

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 | |
| ARTH240 | Survey of Photography | |
| 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 | |
| MUSI212 | Jazz and Rock | |
| 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 | |
| RELS101 | Introduction to the Study of Religion | |
| 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

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|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 | |
| POLS101 | Introduction to Political Science | |
| POLS210 | American Government I | |
| PSYC101 | Introduction to Psychology | |
| RELS250 | Death and Dying | |
| RELS260 | Race & Religion | |
| RELS270 | Hope and Resilience | |
| SOCI212 | Social Problems | |
| SOCI220 | American Popular Culture | |
| STEM280 | Exploring Society and Cultures via Science Fiction | |

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

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|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 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)

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Select 1 course from the following: | | 3 |
| HIST101 | American History to 1877 | |

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|---------|--|--|
| 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)

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Select 1 course from the following: | | 3 |
| ACCT105 | Accounting for Non Accounting Majors | |
| ENTD200 | Fundamentals of Programming | |
| MATH110 | College Algebra | |
| MATH111 | College Trigonometry | |
| MATH112 | Pre-Calculus | |
| MATH120 | Introduction to Statistics | |
| MATH125 | Math for Liberal Arts Majors | |
| MATH225 | Calculus | |

Natural Sciences (3 semester hours)

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|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| 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 |
| RELS205 | Christianity | 3 |
| RELS330 | Religions of the Middle East | 3 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----|
| RELS260 | Race & Religion | 3 |
| Select one course from the following: | | 3 |
| RELS360 | East Asian Religions | |
| RELS370 | South Asian Religions | |
| RELS250 | Death and Dying | 3 |
| PHIL410 | God and World | 3 |
| RELS405 | Myth and Ritual | 3 |
| Select one course from the following: | | 3 |
| RELS270 | Hope and Resilience | |
| RELS411 | Religious Existentialism | |
| Select one course from the following: | | 3 |
| RELS462 | New Religious Movements and Cults | |
| SOCI420 | Sociology of Religion | |
| 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 |
| 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 gain knowledge about serving 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 | |
| MGMT312 | Leadership & Motivation | |
| ENTR313 | Non-Profit Entrepreneurship | |
| MGMT414 | Strategic Planning | |
| BUSN410 | Critical Thinking Strategies for Business Decisions | |
| 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 |