RELGIOUS STUDIES -
BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The curriculum in the Department of Religious Studies at CU Boulder trains students in the scholarly understanding and interpretation of the complex phenomenon we call religion through careful study of history, texts, rituals, narrative, art and media. The program offers the skills to approach the comparative study of religion with the option of gaining deeper knowledge in Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, religions in America, religions in the Mediterranean, religions in Asia and several indigenous traditions. The program also allows students to develop expertise in thematic areas such as religion and the body; ritual studies; religion and the environment; ethics, politics, and law; religion, gender, and sexuality; and ancient and medieval religions.

The undergraduate degree in religious studies emphasizes the application of various theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of religion; the understanding of religious practices and traditions with attention to historical context and present-day impact; and the development of media literacy, critical thinking, effective oral and written communication, and research skills in our increasingly globalized and religiously diverse world.

In addition, students with a degree in religious studies are expected to achieve basic religious literacy: the ability to communicate and analyze practical information regarding religious diversity as educated citizens of a pluralistic society and thereby to effectively understand and participate in public debates and discussions about religion.

Graduation with Honors

The Honors Program in religious studies offers the opportunity for highly motivated undergraduates to undertake a deeper and more individualized study than is provided by the regular BA curriculum and to earn an honors designation on their diploma. Religious studies majors with at least a 3.30 overall grade point average and 3.50 in the major are eligible to participate in the program. Honors that may be earned are cum laude (with honors), magna cum laude (with high honors) and summa cum laude (with highest honors).

Students interested in pursuing departmental honors are encouraged to consult with the departmental undergraduate advisor by the beginning of their junior year.

Requirements

Program Requirements

Students must complete the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences and, in addition:

- All courses counted towards the major must be completed with a grade of C- or better and none of the courses may be taken for a Pass/Fail grade.
- The cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) in courses counted toward the major must be at least 2.0.
- More than half of the credit hours (19 or greater) counted toward the major need to be in upper-division courses.
- At least 27 of the 36 credit hours must be taken in RLST designated courses.

Graduating in Four Years

Consult the Four-Year Guarantee Requirements for information on eligibility. The concept of "adequate progress" as it is used here only refers to maintaining eligibility for the four-year guarantee; it is not a requirement for the major. To maintain adequate progress in religious studies, students should meet the following requirements:

- At the beginning of the second semester of study, declare the major.
- Each semester, complete two religious studies courses.
- The last spring semester in residence, take the senior seminar.

Recommended Four-Year Plan of Study

Through the required coursework for the major, students will fulfill all 12 credits of the Arts & Humanities area of the Gen Ed Distribution Requirement.
### Year Two
**Fall Semester**
- RLST Major Elective Lower or Upper-division: 3
- Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences): 3
- Elective/MAPS: 3
- Elective/MAPS: 3

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**Spring Semester**
- RLST Major Elective Lower or Upper-division: 3
- Gen. Ed. Distribution course (example: Natural Sciences): 3
- Elective: 3
- Elective: 3

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### Year Three
**Fall Semester**
- RLST Upper-division Major Elective: 3
- RLST Cluster course Lower or Upper-division: 3
- Elective or Upper-division Elective (if needed): 3

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**Spring Semester**
- RLST Upper-Division Major Elective: 3
- RLST Cluster course - Upper-Division: 3
- Upper-division Elective: 3
- Upper-division Elective: 3

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### Year Four
**Fall Semester**
- RLST Upper-Division Major Elective: 3
- RLST Cluster course - Upper-Division: 3
- Upper-division Elective: 3
- Upper-division Elective: 3

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**Spring Semester**
- RLST 4830: Senior Majors Seminar: 3
- RLST Upper-Division Major Elective: 3
- Upper-division Elective: 3
- Upper-division Elective: 3
- Upper-division Elective: 3

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| Total Credit Hours | 121 |