



RELIGIOUS STUDIES (M.A.)

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

GRADUATE ADMISSION (210) 829-6005

The Religious Studies Program

The M.A. in Religious Studies is offered through the Pastoral Institute department. This degree is designed to prepare participants to serve competently and effectively in a variety of church ministries. An integral part of the Institute is the emphasis, not only on solid scriptural and theological foundations, but also on the pastoral application of theory and research to the concrete situations of ministry and to the development of leadership roles in the church. Theological reflection, therefore, is built into each course. Opportunities for planning and participating in liturgical celebrations as well as for group discussion and sharing are incorporated into the program. Graduates are engaged in a wide variety of careers and ministries, including education and religious education on all levels; parish, school, and diocesan ministries and leadership.

Admission Criteria

See the Graduate Bulletin for complete information on admission requirements and program content.

The applicant for the Master of Arts in Religious Studies must fulfill the general requirements for admission to the graduate program and for the Master's degree, with the exception that in place of the GRE/MAT requirement applicants must present three letters of recommendation and a personal statement of ministerial and educational goals. Applicants should consult the Director for further directions regarding the letters of recommendation.

Prerequisites

Normally at least twelve semester hours in Theology or Religious Studies at the undergraduate level, taken after 1980, to include introductory courses in the study of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures. Documented non-credit studies will be evaluated on an individual basis upon request, for example, diaconal studies or diocesan certification courses.

Requirements for the Master of Arts

The degree plan requires thirty-six (36) semester hours, distributed as follows:

- 6 semester hours in Scripture, to include one course in Hebrew Scripture, one in the Christian Scriptures, and an elective.
- 10 semester hours in Theology, to include a course in Sacraments, Liturgy, Morality, and Ecclesiology.
- 10 semester hours in Ministry, to include a two-credit pastoral project preceded by RSPI 6285 – Program Planning and Evaluation. Upon request, a thesis option may be considered in special circumstances, but in general is not recommended due to the pastoral nature of the degree.
- 10 semester hours of electives, selected according to the student's educational and ministerial goals. Part or all of these units may be taken in one of the areas of specialization. With the approval of the Director of the Pastoral Institute, a student may elect to complete up to nine hours of graduate credit in another graduate degree program offered by the University of the Incarnate Word.

Four Specializations

Specialization in **Spirituality (10 hours)**

For the Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a specialization in Spirituality, the following courses are required:

RSPI 6273 – Introduction to Spirituality

RSPI 6274 – Introduction to Prayer

The Pastoral Project (RSPI 62CS) must be completed in the area of spirituality.

Specialization in Catechesis (8 hours)

This specialization focuses on the techniques and environment of contemporary catechesis. Course offering includes:

RSPI 6236 – Family Catechesis

RSPI 6239 – Adulthood and Christian Maturity

RSPI 6240 – Theory and Methods of Catechesis

RSPI 6242 – Administration and Program Planning in Religious Education

RSPI 6243 – Catechist Formation

RSPI 6244 – Culture and Catechesis

RSPI 6251 – Adolescent Catechesis

The Pastoral Project (RSPI 62CS) must be undertaken in the area of Catechesis.

Specialization in Ministry with Hispanics (minimum of 8 hours)

Through a cooperative program with the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), the Master of Arts in Religious Studies may be obtained with a specialization in Ministry with Hispanics. Up to 14 credit hours from the MACC program can be applied towards the Master's degree.

General requirements for admission to the M.A. in Religious Studies program must be met before a student may enroll in the cooperative program. While enrolled at MACC students pay 40% of the University's regular tuition costs (to the University) in addition to tuition and fees required by MACC. Further information on requirements may be obtained from the Director of the Institute or from MACC. Credits earned through MACC must be arranged individually with the Director of the Pastoral Institute.

Specializations in Youth Ministry (8 hours)

The Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a specialization in Youth Ministry is offered in cooperation with the Center for Ministry Development program.

For the Master of Arts degree in Religious Studies with a specialization in Youth Ministry, candidates can take the following courses:

RSPI 6155 – Foundations of Christian Leadership

RSPI 6156 – Principles of Youth Ministry

RSPI 6157 – Skills for Christian Leadership

RSPI 6158 – Developing Youth Ministry

RSPI 6159 – Fostering the Fair Growth of Youth Through Pastoral Care

RSPI 6160 – Fostering the Fair Growth of Youth Through Evangelization and Catechesis

RSPI 6161 – Fostering the Fair Growth of Youth Through Prayer and Worship

RSPI 6162 – Fostering the Fair Growth of Youth Through Justice and Service

The Pastoral Project (RSPI 62CS) must be completed in the area of Youth Ministry. All applicants should consult with the Director of the Pastoral Institute to establish their course of studies and their area of specialization where appropriate.

Requirements for a Certificate in Pastoral Studies

A non-degree certificate recognizing 16 semester hours of graduate coursework offers the opportunity for students to enhance their knowledge in the field of pastoral theology and ministry. Course choices are based on the individual's previous studies and future plans for ministry. Certificate enrollment is open to all persons who meet the general admission requirements for admission to the M.A. in Religious Studies.

Contact Information

Sr. Eilish Ryan, C.C.V.I., Th.D.
University of the Incarnate Word
4301 Broadway
San Antonio, Texas 78209
eryan@uiwtx.edu

Admissions Office
(210) 829.6005
www.uiw.edu