

Religion is a force in literature, art, music, politics, ethics, societal development, and economics. Through the centuries, religion has inspired progress in the battle for human rights, social justice, tolerance, and peace as well as genocide and war. An understanding of the role of religion world-wide is critical to a liberal arts education and a responsible citizenry.

To major in religious studies means to pursue the academic study of religion from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives, including anthropology, archaeology, history, philosophy, sociology, and textual analysis. Because religion is deeply implicated in history, culture, politics, and literature, the study of religion is critical to understanding and explaining complex global issues in both the past and the present.

One does not have to be “religious” or “spiritual” to study religion, nor is the study of religion directed toward establishing the truth of one religion over another. Since religious studies is an interdisciplinary field of study, students may use the major in religion in many different ways, including preparation for graduate school, as a major or second major in a program of study leading to a career in business, health care, non-profits, social services, and/or teaching, as well as for personal enrichment.

In addition to a number of professional options, the basic intellectual purpose of religious studies is to develop an appreciation for, an understanding of, and a critical insight into, the rich variety of the world’s religious and spiritual traditions in the complex global realities of the twenty-first century.

Knowledge & Skills Gained as a Religious Studies Major:

Knowledge:

- Develop an appreciation for the complexity of religious cultures and communities.
- Encounter diverse religious texts that will add to students’ understanding of various cultures and societies
- Develop awareness of the multi-faceted influence of religion on our history, politics, ethics and economics

Skills:

- Ask and answer complicated questions through the use of sophisticated research techniques
- Organize and critically analyze various types of information, drawn from a wide array of sources
- Consider multiple interpretations and varying narrative perspectives
- Produce high-quality written reports of their findings and interpretations
- Orally report and discuss findings

Religious Studies Major at a glance:

Number of majors: 25

Degrees offered: B.A.

Credit hours needed: 30

Minors offered: Yes (15 credits)



Career Opportunities:

By nature, Liberal Arts majors make great employees in any field because of their ability to communicate effectively, think critically, and solve complex problems. These timeless skills make them attractive to employers in all walks of society. Specifically though, UNO Religious Studies majors have pursued careers in the following areas:

- Business (particularly international business)
- Counseling and Social Work
- Education
- Journalism
- Law and Criminal Justice
- Medicine and Health Care
- The government, foreign service, or the Peace Corps
- Museums and the arts
- Non-profit or non-governmental organizations

When the Religious Studies major is matched with complementary minors and thoughtful internships, new possibilities arise. A few examples are:

- Religion + Political Science minor + law school = Attorney
- Religion + History + Museum internship = Museum curator/archivist/exhibit specialist
- Religion+ Biology minor = Medical professional
- Religion + English + Publishing internship = Writer/Publishing
- Religion + Anthropology = Archaeologist

Student Opportunities:

- Goldstein Center on Human Rights
- SPHRS (Spirituality, Public Health, and Religious Studies)
- Rabbi Sidney Brooks Lecture
- Pearl Blizek Lecture on Religion & Art
- Burke and Stover scholarships for Religion Majors (\$1000-\$2500)
- Student Internships and Study Abroad

Course Highlights:

- Intro to World Religions
- Biblical Archaeology
- Buddhist Traditions
- Hebrew Bible
- History of Christianity
- Spirituality and Wellness
- Native American Religions
- New Testament
- Religion and Film
- Religion and Human Rights
- Islam and Muslims

For more information:

For program information, contacts and course requirements visit:

www.unomaha.edu/cas

Dr. John Lyden, Chair
UNOReligion@unomaha.edu
402.554.2628

