

Bachelor of Arts in Religion

The Bachelor of Arts in Religion allows students to study the cultural, political, and spiritual aspects of religion while being exposed to the theological tenets of religious thought and expression. You'll experience a multidisciplinary approach to religious study from the viewpoints of both participant and critic. The origin, history, beliefs, and practices of the major religions of the world are also examined. Graduates of this online bachelor's degree are inclined toward professions that include aspects of human services and pastoral assistance.

Degree Program Objectives

In addition to the institutional and degree level learning objectives, graduates of this program are expected to achieve these learning outcomes:

- Define the term "religion" and identify religion's influence throughout society.
- Identify and summarize the universal and unique forms of religious expression such as sacred places, symbols, ethics, and rituals.
- Describe the concepts that comprise a religious worldview such as the creation of the world, good and evil, salvation, and the meaning of suffering.
- Discuss the various political, social, and other forms of religious life that are evident in different societies.
- Synthesize knowledge of the cultural, social, scientific and religious aspects of society.
- Explain the role that faith can play in a balanced worldview.

Degree at a Glance

Code	Title	Semester Hours
	General Education Requirements	30
	Major Required	39
	Select 1 of the following concentrations:	15
	Christian Studies (p. 3)	
	Non-Profit Leadership (p. 3)	
	Final Program Requirements	3
	Elective Requirements	33
	Total Semester Hours	120

Degree Program Requirements

General Education Requirements (30 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Arts and Humanities (6 semester hours)¹		
Select 2 courses from the following:		6
ARAB100	Arabic I	
ARAB101	Arabic II	
ARTH200	Art Appreciation	
ARTH241	Film and Literature	
DSIN141	Image Enhancement using Adobe Photoshop	
FREN100	French I	
FREN101	French II	
GERM100	German I	
GERM101	German II	
JAPN100	Introduction to Japanese	
LITR215	Literature of American Encounters, Revolution, and Rebellion	
LITR218	From Abolition to #MeToo: Literature of the American Civil Rights Movement	
LITR222	Pivotal Figures in Early British Literature	
LITR225	British Literature from Wordsworth through the Wasteland	
LITR231	Leadership in World Literature: Antiquity to the Early Modern Period	
LITR233	Literature of the Newly Globalized World: The Individual's Struggle to Adapt	
MUSI200	Music Appreciation	
MUSI250	World Music and Cultures	
PHIL101	Introduction to Philosophy	
PHIL110	Critical Thinking	
PHIL200	Introduction to Ethics	
PHIL202	Philosophy of Science	
PORT100	Introduction to Brazilian Portuguese	
RELS201	Introduction to World Religions	
RUSS100	Russian I	
SPAN100	Spanish I	
SPAN101	Spanish II	
STEM270	Thinking and Acting Ethically	
Civics, Political and Social Science (6 semester hours)¹		
SOCI111	Introduction to Sociology	3
Select 1 course from the following:		3

ANTH100	Introduction to Anthropology
ANTH202	Introduction to Cultural Anthropology
CHFD220	Human Sexuality
COMM211	Social Media and Society
COMM240	Intercultural Communication
ECON101	Microeconomics
ECON102	Macroeconomics
EDUC200	Humane Education: A Global Interdisciplinary Perspective
GEOG101	Introduction to Geography
HOSP110	Practical Food Safety and Awareness
IRLS210	International Relations I
LITR212	Forgotten America—Under Represented Cultures in American Literature
LITR235	Four Points of the Compass: Culture and Society Around the World
POLS101	Introduction to Political Science
POLS210	American Government I
PSYC101	Introduction to Psychology
SOCI212	Social Problems
SOCI220	American Popular Culture
STEM280	Exploring Society and Cultures via Science Fiction

Communication: Writing, Oral, and Multimedia (9 semester hours)

COMM120	Information and Digital Literacy	3
ENGL110	Making Writing Relevant	3
Select 1 course from the following:		3
COMM200	Public Speaking	
ENGL101	Proficiency in Writing	
ENGL115	Argumentation and Rhetoric	
ENGL210	Introduction to Literature	
ENGL220	Technical Writing	
ENGL221	Scientific Writing	
ENGL226	Effective Business Communication	
HRMT101	Human Relations Communication	
IRLS200	Information Literacy and Global Citizenship	
ITCC231	Introduction to Information Technology Writing	
MGMT100	Human Relations	

History (3 semester hours)

Select 1 course from the following:		3
HIST101	American History to 1877	
HIST102	American History since 1877	
HIST111	World Civilization before 1650	
HIST112	World Civilization since 1650	
HIST121	Western Civilization before The Thirty Years War	

HIST122	Western Civilization since The Thirty Years War	
HIST221	African-American History before 1877	
HIST222	African-American History since 1877	
HIST223	History of the American Indian	
HIST270	History of Science	
STEM185	The History and Context of STEM	

Mathematics and Applied Reasoning (3 semester hours)

Select 1 course from the following:		3
ACCT105	Accounting for Non Accounting Majors	
ENTD200	Fundamentals of Programming	
MATH110	College Algebra	
MATH111	College Trigonometry	
MATH120	Introduction to Statistics	
MATH125	Math for Liberal Arts Majors	
MATH225	Calculus	

Natural Sciences (3 semester hours)

Select 1 course from the following:		3
BIOL180	Introduction to Biology	
BIOL181	Introduction to Human Anatomy and Physiology	
CHEM180	Introduction to Chemistry	
ERSC180	Introduction to Meteorology	
ERSC181	Introduction to Geology	
EVSP180	Introduction to Environmental Science	
PHYS180	Introduction to Physics	
SPST180	Introduction to Astronomy	
STEM100	Introduction to STEM Disciplines	

Total Semester Hours 30

¹ All literature courses require successful completion of ENGL101 - Proficiency in Writing or ENGL110 - Making Writing Relevant.

Major Required (39 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
RELS101	Introduction to the Study of Religion	3
RELS201	Introduction to World Religions	3
RELS202	Religion in America	3
COLL300	Research, Analysis, and Writing	3
Select 9 courses from the following:		27
RELS205	Christianity	
RELS250	Death and Dying	
RELS260	Race & Religion	
RELS270	Hope and Resilience	
RELS330	Religions of the Middle East	
RELS350	Hinduism	

RELS351	Buddhism
RELS360	East Asian Religions
RELS370	South Asian Religions
RELS353	Islam
RELS405	Myth and Ritual
PHIL410	God and World
RELS411	Religious Existentialism
SOCI420	Sociology of Religion
RELS452	Religious Cults
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Total Semester Hours	39

Students must choose a concentration for this degree program and may select from a Concentration in Christian Studies or a Concentration in Non-Profit Leadership.

Concentration in Christian Studies (15 semester hours)

In this concentration, students will focus on the philosophy and teachings of Jesus Christ and his apostles, and the subsequent intellectual and cultural movements and institutions based on Christianity. Includes instruction in Christian sacred scripture, Christian literature and philosophy.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Describe the life and teaching of Jesus Christ and his apostles
- Apply Christian philosophy to current events
- Explore foundations of Christian faith and religious devotion based on Bible studies
- Apply spiritual, philosophical, and literary concepts from a general Christian perspective

Concentration Requirements (15 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
RELS206	Contemporary Christianity	3
RELS211	Introduction to the Old Testament	3
RELS212	Introduction to the New Testament	3
RELS311	Introduction to the Bible	3
RELS422	The Teachings of Jesus	3
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Total Semester Hours		15

Concentration in Non-Profit Leadership (15 semester hours)

In this concentration, students will focus on the theory and practice of providing socially responsive religious and educational leadership within religious non-profit organizations. Students will be prepared to serve as administrative non-ordained religious leaders of faith communities and non-profit religious organizations. Based on specific courses selected within the concentration, includes instruction in religious studies, accounting, strategic planning, leadership, business management, and public relations for religious non-profit organizations.

Objectives

Upon successful completion of this concentration, the student will be able to:

- Apply socially responsive theoretical approaches to leading religious non-profit organizations
- Identify specific business-management practices to sustain a religious non-profit organization
- Explore and discuss the administrative and organizational needs of a religious non-profit organization, including accounting, strategic planning, business management, and public relations.

Concentration Requirements (15 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
RELS305	Theology of Social Responsibility	3
Select 4 courses from the following:		12
BUSN100	Basics of Business	
ACCT105	Accounting for Non Accounting Majors	
FINC300	Foundations of Financial Management	
MKTG304	Public Relations	
MKTG307	Consumer Behavior	
BUSN318	Small Business Management	
MGMT312	Leadership & Motivation	
ENTR313	Non-Profit Entrepreneurship	
MGMT414	Strategic Planning	
BUSN410	Critical Thinking Strategies for Business Decisions	
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Total Semester Hours		15

Final Program Requirements (3 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
PHRL498	Religion and Philosophy Capstone (to be taken as the last course before graduation) ¹	3
Total Semester Hours		3

¹ Prerequisite: Senior Standing and completion of all major courses prior to enrollment.

Elective Requirements (33 semester hours)

Code	Title	Semester Hours
Select any courses not already taken to fulfill the requirements listed above. Credits applied toward a minor or certificate in an unrelated field may be used to fulfill elective credit for the major.		33
Total Semester Hours		33