SOCL 322	Religion in Society

## Category V: Senior Seminar

RELS 496	Senior Seminar	1
Total Hours		31

<sup>1</sup> 9 Hours must be in religious studies courses; Students may count up to 1 year of language sequence in Arabic, Chinese, Greek, Hebrew, Japanese, or Latin, or other languages approved by the Department Head.

## Finish in Four Plan

First Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
COMM 145 or ENG 100		3 ENG 100 or COMM 145	3
HIST 101 or HIST 102		3 MATH 109 (or higher)	3
Colonnade: Natural & Physical Sciences		3 Colonnade: Natural & Physical Sciences with lab	3-4
RELS 102		3 Religious Traditions Course	3
Religious Studies Elective		3 Colonnade: Social & Behavioral Science	3
		15	16
Second Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
RELS 200		3 ENG 300	3
Religious Traditions Course		3 Colonnade: Connections (Social & Cultural)	3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 Religious Traditions Course	3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 Religious Studies Elective	3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 2nd Major/Minor Course	3
		15	15
Third Year			
Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Religious Studies Elective		3 Religious Studies Elective	3
Colonnade: Connections (Systems)		3 2nd Major/Minor Course	3
General Elective		3 Colonnade: Connections (Local to Global)	3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 General Elective	3

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2nd Major/Minor Course	3 General Elective	1
	RELS 496	1
	15	14

**Fourth Year**

Fall	Hours	Spring	Hours
Religious Studies Elective		3 2nd Major/Minor Course	3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 General Elective	3
2nd Major/Minor Course		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
General Elective		3 General Elective	3
	15		15

Total Hours 120