

# 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. Unless they are college transfer students with at least 24 hours of credit, prospective students must send ACT or SAT scores 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 Admissions (<http://credittransfer.ku.edu/>) website.

### Admission to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Admission to the College is a different process from admission to a major field. Some CLAS departments have admission requirements. See individual department/program sections for departmental admission requirements.

### 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. 15 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
<b>Religious Studies Core Knowledge and Skills</b>		
Majors must complete a course in each of the following areas:		
Introduction to Religion. Satisfied by:		
REL 104	Introduction to Religious Studies	3
or REL 105	Introduction to Religious Studies, Honors	
<b>Specific Religious Traditions</b>		<b>3</b>
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 331	Native American Religions, Honors	
REL 345	Christianity	
REL 350	Islam	
REL 360	The Buddhist Tradition in Asia	
REL 523	The Dead Sea Scrolls	
REL 525	Jews and Christians	
REL 557	Modern Islamic Reform Movements	
REL 560	Modern Jewish Thought	
REL 724	Magic and Myth in Ancient Egypt	
<b>Religion in Specific Regions</b>		<b>3</b>
Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:		
REL 106	Asian Religions	
REL 171	Religion in American Society	
REL 339	History of Religion in America	
REL 507	Religion in India	
REL 509	Religion in Japan	
REL 510	Religion in Korea	
REL 585	New Religious Movements (Western)	
REL 586	New Religious Movements (Nonwestern)	

**Thematic Approaches to Religion 3**

Satisfied by 1 course (3 hours) chosen from the following:

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 373	The Supreme Court and Religious Issues in the United States
REL 374	Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality
REL 425	Religion and Film
REL 477	Gender and Religion
REL 572	Judaism and Political Theology
REL 573	Judaism and Sexuality

**Religious Studies Required Electives 12**

Satisfied by 4 courses (12 hours) within, or cross-listed with, the Religious Studies Department course offerings. 12

**Capstone Experience 3**

Satisfied by:

REL 490	Senior Seminar in Theories and Methods
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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 15 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 (<http://clas.ku.edu/undergrad/tools/gpa/>).

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

**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 student must also complete and defend an individual research project, as evidenced by completion of at least 3 hours of REL 499: Undergraduate