

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 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 75 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. The College also requires that students complete at least 30 credits overall in residence at UWM. For additional residency and transfer credit limitations, see L&S Undergraduate Policies and Regulations (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/#policiesandregulationstext>).

Students are also required to complete University-wide General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#bachelorsdegreegeneraleducation>) 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
Oral and Written Communication		
<i>Part A</i>		
Achieve a grade of C or better in the following course:		
ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research (or equivalent)	
<i>Part B</i>		
Course designated as OWC-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement		
Quantitative Literacy		
<i>Part A</i>		
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		
<i>Part B</i>		
Course designated as QL-B; may be completed through a major-specific course requirement		
Arts		
Select 3 credits		3
Humanities		
Select 6 credits		6
Social Sciences		
Select 6 credits		6
Natural Sciences		
Select 6 credits (at least two courses including one lab)		6
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

The degree requirements in the College of Letters and Science build on the University General Education Requirements to provide a broad base

of knowledge as well as an array of skills cited by employers as critical to professional success: critical thinking, problem solving, oral and written communication, ability to work well with others, and adaptability to change.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), you must complete the UWM General Education Requirements as well as these L&S requirements: the International requirement, the Breadth requirement, and the Research requirement. The International requirement develops your potential for cross-cultural understanding in a globalizing world. The Breadth requirement ensures that you take classes in a wide variety of subjects, across humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences. The Research requirement calls for you to build your critical thinking and oral and written communication skills through conducting an independent research project, usually in your major.

For the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) you will also complete the Language other than English requirement, to further develop your understanding of cultures through language.

I. Total Credits and Upper-Division Courses Requirement

Students must complete 120 credits including 75 credits in the College of Letters & Science and with 36 of the 75 credits in L&S upper-level (numbered above 300) courses.

II. Language other than English Requirement

Students doing the BA must fulfill the language other than English requirement by either successfully completing the fourth semester of university work or equivalent in one language other than English, or by successfully completing the second semester of university work or equivalent in two languages other than English (including all world languages and American Sign Language).

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. Proficiency tests approved by the Languages faculty may be used to satisfy all or part of this requirement.

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

III. International Requirement

To meet the International Requirement, students must successfully complete some three course (minimum 9 credits) combination of

- 1. language other than English (not including American Sign Language) at 3rd semester level or above, and/or
- 2. non-language courses with L&S approved international content (see Courses Approved for the L&S International Requirement (https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/approved-courses-international-requirement/) for course options).

IV. Breadth Requirement

In addition to completing the University General Education Requirements, L&S students must complete the Breadth requirement.

The L&S Breadth requirement calls for 6 credits each in L&S courses designated L&S Humanities, L&S Natural Sciences, and L&S Social Sciences breadth. One of the L&S Natural Science breadth courses must be a laboratory or fieldwork course. These courses must be beyond and in addition to courses in those areas used to satisfy General Education Requirements.

Please refer to the list of Courses Approved for the L&S Breadth Requirement (https://catalog.uwm.edu/letters-science/breadth-requirement-course-list/).

V. 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/).

VI. The Minor

Students are encouraged to consider completing a minor, but it is not required. To complete a 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. The minor must contain at least 9 credits in upper-division (numbered 300 and above) courses.

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		
Recommended		
The following is recommended:		
RELIGST 101	Introduction to World Religions	
Required Methods		
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)	
Required Capstone Experience 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
ARTHIST 105	Asian Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 237	Northern Renaissance Art	3
ARTHIST 241	Introduction to Baroque Art	3
ARTHIST 251	Introduction to the Art and Architecture of Latin America	3
ARTHIST 255	Survey of Italian Renaissance Painting and Sculpture	3

ARTHIST 270	Pre-Columbian Art, Myth, and Legacy (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 281	Modern and Contemporary Chinese Art	3
ARTHIST 312	Minoan and Mycenaean Art and Archaeology	3
ARTHIST 314	Art and Archaeology of the Ancient Near East	3
ARTHIST 315	Art and Archaeology of Ancient Egypt (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 316	Roman Art and Archaeology (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 323	Age of Apocalypse: Western European Art after the First Millennium	3
ARTHIST 324	Early Christian and Byzantine Art and Architecture (Christianity)	3
ARTHIST 325	Early Medieval Art in the West	3
ARTHIST 326	Chivalry and Spirituality: French Gothic Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 327	Caliphs, Emirs, & Kings: Art & Architecture of Medieval Spain (Islam)	3
ARTHIST 333	High Renaissance Art in Italy	3
ARTHIST 371	African Art (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 372	Art of the Inca and their Ancestors (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 373	Art of Ancient Mexico and Central America (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 375	Art of the Aztec Empire (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 380	Chinese Painting	3
ARTHIST 382	Chinese Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 383	Japanese Art and Architecture	3
ARTHIST 386	Art, Ritual, and Ethnicity of China	3
ARTHIST 387	Buddhist Art and Architecture (Buddhism)	3
ARTHIST 412	Cities and Sanctuaries of Ancient Greece (Indigenous religions)	3
ARTHIST 431	Renaissance Architecture in Italy	3
ARTHIST 474	Maya Art (Indigenous religions)	3
CELTIC 133	Celtic Crossings: Overview of the History and Cultures of the Celtic World	3
CLASSIC 170	Classical Mythology (Indigenous religions)	3
CLASSIC 201	Introduction to Greek Life and Literature	3
CLASSIC 202	Introduction to Roman Life and Literature	3
CLASSIC 274	Ancient Egyptian Civilization (Indigenous religions)	3
CLASSIC 301	The Life and Literature of Classical Athens: Herodotus and Dramatists	3
CLASSIC 302	War and Politics in Ancient Greece	3
CLASSIC 303	The Life and Literature of the Roman Empire	3
CLASSIC 351	Ancient Greek Religion (Indigenous religions)	3
CLASSIC 370	Hittite Myth and History (Indigenous religions)	3

CLASSIC 390	Egyptian Mythology (Indigenous religions)	3	HIST 453	History of Religion in American Life Since 1870	3
COMPLIT 231	Literature and Religion:	3	HIST 454	God at the Movies: American Religion in Fiction and Film	3
ENGLISH 454	Milton (Christianity)	3	HIST 594	Methods and Theory in the Historical Study of Religion:	3
GEOG 333	Muslim Geographies: Identities and Politics (Islam)	3	ITALIAN 333	Dante's Divine Comedy in Translation (Christianity)	3
GLOBAL 371	Rethinking Global Security	3	JEWISH 100	Introduction to Judaism (Judaism)	3
HEBREW 201	Third-Semester Hebrew (Judaism)	4	JEWISH 101	Jewish Culture in America: History, Literature, Film (Judaism)	3
HEBREW 202	Fourth-Semester Hebrew (Judaism)	4	JEWISH 230	Bible Stories (Judaism)	3
HEBREW 301	Modern Hebrew Literature I in Hebrew (Judaism)	3	JEWISH 231	Introduction to the Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible (Judaism)	3
HEBREW 302	Modern Hebrew Literature II in Hebrew (Judaism)	3	JEWISH 235	The Dead Sea Scrolls and the Bible (Judaism)	3
HIST 131	World History to 1500	3	JEWISH 261	Representing the Holocaust in Words and Images (Judaism)	3
HIST 175	East Asian Civilization to 1600	3	JEWISH 331	Topics in Biblical Literature:	3
HIST 201	The Ancient World: The Near East and Greece (Buddhism)	3	JEWISH 332	Women in the Bible (Judaism)	3
HIST 202	The Ancient World: The Roman Republic and Empire	3	JEWISH 358	The Jews of Modern Europe: History and Culture (Judaism)	3
HIST 274	Ancient Egyptian Civilization (Indigenous religions)	3	JEWISH 368	Jewish and Christian Responses to the Holocaust (Judaism)	3
HIST 280	Islamic Civilization: The Formative Period, ca. 500-1258 (Islam)	3	JEWISH 379	Introduction to Jewish History (Judaism)	3
HIST 282	The Modern Middle East in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	3	JEWISH 411	Old Testament Texts:	3
HIST 284	Buddhism Across Asia (Buddhism)	3	JEWISH 449	Modern Jewish Thought (Judaism)	3
HIST 303	A History of Greek Civilization: The Greek City-State	3	LATIN 306	Readings in Latin Literature:	3
HIST 304	A History of Greek Civilization: The Age of Alexander the Great (Indigenous religions)	3	PHILOS 204	Introduction to Asian Religions	3
HIST 307	A History of Rome: The Republic (Indigenous religions)	3	PHILOS 207	Religion and Science	3
HIST 308	A History of Rome: The Empire (Indigenous religions)	3	PHILOS 250	God, Faith and Reason	3
HIST 318	Medieval Civilization: The High Middle Ages	3	PHILOS 304	Buddhist Philosophy (Buddhism)	3
HIST 319	The Era of the Crusades (Christianity)	3	PHILOS 350	Introduction to the Comparative Study of Religion	3
HIST 329	The Roman Catholic Church, 1500 to the Present (Christianity)	3	PHILOS 431	History of Medieval Philosophy (Christianity)	3
HIST 330	The Papacy in History (Christianity)	3	PHILOS 461	Islamic Philosophy and Mysticism (Islam)	3
HIST 358	The Jews of Modern Europe: History and Culture	3	PHILOS 474	Contemporary Religious Thought:	3
HIST 364	The Holocaust: Anti-Semitism & the Fate of Jewish People in Europe, 1933-45	3	PHILOS 475	Special Topics in Indian Religious Thought:	3
HIST 370	Topics in the History of Religious Thought:	3	POL SCI 215	Ethnicity, Religion and Race in American Politics	3
HIST 379	Introduction to Jewish History	3	RUSSIAN 361	Russian and Slavic Folklore	3
HIST 380	Buddhism: A Cultural History (Buddhism)	3			
HIST 386	Africans in World History: Communities, Cultures, and Ideas	3			
HIST 393	History of Mexico	3			
HIST 452	History of Religion in American Life to 1870	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.

Religious Studies BA Learning Outcomes

Students graduating from the Religious Studies, BA program will be able to:

- Understand examples of the diversity of human cultures and religions across history and geographic boundaries.
- Consider the historical and social factors surrounding a religious phenomenon.
- Read and analyze primary sources in the service of conducting a research project.
- Read and analyze secondary sources in the service of conducting a research projects.
- Construct an effective argument, with a thesis statement and supporting evidence.
- Write a substantial research paper in a literate and cogent manner.

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 & 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 (or virtually for online students) 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.
- 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.
- 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 Navigate360 website (<https://uwm.navigate.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.