

Bachelor of Arts with a Religion Major

The Department of Religion and Philosophy offers a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Religion. The religion graduate is expected to have an appreciation of the diversity of humanity's religious traditions. It is acknowledged that no student will recall all the factual information relating to any religious tradition. What is expected of the religion graduate is that the student will have enough knowledge to form a general picture of each religious tradition the student has studied. In addition, the religion graduate is expected to have a broad understanding of the academic study of religion, which stands outside particular religious traditions and studies religions by means of the methods and standards of the secular academy.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Interpret religious material and demonstrate how a scholar of religious studies approaches religious phenomena.
2. Conduct primary research by formulating valid research questions, implementing useful research methods, identifying source materials, organizing data, and completing an article-length paper that reflects proper documentation and citation practices.
3. Demonstrate the oral skills to present and defend research conclusions in a presentation before peers.

Major and Minor GPA calculation for Bachelor of Arts in Religion

To earn a major or minor in religion, students must have a minimum GPA of 2.0 across all of their religion courses. Minor and major GPAs are based on the grades earned in all Religion courses (REL) that count in the Converse GPA.

Transfer credits from other institutions do not figure into the calculation for major or minor GPAs; approved religion courses taken at Wofford do count with in the major and minor GPA under the Converse -Wofford program.

Major Requirements

A major in religion consists of 30 hours of coursework. The major requires one course (no more than two) at the 100-level; two courses at the 200 level (covering two religious traditions); and two courses at the 300/400-level. Majors must also complete REL 391 or its equivalent in the sophomore or junior year after having completed one 100-level course. Senior majors must complete REL 491. The religion classroom is a locus of learning, but not its limit. Extra-classroom activities that enhance course learning are often offered through department forums, speakers, and field trips, or opportunities for research. Majors are expected to take part in departmental functions and projects whenever possible and are welcomed to participate in departmental decision-making.

With exception of REL 391 and REL 491, religion courses count for GEP credit unless otherwise indicated. Students are encouraged, however, to enroll primarily in 100 and 200-level courses to meet the GEP requirement. The Religion Department will accept six hours of transfer credits (or more at the discretion of the program coordinator) toward the major or minor. No more than six internship hours may be applied toward the major. The Department will normally accept no more than two courses in biblical languages toward the major or minor, although exceptions may be made at the discretion of the religion program coordinator, (especially for students preparing for the ministry and/or seminary).

The rationale for the numbering of courses in religion is as follows:

- 100-level courses are fundamental courses that;

1. Introduce students to aspects of the study of religion as a humanistic discipline in an academic setting and employ materials from a variety of religious traditions.
 2. are skills-oriented courses most suitable for first and second-year students.
- 200-level courses introduce students to the fundamental history, literature or interpretation of one or more religious traditions. They are more focused than 100 level courses, and yet often cover the breadth of an historical or literary tradition.
 - 300 and 400-level courses are more specific, thematic, often comparative across traditions, focus on a specific aspect of a tradition or traditions, often interdisciplinary and stress the application of methodology to specific problems or issues.

Program: Religion

Type: Bachelor of Arts, BA

Total credits:

30
