

RELIGIOUS STUDIES, BA

Religious studies is an interdisciplinary major that draws on courses from multiple departments to give students a broad understanding of the historical, cultural and philosophical principles of the world's religions, including Buddhism, Christianity, Classical Greek and Roman religions, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, African and Native-American religions. These diverse belief systems are studied not just for their influence over past generations but also to better understand their role in modern issues.

Religious Studies is not just for students planning to go on to become a priest, rabbi or minister. The program provides excellent preparation for all careers that require critical thinking, logic, analysis and writing skills. Because of the breadth of the subject matter, students graduate with a global perspective, an appreciation for different viewpoints and substantive knowledge about ethics and core belief systems of the past and present.

UWM students in Religious Studies take courses in history, anthropology, philosophy, political science, classics, art history, literature, and more. Many students also complement their major with studies in the foreign language since many religions have traditions and foundations in another language.

Students will also find a very active student organization - the Religious Studies Student Organization. The group brings in speakers and engages with the local community on scholarly topics of interest.

Double Major

It often is possible to complete a double major in Religious Studies and another subject. This is the case particularly when a student already has undertaken the major in the other field but has credits in religion courses as well. The student often can take courses that count for both Religious Studies and the other major. Interested students should consult with the Program Director.

Course of Study – Bachelor of Arts Degree

Complete 120 credits including 90 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 90 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses. The College requires that students must complete in residence at UWM at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major. Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements and the specific L&S requirements listed below.

To complete a major, students must satisfy all the requirements of the major as stated in this catalog. Students who declare their majors within five years of entering the UW System as a degree candidate may satisfy the requirements outlined in any catalog issued since the time they entered. Credits used to satisfy the major also may be used to satisfy other degree requirements.

University General Education Requirements (GER)

Code	Title	Credits
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Oral and Written Communication

Part A

Achieve a grade of C or better in the following course:

ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research (or equivalent)
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Part B

Course designated as OWC-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement

Quantitative Literacy

Part A

Earn at least 3 credits with a grade of C or higher in one of the following courses or an equivalent course, or achieve a placement code of at least 30 on the mathematics placement test (or other appropriate test, as determined by the Mathematical Sciences Department)

MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II
MATH 103	Contemporary Applications of Mathematics
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II
MATH 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning ¹
or PHILOS 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning
MATH 116	College Algebra
Or equivalent course	

Part B

Course designated as QL-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement

Arts

Select 3 credits	3
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Humanities

Select 6 credits	6
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Social Sciences

Select 6 credits	6
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Natural Sciences

Select 6 credits (at least two courses including one lab)	6
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UWM Foreign Language Requirement

Complete Foreign Language Requirement through:

Two years (high school) of a single foreign language

Two semesters (college) of a single foreign language

Or equivalent

UWM Cultural Diversity Requirement

One course from the Arts, Humanities, or Social Sciences must also satisfy UWM's Cultural Diversity requirement

¹ Math 111 and Philosophy 111 are jointly offered and count as repeats of one another. Students cannot receive credit for both courses.

College of Letters & Science Requirements

I. English Composition Requirement

Students must satisfy the English Composition Requirement with one of the following options:

- 1) Completing ENGLISH 102 with a grade of C or higher; or
- 2) by placing beyond ENGLISH 102 on the English Placement Test (EPT) (or other assessment as determined by the English Department); or
- 3) transferring a course of at least 2.5 equivalent credits from another institution that is equivalent to English 102, or a UWM higher-level expository writing course, with a grade of C or higher.

Note: This requirement is the same as the University General Education Requirement for Oral and Written Communication Part A. The College of Letters & Science does not have a specific requirement for a writing course beyond English 102, but students must complete the university-wide requirement for Oral and Written Communication Part B listed above.

II. Mathematics and Formal Reasoning

To satisfy the Mathematics and Formal Reasoning Requirement, students must satisfy the following two requirements:

1. Achieve a placement code of at least 30 on the mathematics placement test (or other appropriate test, as determined by the Mathematical Sciences Department) or earn at least 3 credits with a grade of C or higher in one of the following courses or an equivalent course:

Code	Title	Credits
MATH 102	Mathematical Literacy for College Students II	3
MATH 103	Contemporary Applications of Mathematics	3
MATH 105	Introduction to College Algebra	3
MATH 108	Algebraic Literacy II	3
MATH 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning ¹	3
or PHILOS 111	Introduction to Logic - Critical Reasoning	
MATH 116	College Algebra	3
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I	3

¹ Math 111 and Philosophy 111 are jointly offered and count as repeats of one another. Students cannot receive credit for both courses.

Note: This requirement is the same as the University General Education Requirement for Quantitative Literacy Part A, listed above.

2. Complete one course (at least 3 credits) at the 200 level or above chosen from courses in Mathematics, PHILOS 211, or Letters and Science statistics courses:

Code	Title	Credits
Complete one of the following:		
3 or more credits in any 200-level or above Math course		
AFRIC 220	Introduction to Statistics in African and African Diaspora Studies	
ANTHRO 568	Introduction to Anthropological Statistics	
BIO SCI 465	Biostatistics	
ECON 210	Economic Statistics	
GEOG 247	Quantitative Analysis in Geography	
HIST 595	The Quantitative Analysis of Historical Data	
MTHSTAT 215	Elementary Statistical Analysis	
PHILOS 211	Elementary Logic	
POL SCI 390	Political Data Analysis	
POL SCI 392	Survey Research	
PSYCH 210	Psychological Statistics	

Code	Title	Credits
SOCIOL 261	Introduction to Statistical Thinking in Sociology	

Note: This requirement is NOT the same as the University General Education Requirement for Quantitative Literacy Part B. To complete the BA, students must take one of the L&S approved courses. **Not all of the courses listed here will satisfy the QL-B requirement.**

III. Foreign Language Requirement

Placement testing may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. Language courses (including American Sign Language) other than English taken in high school may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement. One year of high school language equates to one semester of college work.

Completion of the L&S Language Requirement also satisfies the university-wide Foreign Language GER, but not vice versa.

Code	Title	Credits
Completed in one of the following ways:		0-18
Successful completion of the 4th semester of college work or equivalent in one language other than English (including American Sign Language)		
Successful completion of the 3rd semester of college work or equivalent in one language other than English (including American Sign Language) PLUS the 2nd semester of college work or equivalent in another language other than English (including American Sign Language)		

IV. International Requirement

See Approved Courses for the L&S International Requirement (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/>) for course options.

Code	Title	Credits
Completed in one of the following ways:		9
Complete 3 courses (min. 9 cr) in a single foreign language (not including literature-in-translation or American Sign Language) at the 3rd semester level and above		
Complete 3 non-language courses (min. 9 credits) with an international content chosen from at least 2 curricular areas.		
Complete 9 credits in combination of the two options above.		

V. Breadth Requirement

Along with completing the University General Education Requirements of 3 credits in the Arts (A); 6 credits in the Humanities (HU), Social Sciences (SS), and Natural Sciences (NS/NS+); and a course with the Cultural Diversity (CD/+) designation, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement.

Code	Title	Credits
Arts		
Select 3 credits		3
Humanities		
Complete 12 credits of L&S courses with Humanities Breadth designation; no more than 6 credits from a single subject area. *		12
Social Sciences		
Complete 12 credits of L&S Courses with Social Science Breadth designation; no more than 6 credits from a single curricular area. *		12
Natural Sciences		

Complete 12 credits of L&S Courses with Natural Sciences Breadth designation, including at least one laboratory or field course; no more than 6 credits from a single curricular area. *

Cultural Diversity

Complete 3 credits in a course with Cultural Diversity (CD) designation. **

* Students should check their course selections carefully with the list of approved L&S Breadth Courses (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/>). Students are advised to select at least 6 credits worth of courses in each of the Humanities, Social Science, and Natural Sciences areas that can satisfy both the campus-wide General Education Requirements and the L&S Breadth requirement.

** Students are advised to select a course that satisfies the Cultural Diversity requirement as well as a Humanities or Social Science breadth/GER requirement.

VI. The Major

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the major attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. Individual departments or programs may require higher GPAs for graduation. Some departmental majors require courses from other departments. Contact your major department for information on whether those credits will count as part of the major GPA. The College requires that students must complete in residence at UWM at least 15 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 or above) courses in their major.

Research Requirement

Within their majors, students must complete a research experience approved by the L&S faculty. A list of courses satisfying the research requirement in each major can be found here (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-research-requirement/>).

VII. The Minor

The College of Letters and Science requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA in all credits in the minor attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all minor credits attempted, including any transfer work.

Religious Studies Major Requirements

The religious studies major requires completion of at least 33 credits, including at least 18 in upper-division courses (numbered 300 and above) of which at least 15 must be taken in residence at UWM. In satisfying these requirements, students must select courses from at least three different curricular areas. The College requires that students attain at least a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted at UWM. In addition, students must attain a 2.0 GPA on all major credits attempted, including any transfer work. The required 33 credits must be distributed as follows:

Code	Title	Credits
Core		
<i>Recommended</i>		
The following is recommended:		
RELIGST 101	Introduction to World Religions	
<i>Required Methods</i>		
Select one of the following: 3		
RELIGST 395	Seminar in the Study of Religion: Theories of Religion (or equivalent)	

HIST 594	Methods and Theory in the Historical Study of Religion: (or equivalent)	
<i>Required Capstone Experience</i> ¹		
Select one of the following research options:		3
HIST 600	Seminar in History: (with research conducted on a religion-related topic)	
For students with additional major(s), upper-level research seminar in the additional major that focuses on a religion-related topic		
A 3-credit independent study on a religion-related topic		
Senior thesis in another program/department on a religion-related topic		
Research paper focused on a religion-related topic as approved by the director		
Electives		
Select 27 credits (see below)		27
Total Credits		33

¹ In all cases, the religious studies director must approve the topic to satisfy the research requirement. Majors are required to file the appropriate research/capstone approval form prior to completion of their research/capstone course.

Electives

All majors are required to complete at least 27 additional credits beyond the core courses. Nine elective credits must be distributed among three different religious traditions. A religious tradition course must focus primarily (more than 50%) on one specific religion. Twelve of these 27 credits must be numbered 300 or above.

Code	Title	Credits
AFRIC 311	African Religious Thought and Social Organizations (Indigenous religions)	3
AFRIC 312	The Church in African-American Life (Christianity)	3
AIS 106	Anishinaabe Ethnobotany: Plants in Anishinaabe Philosophy	3
AMLLC 240	Vampires: From Slavic Village to Hollywood (Indigenous religions)	3
ANTHRO 203	Indigenous Religions (Indigenous religions)	3
ANTHRO 305	The Celtic World	3
ANTHRO 314	American Indian Societies and Cultures (Indigenous religions)	3
ANTHRO 326	Peoples and Cultures of South Asia	3
ANTHRO 351	Anthropological Theories of Religion	3
ANTHRO 543	Cross-Cultural Study of Religion	3
ANTHRO 544	Religious Giving in Anthropological Perspective	3
ARABIC 111	Cultures and Civilizations of the Muslim Middle East (Islam)	3
ARABIC 390	Islam: Religion and Culture (Islam)	3
ARTHIST 101	Ancient and Medieval Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 102	Renaissance to Modern Art and Architecture	3

ARTHIST 104	African, New World and Oceanic Art and Architecture	3	CLASSIC 274	Ancient Egyptian Civilization (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 105	Asian Art and Architecture	3	CLASSIC 301	The Life and Literature of Classical Athens: Herodotus and Dramatists	3
ARTHIST 237	Northern Renaissance Art	3	CLASSIC 302	War and Politics in Ancient Greece	3
ARTHIST 241	Introduction to Baroque Art	3	CLASSIC 303	The Life and Literature of the Roman Empire	3
ARTHIST 251	Introduction to the Art and Architecture of Latin America	3	CLASSIC 351	Ancient Greek Religion (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 255	Survey of Italian Renaissance Painting and Sculpture	3	CLASSIC 370	Hittite Myth and History (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 270	Pre-Columbian Art, Myth, and Legacy (Indigenous religions)	3	CLASSIC 390	Egyptian Mythology (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 281	Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art	3	COMPLIT 231	Literature and Religion:	3
ARTHIST 312	Minoan and Mycenaean Art and Archaeology	3	ENGLISH 454	Milton (Christianity)	3
ARTHIST 314	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East	3	GEOG 333	Muslim Geographies: Identities and Politics (Islam)	3
ARTHIST 315	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt (Indigenous religions)	3	GLOBAL 371	Rethinking Global Security	3
ARTHIST 316	Roman Art and Archaeology (Indigenous religions)	3	HEBREW 201	Third-Semester Hebrew (Judaism)	4
ARTHIST 324	Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture (Christianity)	3	HEBREW 202	Fourth-Semester Hebrew (Judaism)	4
ARTHIST 325	Early Medieval Art in the West	3	HEBREW 301	Modern Hebrew Literature I in Hebrew (Judaism)	3
ARTHIST 327	Caliphs, Emirs, & Kings: Art & Architecture of Medieval Spain (Islam)	3	HEBREW 302	Modern Hebrew Literature II in Hebrew (Judaism)	3
ARTHIST 333	High Renaissance Art in Italy	3	HIST 131	World History to 1500	3
ARTHIST 371	African Art (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 175	East Asian Civilization to 1600	3
ARTHIST 372	Art of the Inca and their Ancestors (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 201	The Ancient World: The Near East and Greece (Buddhism)	3
ARTHIST 373	Art of Ancient Mexico and Central America (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 202	The Ancient World: The Roman Republic and Empire	3
ARTHIST 375	Art of the Aztec Empire (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 274	Ancient Egyptian Civilization (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 382	Chinese Art and Architecture	3	HIST 280	Islamic Civilization: The Formative Period, ca. 500-1258 (Islam)	3
ARTHIST 383	Japanese Art and Architecture	3	HIST 282	The Modern Middle East in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	3
ARTHIST 386	Art, Ritual, and Ethnicity of China	3	HIST 284	Buddhism Across Asia (Buddhism)	3
ARTHIST 387	Buddhist Art and Architecture (Buddhism)	3	HIST 303	A History of Greek Civilization: The Greek City-State	3
ARTHIST 412	Cities and Sanctuaries of Ancient Greece (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 304	A History of Greek Civilization: The Age of Alexander the Great (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 425	The Age of Pilgrimage and Crusade: Romanesque Art and Architecture	3	HIST 307	A History of Rome: The Republic (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 426	The Age of the Great Cathedrals: Gothic Art and Architecture	3	HIST 308	A History of Rome: The Empire (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 431	Renaissance Architecture in Italy	3	HIST 318	Medieval Civilization: The High Middle Ages	3
ARTHIST 474	Maya Art (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 319	The Era of the Crusades (Christianity)	3
ARTHIST 480	Chinese Painting	3	HIST 329	The Roman Catholic Church, 1500 to the Present (Christianity)	3
CELTIC 133	Celtic Crossings: Overview of the History and Cultures of the Celtic World	3	HIST 330	The Papacy in History (Christianity)	3
CLASSIC 170	Classical Mythology (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 358	The Jews of Modern Europe: History and Culture	3
CLASSIC 201	Introduction to Greek Life and Literature	3			
CLASSIC 202	Introduction to Roman Life and Literature	3			

HIST 364	The Holocaust: Anti-Semitism & the Fate of Jewish People in Europe, 1933-45	3	PHILOS 431	History of Medieval Philosophy (Christianity)	3
HIST 370	Topics in the History of Religious Thought:	3	PHILOS 461	Islamic Philosophy and Mysticism (Islam)	3
HIST 379	Introduction to Jewish History	3	PHILOS 474	Contemporary Religious Thought:	3
HIST 380	Buddhism: A Cultural History (Buddhism)	3	PHILOS 475	Special Topics in Indian Religious Thought:	3
HIST 386	Africans in World History: Communities, Cultures, and Ideas	3	POL SCI 215	Ethnicity, Religion and Race in American Politics	3
HIST 393	History of Mexico	3	RUSSIAN 361	Russian and Slavic Folklore	3
HIST 452	History of Religion in American Life to 1870	3			
HIST 453	History of Religion in American Life Since 1870	3			
HIST 454	God at the Movies: American Religion in Fiction and Film	3			
HIST 594	Methods and Theory in the Historical Study of Religion:	3			
ITALIAN 333	Dante's Divine Comedy in Translation (Christianity)	3			
JEWISH 100	Introduction to Judaism (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 101	Jewish Culture in America: History, Literature, Film (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 131	Introduction to Biblical Studies (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 230	Bible Stories (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 231	Introduction to the Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 232	Survey of the Literature of the Post-Biblical Period (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 234	Survey of Modern Hebrew and Jewish Literature in Translation (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 235	The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 261	Representing the Holocaust in Words and Images (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 282	Jewish Identity in Contemporary America (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 331	Topics in Biblical Literature:	3			
JEWISH 332	Women in the Bible (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 358	The Jews of Modern Europe: History and Culture (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 368	Jewish and Christian Responses to the Holocaust (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 379	Introduction to Jewish History (Judaism)	3			
JEWISH 411	Old Testament Texts:	3			
JEWISH 449	Modern Jewish Thought (Judaism)	3			
LATIN 306	Readings in Latin Literature:	3			
PHILOS 204	Introduction to Asian Religions	3			
PHILOS 207	Religion and Science	3			
PHILOS 250	God, Faith and Reason	3			
PHILOS 304	Buddhist Philosophy (Buddhism)	3			
PHILOS 350	Introduction to the Comparative Study of Religion	3			

Relevant language courses above the second semester will be counted as electives toward the Religious Studies major with approval of the coordinator. Students can take up to 10 credit hours of foreign language beyond the second semester if the language chosen is related to their future goals or research interests. Again, the use of such language courses as electives requires approval of the coordinator.

Optional Concentration

Religious Studies majors have the option of focusing their programs of studies on one or more religious traditions. To discuss this option, please contact Program Director David Divalerio at divaleri@uwm.edu.

Letters & Science Advising

During your time at UWM, you may have multiple members of your success team, including advisors, peer mentors, and success coaches. Letters and Science students typically work with at least two different types of advisors as they pursue their degrees: professional College Advisors and Faculty Advisors. L&S College Advisors advise across your entire degree program while departmental Faculty Advisors focus on the major.

College Advisors are located in Holton Hall and serve as your primary advisor. They are your point person for your questions about navigating college and completing your degree. College Advisors will:

- assist you in defining your academic and life goals;
- help you create an educational plan that is consistent with those goals;
- assist you in understanding curriculum, major and degree requirements for graduation, as well as university policies and procedures;
- provide you with information about campus and community resources and refer you to those resources as appropriate; and
- monitor your progress toward graduation and completion of requirements.

Faculty Advisors mentor students in the major and assist them in maximizing their development in the program. You will begin working with a Faculty Advisor when you declare your major. Faculty Advisors are an important partner and will:

- help you understand major requirements and course offerings in the department;
- explain opportunities for internships and undergraduate research and guide you in obtaining those experiences; and
- serve as an excellent resource as you consider potential graduate programs and career paths in your field.

Students are encouraged to meet with both their College Advisor and Faculty Advisor at least once each semester. Appointments are available in-person, by phone or by video.

Currently enrolled students should use the Navigate website (<https://uwm.guide.eab.com/>) to make an appointment with your assigned advisor or call (414) 229-4654 if you do not currently have an assigned Letters & Science advisor. Prospective students who haven't enrolled in classes yet should call (414) 229-7711 or email let-sci@uwm.edu.

College of Letters and Science Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.