

# Religion (M.A.)

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## About The Program:

The Department of Religion at Temple University offers a 30-credit master's program. For those seeking to qualify for the Ph.D. program at Temple University or other leading universities, it offers intensive training in research methods and in special fields of concentration in religion studies. (Note: Admission to the Temple Ph.D. program requires a separate application and the completion of qualifying examinations not required for the M.A. degree.) For those who plan to teach religious studies in community colleges or high schools, it provides advanced training in methods of research and in-depth study of the world's major religious traditions. For those in various forms of religious ministry, it offers post-graduate training and exposure to the newest research methods and developments for use in understanding their own or other religious and cultural traditions. For those who wish to bring cultural and cross-cultural analytical tools to professions such as business, government, journalism, medicine, and social work, it provides additional training in research methods and graduate-level study in the major world religious and cultural traditions. For qualified persons in the general public, it allows the opportunity to acquire competence in the study of religions, values, and cultures broadly defined, and in areas of special interest to the student.

**Career Options:** The master's degree at Temple University is viewed as enhancement of knowledge about religion for those already employed in various professional capacities or as the foundation for pursuit of a Ph.D. degree.

**Prerequisites for Admission:** A baccalaureate degree is required; a degree earned in a Liberal Arts discipline is preferred. Applicants with no Liberal Arts background should consult with the Graduate Director.

**Areas of Specialization:** The M.A. program offers two concentrations, each of which allows students to choose between the Thesis Option and the Portfolio Option:

- Religion, Values and Global Cultures, which is built around our Foundations seminars in the world's religious traditions and advanced seminars that permit further study in various Western and Asian religious and values traditions. Courses in the other track may be taken if they draw on materials from one of these religious traditions.
- Religion, Values and Public Life, which is built around our Foundations seminars in the historical, philosophical, and social-science methods of study in the field of Religion, together with advanced seminars in various areas of the interaction of religion and values in public life, such as interfaith dialogue, race/gender/sexuality and religion, religion and ethics, and religion and the political process. Students taking courses in this concentration may also take courses on related topics in world religions.

Upon entering the program, students choose their area of concentration. While admission requirements and procedures are identical, requirements for the degree vary.

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## Requirements of Programs:

- **Total Credit Hours:** 30
- **Culminating Events:** No later than upon completion of her/his first 18 credits of coursework in either the Religion, Values and Global Cultures concentration or the Religion, Values and Public Life concentration, the student must choose either the thesis or portfolio option:
  - a) The Thesis Option is recommended for, but not limited to, students intending to apply to a doctoral program or planning to teach at the college level. Six credits must be taken in a 3-credit Independent Study that prepares the student to register the following term for a 3-credit M.A. thesis project under the direction of a thesis advisor. Reading knowledge of a language relevant to the thesis topic and oral defense of the thesis are required.
  - b) The Portfolio Option is recommended for students to augment their primary area of experience and professional training in fields other than Religion.

Upon choosing an option, the student then selects an advisor for the final project who has primary responsibility for supervising the student's work for the remainder of the program and is the primary reader of the thesis or portfolio. This choice must be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

## Foundations Courses (12 credits)

## Advanced Seminars and/or Independent Study (12 credits)

## Additional Courses (6 credits)

*Students can take 3 to 6 credits of coursework outside the Department of Religion in a cognate field at Temple University.*

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## Courses:

Click [HERE](#) for more information on the courses below.

- Special Topics
- Foundations in Philosophy of Religion
- Foundations in Religion and the Social Sciences
- Foundations in Textual and Historical Studies in Religion
- Foundations in Religion and Psychology
- Foundations in Religion, Race, and Ethnicity
- Foundations for the Critical Study of the Hebrew Bible
- Foundations in Hinduism
- Foundations in Indian Buddhism
- Foundations in Chinese Religions
- Foundations in Chinese Buddhism
- Foundations in Japanese Buddhism
- Foundations in Judaism
- Foundations in Christianity
- Foundations in Islam
- Foundations in African Religions
- Foundations in Digital Humanities for the Study of Religion
- Religious History of the United States in the 20th Century
- American Religious History
- American Religious History II
- The History of Ethics
- Interreligious Dialogue

- Methodological Options in the Study of Religion
- The Body: East and West
- Jung and the East
- Religious Experience: Body and Meditation
- Rel Exper-East & West
- Religion and Public Life
- Religion and Sexuality
- Topics in Buddhist Thought
- Chinese Philosophy and Religion
- Topics in Japanese Buddhism
- Kyoto School of Philosophy
- Topics in Biblical Studies
- Race, Gender, Class and Ethnicity in Ancient Near East
- Violence in Ancient Religion: Pagan, Christian, and Jewish, 50 CE-500 CE
- Holocaust and Representation
- Women in Ancient Christianity
- Feminist and Womanist Biblical Interpretation
- Modern Catholicism
- Women in Ancient Christianity
- Issues in Theology
- Christology in the Ancient Church
- Topics in Islamic History
- Islamic Jurisprudence
- Islamic Mysticism
- Islam in Global Perspective
- African American Islam
- Topics in African Religions
- African Ideas of God
- Religions of the African Diaspora
- Africana Philosophical Thought
- Foucault in Africana Thought
- Special Topics in Religion
- Teaching Practicum in Religion Studies
- Individual Study
- Preliminary Examination Preparation
- Master's Thesis Research