

RELIGIOUS STUDIES (MA)

Department Website (<http://as.nyu.edu/religiousstudies/>)

NYSED: 89562 HEGIS: 1510.00 CIP: 38.0201

Program Description

The Master's in Religious Studies is perfect for students looking for a "bridge" M.A. program to doctoral studies; current and prospective teachers; and students preparing for professional careers in law, social work, journalism, counseling, medicine, civil service, and politics.

Admissions

All applicants to the Graduate School of Arts and Science (GSAS) are required to submit the general application requirements (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc.html>), which include:

- Academic Transcripts (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/academic-transcripts.html>)
- Test Scores (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/test-scores.html>) (if required)
- Applicant Statements (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/statements.html>)
- Résumé or Curriculum Vitae
- Letters of Recommendation (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/nyu-as/gsas/admissions/arc/letters-of-recommendation.html>), and
- A non-refundable application fee (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/admissions/arc.html#fee>).

See Religious Studies (<https://gsas.nyu.edu/admissions/arc/programs/religious-studies.html>) for admission requirements and instructions specific to this program.

Program Requirements

The program requires the completion of 32 credits, and either a thesis project or exam.

Course	Title	Credits
Major Requirements		
RELST-GA 1001	Theories & Methods in The Study of Religion	4
Electives		
Religious Studies Electives (chosen in close consultation with an academic adviser)		28
Total Credits		32

Additional Program Requirements

Thesis/Capstone/Written Comprehensive Exam

students may elect to complete a thesis paper as their capstone project. Typically before their final semester, students will secure a thesis adviser from among either the Religious Studies faculty or faculty from another department at NYU. Together with this adviser, the student will produce a thesis paper to be reviewed by two faculty members, one of whom must be in the Religious Studies program. Although the thesis paper is not graded, students may elect to enroll in RELST-GA 2901 M.A. Thesis Research or RELST-GA 2902 M.A. Thesis Research, (with departmental permission) for a grade as they work toward completion of the paper. As an alternative to the thesis, students may instead choose to take a written comprehensive exam as their capstone project. This requires

securing an examination adviser with whom the student will design a set of questions around their particular field of study. The exam will be administered in the student's final semester, and will receive either a grade of "P" (pass) or "F" (fail). Students will not receive credits for completion of the exam; they must have completed, or be in the process of completing, the required 32 credits at the time of examination.

Journalism and Religion Concentration

The program offers a concentration in Journalism and Religion in conjunction with the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute providing education and training for students seeking careers as professional newspaper, magazine, or broadcast journalists with a special expertise on religion life.

Concentration Requirements

Course	Title	Credits
Concentration Requirements		
<i>Religious Studies</i>		
RELST-GA 1001	Theories & Methods in The Study of Religion	4
RELST-GA 3397	Religion as Media	4
<i>Journalism</i>		
JOUR-GA 1021	Writing/Report Wkshp I	4
JOUR-GA 1022	Writing/Report Wkshp II	4
JOUR-GA 1044	Portfolio	4
JOUR-GA 2048	Introduction to Literary Reportage	4
JOUR-GA 1290	Fieldwork in Journalism	1
JOUR-GA 2090	Master's Thesis	4
Electives		
Select two elective courses focusing on the study of religion		7
Total Credits		36

Additional Program Requirements

Final Project

This concentration requires a final project in long-form journalism, an article aimed at a sophisticated general readership in expository, explanatory, or investigative form on a subject related to religious life.

Sample Plan of Study

Course	Title	Credits
1st Semester/Term		
RELST-GA 1001	Theories & Methods in The Study of Religion	4
Elective Course		4
Credits		8
2nd Semester/Term		
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		8
3rd Semester/Term		
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		8
4th Semester/Term		
Elective Course		4
Elective Course		4
Credits		8
Total Credits		32

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will:

1. Be proficient in the use of methods of inquiry of the discipline, theories, concepts and critical issues in the field of Religious Studies. Students study the theories and methods by which religion is analyzed today, including psychological, sociological, anthropological, hermeneutic, philosophical, historical, legal and literary work. They also approach the study of “religion” as a concept, which has itself been an intellectual object of inquiry, and has played a key role in the development of the social and human sciences.
2. Be proficient in oral and written communication appropriate to the discipline.
3. Be prepared to enter further post-MA work in the field: for example, an excellent PhD program in religious studies, history, anthropology etc. OR high school teaching OR work as a journalist in print and electronic media, specializing in writing on religion in society.

Policies

NYU Policies

University-wide policies can be found on the New York University Policy pages (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/nyu/policies/>).

Graduate School of Arts and Science Policies

Academic Policies for the Graduate School of Arts and Science can be found on the Academic Policies page (<https://bulletins.nyu.edu/graduate/arts-science/academic-policies/>).