

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) at the University of the Incarnate Word prepares students to understand the implications and expressions of faith and apply that understanding through several career options. The B.A. in Religious Studies challenges students to understand how faith shapes the thoughts, lives and ethics of individuals and communities. Courses encompass various approaches to the study of religion. They explore ritual and textual traditions, consider the early formation of religions, and investigate the interaction of religious beliefs and practices through various societal aspects. Fields of study include Theology, Biblical Studies, Spirituality, World Religions, Ethics, and Religion and Culture. Students become familiar with several major religious traditions in the world in addition to Roman Catholicism. Students explore perennial questions concerning the reality of God, the meaning of human existence, the significance of the Bible, the dignity and liberation of the person and ways to live ethically in a global world. To this end, students learn to appreciate religious diversity and the roles of religions and religious faith in shaping human life, as exemplified particularly in the Roman Catholic tradition.

QUICK FACTS

- Students can choose between four concentrations: Biblical Studies, General Studies, Theological Studies and Catholic Studies.
- This liberal arts major prepares students for graduate studies in religion, teaching, ministry, literary studies, history and psychology as well as law school, medical school and business school.
- In their final year of study, students can take a Field Experience course. The Field Experience is a practicum experience designed for students who wish to enter religious education or church ministry.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The requirements for admission to the B.A. in Religious Studies program are the same as the requirements for admission to the University of the Incarnate Word. Without special arrangements, RELS courses taken before 2000 will not fulfill the 36-hour requirement for a major. Lower-division classes are at the 1000 level and upper-division classes are at the 3000 and 4000 levels. At least one 1000-level course must be completed before enrolling in 3000 and 4000 level courses.

CONTACT

UIW Admissions

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B.A. in Religious Studies

FRESHMAN YEAR

Fall

FYES 1211: First Year Experience Seminar (2 hours)
 PEHP Physical Activity Course (1 hour)
 ENGL 1311L: Composition I (3 hours)
 MATH Core (3 hours)
 Modern Language I (3 hours)
 RELS 1315: Origins of Christianity (3 hours)

Total Hours: 15

Spring

ENGL 1312: Composition II (3 hours)
 Fine Arts Core (3 hours)
 Modern Language II (3 hours)
 PHIL 1381: Introduction to Philosophy (3 hours)
 RELS 1305: Introduction to Theology and Ethics (3 hours)

Total Hours: 15

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Fall

ENGL 2310: World Literature (3 hours)
 HIST Core: Recommend HIST 1311: World History I or HIST 1312: World History II (3 hours)
 RELS 1325: The Religious Quest (3 hours)
 Minor or Elective (3 hours)
 Minor or Elective (3 hours)

Total Hours: 15

Spring

Natural Science and Lab Core (4 hours)
 RELS 1335: Spirituality and Prayer (3 hours)
 RELS 3345: World Religions (3 hours)
 Social Science Core (3 hours)
 Minor or Elective (3 hours)

Total Hours: 16

JUNIOR YEAR

Fall

RELS Religion & Culture Elective (ADV) (3 hours)
 RELS Biblical Studies Elective (ADV) (3 hours)
 Minor or Electives (ADV) (9 hours)

Total Hours: 15

Spring

RELS Theological Studies Elective (ADV) (3 hours)
 RELS elective in student's chosen track (CATHOLIC, THEOLOGICAL, or BIBLICAL) or RELS Elective for General Track majors (ADV) (3 hours)
 Minor or Electives (ADV) (6 hours)
 Minor or Elective (3 hours)

Total Hours: 15

SENIOR YEAR

Fall

RELS elective in student's chosen track (6 hours)
 Minor or Electives (9 hours)

Total Hours: 15

Spring

RELS 4370: Senior Seminar (3 hours)
 Electives (12 hours)

Total Hours: 15

A minimum of 121 hours needed to complete the B.A. in Religious Studies.