

# Bachelor of Arts – Religious Studies

School of Arts and Sciences



The Religious Studies program at Ursuline offers strong undergraduate preparation for careers in church ministry or the academic study of religion. It accommodates students pursuing the Bachelor of Arts degree as well as those returning to college to prepare for a career change or advancement. Coursework is also available leading to Cleveland diocesan certification in pastoral ministry.

The program is designed to meet the needs of students who follow the Roman Catholic tradition as well as those who are interested in the broader scope of religious studies. A two-track major, Catholic Studies and Religious Studies (34 credit hours) and a parallel two-track minor (21 credits hours) address these different perspectives. It is also possible to achieve a major in Jewish Studies through affiliation with the Laura and Alvin Siegal College of Judaic Studies.

Courses deliver intellectually stimulating experiences, support the development of the total person, and enrich on both personal and professional levels.

## Career Opportunities

In Religious Studies, undergraduate students prepare for a career in parish pastoral ministry, youth ministry, hospital ministry, religious education administration and teaching, campus ministry, church/religious architecture, religious art, music ministry, missionary work, religious bookstore sales and management, religious journalism, church camp ministry, academic scholarship and teaching, parish administration, social justice advocacy, prison ministry, retreat ministry and ministry to the elderly.

For volunteers in church communities, courses in Religious Studies provide the background necessary for effective service.

More career choices emerge when the Religious Studies major is combined with another major, such as business administration, education, nursing, health services management, art, music, psychology, English, languages, philosophy, public relations, graphic design, historic preservation.

## Internships

Students desiring practical experience are encouraged to participate in internships and/or cooperative education experiences.

The academic internship program is an on-site, paid or unpaid career experience related to the student's major or other area of interest. An internship entails monitoring and assessment by an on-the-job supervisor and a faculty advisor. Satisfying requirements established by the faculty supervisor earns credit for the internship.

The cooperative education program is usually a paid career experience for which no academic credit is received. The co-op experience can be tailored to the student's needs as either a full-time or part-time position.

## Course Requirements

The student seeking the Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies is required to complete the Ursuline Studies Program of writing-intensive interdisciplinary courses. These 49 semester hours including mathematics, science, sociology, psychology, history, the arts, philosophy and religious studies serve as the liberal arts core of the college. The Religious Studies major consists of completion of 34 credits in the department. The student desiring a Religious Studies minor must complete at least 21 credits in Religious Studies courses.

Students completing the Religious Studies Major may elect to work toward the completion of their required number of RS electives in one of four areas of concentration. The Catholic Studies Concentration consists of RS 255, 311, 331 and 333. The Religion and Society Concentration consists of any four courses bearing a 360 or 460 numerical designation. The Pastoral Theology Concentration consists of any three courses bearing a 366 or 466 designation and RS 475 (a three credit internship). Students who do not choose one of these three areas of concentration may complete the RS major with the General Religious Studies Concentration whereby the student may take any 200+ level RS courses toward the completion of the RS electives.

## Religious Studies Major

### Required Coursework

RS 205 Introduction to Study of Religion	3
RS 312 Hebrew Scriptures	3
RS 314 Christian Scriptures	3
RS 322 Christian Theology and Belief	3
RS 325 Fundamental Principles of Morality	3
RS 342 History of Christianity	3
RS 490 Senior Research Project	1
5 Religious Studies Elective Courses 200+ Level	15

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TOTAL CREDITS 34

### Catholic Studies Concentration

#### Required Coursework

RS 255 History of Catholicism in America	3
RS 311 Jesus: Divine and Human	3
RS 331 Sacramental Encounter with Christ	3
RS 333 Nature and Mission of the Church	3
RS Elective Course	3

### Religion and Society Concentration

#### Required Coursework

Any 4 Courses of RS 360 or 460	12
RS Elective Course	3

### Pastoral Theology Concentration

#### Required Coursework

RS 475 Academic Internship	3
Any 3 Courses RS 366 or 466	9

## Religious Studies Minor

### Required Coursework

RS 205 Introduction to the Study of Religion	3
RS 312 Hebrew Scriptures	3
RS 314 Christian Scriptures	3
RS 322 Christian Theology and Belief	3
RS 325 Fundamental Principles of Morality	3
RS 342 History of Christianity	3
RS Elective Course at the 200+ Level	3

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TOTAL CREDITS 21



VALUES • VOICE • VISION

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