

Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of General Studies in Religious Studies

The undergraduate degree in the Department of Religious Studies is a research, analysis, and writing intensive program that features close work with faculty in small classroom settings. It seeks to develop a foundational knowledge of the world's diversity of religious cultures and critical awareness of the ways in which religion shapes how we see and act toward ourselves, others, and the environment around us. Through the study of specific religious traditions and settings, students come away with a background that is invaluable to understanding and working with people of other cultures, whether in international business or simply as an informed global citizen.

Career Opportunities

Religious studies majors and minors develop expertise and skills that serve them well wherever life takes them. Our graduates have been successful in many different areas. Studying religion provides a solid foundation for work in fields as diverse as journalism, law, politics, nongovernmental organizations, ministry, and education. No matter what their intended careers, students benefit from the critical reading, writing, and analytical skills that the academic study of religion instills.

Undergraduate Admission

Admission to KU

All students applying for admission must send high school and college transcripts to the Office of Admissions. Prospective first-year students should be aware that KU has qualified admission requirements that all new first-year students must meet to be admitted. Consult the Office of Admissions (<http://admissions.ku.edu/>) for application deadlines and specific admission requirements.

Visit the International Support Services (<http://www.iss.ku.edu/>) for information about international admissions.

Students considering transferring to KU may see how their college-level course work will transfer on the Office of the University Registrar (<https://registrar.ku.edu/credittransfer/>) website.

Admission to the Major

There are no departmental prerequisites for admission to the major. However, once the major is declared, careful attention should be paid to the requirements of the major itself.

Religious Studies Program

The Religious Studies major consists of required courses, distribution requirements, and electives. The required introductory course and capstone seminar focus on theoretical and methodological issues in the study of religion. Distribution requirements encourage students to approach the study of religion from a variety of angles, from a focus on individual religions to the interaction between religions in specific regions to the exploration of comparative issues and themes. Electives

allow students to tailor their course of study to their specific interests and pursue a depth of knowledge in particular aspects of the study of religion.

Requirements for the B.A. or B.G.S. Major

The major consists of at least 27 hours in religious studies. 18 hours must be in courses numbered 300 and above, and 8 of these junior/senior hours must be completed in residence at KU. The 27 hours may include no more than 12 transfer hours, no more than 12 hours from study abroad, and no more than 15 hours in combination of the two.

Religious Studies Major Course Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
Religious Studies Core Knowledge and Skills		
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:		
Introduction to Religion. Satisfied by:		
REL 104	Introduction to Religious Studies	3
Specific Religious Traditions		3
Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:		
REL 107	Jews, Christians, Muslims	
REL 124	Understanding the Bible	
REL 125	Understanding the Bible, Honors	
REL 325	Introduction to Judaism	
REL 326	The Talmud: Its Origins, Nature, and Evolution	
REL 330	Native American Religions	
REL 345	Christianity	
REL 350	Islam	
REL 360	The Buddhist Tradition in Asia	
REL 365	Hinduism	
REL 525	Jews and Christians	
REL 724	Magic and Myth in Ancient Egypt	
Religion in Specific Regions		3
Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:		
REL 106	Asian Religions	
REL 171	Religion in American Society	
REL 309	Religion in Japan	
REL 310	Religion in Korea	
REL 307	Religion in India	
REL 339	History of Religion in America	
REL 509	Religion in Japan	
Thematic Approaches to Religion		3
Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:		
REL 100	Introduction to Religious Ethics	
REL 137	Religious Ethics and Moral Decisions	
REL 138	Religion and Moral Decisions, Honors	
REL 327	Religious Zionisms	
REL 334	Studies in Ritual: _____	
REL 341	Mysticism	
REL 357	Women and Gender in Islam	
REL 370	Judaism and Sexuality	
REL 374	Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality	
REL 379	Prophets and Profits	
REL 381	Religions, Epidemics, & Pandemics	

REL 477	Gender and Religion	
REL 572	Judaism and Political Theology	
Religious Studies Required Electives		12
Satisfied by 4 courses (12 hours) within, or cross-listed with, the Religious Studies Department course offerings.		
Religious Studies Capstone		
REL 490	Capstone in Religious Studies: _____	3
Total Hours		27

student must also complete and defend an individual research project, as evidenced by completion of at least 3 hours of REL 499 Undergraduate Honors Research with a grade of B or better. Interested students should contact the Undergraduate Director for more information.

Religious Studies Major Hours & Major GPA

While completing all required courses (above), majors must also meet each of the following hour and grade-point average minimum standards:

Major Hours

Satisfied by 27 hours of major courses.

Major Hours in Residence

Satisfied by a minimum of 15 hours of KU resident credit in the major, of which 9 must be at the junior/senior level (300+).

Major Junior/Senior (300+) Hours

Satisfied by a minimum of 18 hours from junior/senior courses (300+) in the major.

Major Junior/Senior Graduation GPA

Satisfied by a minimum of a 2.0 KU GPA in junior/senior courses (300+) in the major. GPA calculations include all junior/senior courses in the field of study including F's and repeated courses. See the Semester/Cumulative GPA Calculator (<https://sis.ku.edu/gpa-calculator/>).

A sample 4-year plan for the BA degree in Religious Studies can be found here: Religious Studies (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/religious-studies/ba-bgs/ba-religious-studies/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

A sample 4-year plan for the BGS degree in Religious Studies can be found here: Religious Studies (<https://catalog.ku.edu/liberal-arts-sciences/religious-studies/ba-bgs/bgs-in-religious-studies/>), or by using the left-side navigation.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- show a foundational knowledge of major religious traditions and cultures that populate the world today.
- have familiarity with the formative, trans-disciplinary methodologies particular to the academic study of religion.
- critically apply methodologies to case-specific religious phenomena, traditions, and events, as demonstrated through oral communication and written research papers that analyze the role of religion in the lives of individuals.
- engage with others who share interest in the subject matter but who may formulate differing views on it. By reflecting upon and discussing the critical study of religion as carried out in outcomes 2 and 3, students can form collegial relationships with their fellow students, faculty, and members of the wider public for whom the subject of religion is an integral part of their self-understanding.

Departmental Honors

To be eligible for honors in religious studies, an undergraduate student must have a minimum grade-point average of 3.5 in the department. The