



# Religious Studies

*The Religious Studies Department encourages the full potential of the human person within the contexts of spiritual development, intellectual growth, and social transformation. The staff and faculty in the Department are a community of educators committed to academic excellence, the strengthening of local and global communities, and practices of justice. This humanistic tradition affirms humanity's creativity and intelligence as reflected in its societies, cultures, and religious traditions.*

## THE PROGRAM

All Gonzaga students—*independent of their majors*—take Religious Studies courses as part of the University Core Curriculum. These courses advance the essential values of the Gonzaga mission. They consist of one course in Christianity and Catholic traditions and one course in world or comparative religions. Additionally, students can choose to take a First Year Seminar, Core Integration seminar, or Ethics core class in Religious Studies.

## OUTCOMES

Many students use their Gonzaga undergraduate studies as a pathway to prestigious graduate programs. After receiving their bachelor's degree, Religious Studies majors have attended graduate schools such as **Boston College**, **the University of Chicago**, **Harvard Divinity School**, **University of Notre Dame**, **Candler School of Theology**, and **Princeton Theological Seminary**.

Recent graduates have also joined the **Jesuit Volunteer Corps** and the **Peace Corps**, as well as other social service agencies.

Students and graduates from the Religious Studies Department can be found working in various fields and studying in a wide array of graduate programs. Religious Studies serves as excellent preparation for careers in law, counseling, education, business, healthcare, journalism, ministry, and the administration of hospitals, schools, and church communities.

## CURRICULUM

Students majoring in Religious Studies are required to fulfill 36 credit hours in accordance with the following four methodological areas: one course in Sacred Texts and Traditions; one course in Theology and Spirituality; one course in Religion, Culture, and Society; and one course in Ethics. Additionally, majors are required to take one course in Methodology (399) and three seminar-level courses (400s), including Senior Thesis (499). The remaining nine credits for the major are electives, which may be fulfilled by taking courses in any of the four methodological areas listed above.

Students minoring in Religious Studies are required to fulfill 18 credit hours including one course in Ethics, one course in Methodology (399), and two seminar-level courses (400s).

Any remaining credits needed for the required 18 credit hours are electives and may be fulfilled by taking courses in any of the four methodological areas listed above.

## FACULTY CONTACT

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## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[gonzaga.edu/religious-studies](http://gonzaga.edu/religious-studies)

*Gonzaga also offers an online Master of Arts in Theology and Leadership.  
Contact: [gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu)*