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 Admissions (http://credittransfer.ku.edu/) 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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 104</td>
<td>Introduction to Religious Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or REL 105</td>
<td>Introduction to Religious Studies, Honors</td>
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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 330 Native American Religions
- REL 345 Christianity
- REL 350 Islam
- REL 360 The Buddhist Tradition in Asia
- REL 525 Jews and Christians
- REL 560 Modern Jewish Thought
- 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 310 Religion in Korea
- REL 339 History of Religion in America
- REL 507 Religion in India
- REL 509 Religion in Japan
- 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 370 Judaism and Sexuality
- REL 373 The Supreme Court and Religious Issues in the United States
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>REL 374</td>
<td>Religious Perspectives on Selfhood and Sexuality</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL 425</td>
<td>Religion and Film</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 477</td>
<td>Gender and Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 572</td>
<td>Judaism and Political Theology</td>
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**Religious Studies Required Electives**

- Satisfied by 5 courses (15 hours) within, or cross-listed with, the Religious Studies Department course offerings.

**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 (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/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/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 Honors Research with a grade of B or better. Interested students should contact the Undergraduate Director for more information.