

Have You Seen This Major?

RELIGIOUS STUDIES



The Department of Religious Studies offers a Bachelor of Arts major and a Bachelor of Science major requiring at least 33 semester hours, including an 18-hour core curriculum and 15 hours distributed among history of religions, biblical studies, history of Judaism and Christianity and religion, self, and society. In pursuing the Religious Studies degree, students become familiar with the histories, geographies, and cultures of a wide variety of religions. Every year the department awards about \$6,000 in scholarships to undergraduate students.

The primary requirement for success is a burning curiosity about religion. Since many of the courses require writing, strong written communication skills are a plus, but faculty and graduate assistants are always available to help students improve their writing. While we study religions in a way that seeks to understand them in a fair and sensitive manner, we do not "teach religion" from a faith perspective, that is, we do not teach students to be "religious."



SEE WHAT A STUDENT HAS TO SAY...

"My Religious Studies major challenged me to examine my own thought processes in order to better understand the global community, giving me the tools to make change both locally and worldwide." -Marah Baldwin

Students with questions are welcome to contact Dr. Jack Llewellyn, Religious Studies department head (JLlewellyn@MissouriState.edu).

www.missouristate.edu/relst/major.htm

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE DEGREE

Does this major require a minor? What minors work well with this major?

Both the B.A. and B.S. majors in Religious Studies are non-comprehensive, meaning that a minor is required. A student may choose any minor. A minor that complements a student's career plans can enhance job opportunities.

Does this major require a practicum or internship?

A practicum or internship is not required for a Religious Studies major, but a student can work with the department and Career Center to explore internship options.

What courses should a student take to explore this major?

There are five courses offered by the Department of Religious Studies that count for credit in the general education program, so any of these would be a good place to start. In the Self-Understanding/Humanities area: REL 100 Introduction to Religion and REL 210 Paths of World Religions and in the Culture and Society/Humanities area: REL 101 Literature and World of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, REL 102 Literature of the New Testament, and REL 131 Religion in America.

What are the admission requirements to the major?

There are no admission requirements.

AFTER THE DEGREE

How would you describe the demand for graduates with this major?

Students choosing a Religious Studies major gain many marketable skills, including a global outlook, respect and appreciation for diversity, research skills, and effective communication skills. Students are trained to think analytically and to read, write, and speak effectively.

What are some typical jobs for graduates with this major?

Missouri State Religious Studies majors have gone on to pursue many different careers. They have become college professors, attorneys, primary and secondary school educators, journalists, business leaders, and religious professionals of all kinds.

What are some of the most successful graduates from the major doing?

Religious Studies majors have gained admission to some of the most prestigious graduate schools in the country, often with generous financial aid, including Harvard University, Princeton University, Emory University, University of California-Santa Barbara, University of Pennsylvania, Florida State University, Yale Divinity School, Brite Divinity School and Candler School of Theology.

Do careers in this field require or prefer graduate study?

Religious Studies majors should consider continuing at Missouri State for a master's degree. The department offers an accelerated master's program to facilitate this transition. Graduate school is required for a career as a college teacher. A student who plans on a career as a religious professional may have to attend seminary, depending on the specific position sought. Graduate or professional school may be required for other careers that are not specifically related to Religious Studies, such as law school or graduate programs in social work or counseling.



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