RELIGIOUS STUDIES - BACHELOR OF ARTS (BA)

The curriculum in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Colorado 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 one religious tradition, such as Buddhism, Christianity, Daoism, Hinduism, Islam and Native American traditions.

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.

Concurrent Degree Program
BA/MA in Religious Studies
A concurrent bachelor’s/master’s degree program offers a select group of exceptional undergraduates the opportunity to begin graduate work while still an undergraduate and thereby complete the BA and MA degrees simultaneously and on an accelerated schedule. The entire program normally requires five to six years and permits 6 credit hours to be double-counted toward both degrees; otherwise, requirements for the two degrees remain unchanged.

Admission to the Program
Applicants to the program must be full-time, continuously enrolled students with a minimum overall GPA of 3.00, and a 3.50 GPA in RLST courses. They must have completed at least 24 credit hours prior to admission to the concurrent BA/MA degree program, and must have satisfied any MAPS deficiencies. Applications will include letters of recommendation from RLST faculty and will be evaluated by faculty as a whole, much as graduate applications are.

Continuation in the Program
Students enrolled in the concurrent BA/MA program must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25, and 3.50 in the department. Concurrent degree students may not participate in the Time Out program; exceptions may be granted by the CDAC (Concurrent Degree Appeals Committee) based on a review of extenuating circumstances. Each BA/MA student will be assigned a graduate advisor with whom to meet regularly and will be required to demonstrate satisfactory progress toward degree to the advisor within the framework of the department’s graduate student assessment policies.

Curriculum
Students enrolled in the concurrent BA/MA program are permitted to double-count 6 credit hours of course work, thereby reducing the total amount of RLST course work to (36 + 31 - 6 =) 61 credit hours. One of these courses must be RLST 6830, which would replace Senior Seminar for BA/MA students, and the other must be in an area of depth concentration. Otherwise program students will fulfill all the normal requirements for the BA and the MA degree.

Requirements
Students must complete the general requirements of the College of Arts and Sciences and at least 36 credit hours of religious studies course work, at least 12 of which must be upper-division. At least 27 credit hours must be taken in the CU Department of Religious Studies in addition to the following requirements.

Required Courses and Semester Credit Hours

**Academic Study of Religion Requirement**
- RLST 1620 Religious Dimension in Human Experience 3
- RLST 4830 Senior Majors Seminar 3

**Cluster Requirement**
Select three courses in either of the following:

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<th>Cluster Requirement</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>A single religious tradition (i.e. Buddhism, Christianity, East Asian Religions, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Native American and Indigenous Religions)</td>
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<td>A particular theme (i.e. ancient and medieval religions, gender and sexuality, interreligious interactions, law and politics, media, culture, and contemporary society, philosophy and ethics, religion and violence, ritual, performance, and the body)</td>
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**Electives**

- Total Credit Hours 36

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.