Religious Studies, B.A.

The Religious Studies major includes an interdisciplinary focus on the comparative understanding of the various ways different peoples, across space and through time, have developed their religious ideas, values, systems, beliefs, rituals, and traditions in response to fundamental questions of human existence. The curriculum seeks to provide a wide-ranging academic understanding and knowledge of the religious experience in society through study in the Schools of Humanities, Social Sciences, Social Ecology, and the Claire Trevor School of the Arts. As an interdisciplinary academic discipline, the study of religion offers a rigorous, systematic, and dispassionate intellectual inquiry into various aspects of religious systems, their practitioners and outlooks, and their goals and expressions. It employs a wide variety of approaches and methods in order to understand the role of religion in both human experience and thought.

Students in the Religious Studies major complete an emphasis either in World Religious Traditions or, more particularly, in Judaism/Christianity/Islam.

Categories and Approved Courses

The complete list of approved courses varies from quarter to quarter, depending upon course scheduling. For complete up-to-date information on approved courses, please consult the Religious Studies website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/religious_studies/).

All students must meet the University Requirements (http://catalogue.uci.edu/informationforadmittedstudents/requirementsforabachelorsdegree/).

All students must meet the School Requirements (http://catalogue.uci.edu/schoolofhumanities/#schoolrequirementstext).

Requirements for the Major

A. Complete:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL STD 5A</td>
<td>World Religions I</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL STD 5B</td>
<td>World Religions II</td>
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<td>REL STD 5C</td>
<td>Religious Dialogue</td>
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<tr>
<td>REL STD 110</td>
<td>Thinking about Religion: Theories and Methodologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>or REL STD 110W</td>
<td>Thinking about Religion: Theories and Methodologies</td>
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B. Select six upper-division electives, two in each of the following categories: ¹

1. Judaism/Christianity/Islam

2. World Religious Traditions

3. Thematic Approaches to Religion

C. Select two additional upper-division courses from either category 1 or 2 above in order to complete an emphasis in Judaism/Christianity/Islam or in World Religious Traditions.

¹ Selected from the approved lists published on the Religious Studies website (http://www.humanities.uci.edu/religious_studies/). One relevant lower-division course may be substituted for an upper-division course, with prior approval.

Studying Abroad: Students are encouraged to study abroad and may be able to satisfy a significant portion of their requirements abroad. Courses taken abroad must be approved by the Director of Religious Studies in order to be applied toward major requirements.

Residence Requirement for the Major: A minimum of five upper-division courses required for the major must be completed successfully at UCI.

Majoring in Religious Studies is an excellent preparation for living in a multicultural society and for a variety of careers in counseling, teaching, commerce, writing, government, the arts, and professional religious leadership. The major’s emphasis on broad understanding, critical thinking skills, and clear written expression provides an effective springboard for graduate study in the humanities and social science or professional schools in medicine, law, or business.

The UCI Division of Career Pathways provides services to students and alumni including career counseling, information about job opportunities, a career library, and workshops on resume preparation, job search, and interview techniques. See the UCI D (http://career.uci.edu/) vision of Career Pathways website (http://career.uci.edu/) for additional information.