Religious Studies


About the major:
Religious Studies offers a unique opportunity to explore fundamental questions about the meaning of life from the perspective of major religious traditions. It makes use of tools from other fields (psychology, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and theology) to study the meaning of religion and develop cross-cultural knowledge of tribal/indigenous traditions, Eastern and Western religions (Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism, Taoism, Islam, Judaism, and Christianity) as well as new religious movements.

Majors:
- Religious Studies BS or BA (Standard Major)

Minors:
- Religious Studies

Certificate:
- World Religions

Information for exploring students:
Religious Studies majors are well prepared for graduate school and learn skills that are beneficial to a variety of career paths. RELS students develop skills in direct observation, critical thinking, and cross-cultural understanding, skills that are in high demand in many professions. Many religion majors/minors go on to study law, business, education, or medicine in graduate school. Some students choose to make religion the center of a professional career with charitable groups, NGOs, the ministry, religious education, or as an academic specialist in higher education. The study of religion offers a wide array of opportunities and a firm foundation for a successful and fulfilling career in many disciplines.

Required GE:
There are no specific general education courses required for the major. History and writing courses are helpful.

Essential Courses:
It is strongly recommended that students interested in a Religious Studies major or minor take Rels 100 (Intro to the Religions of the World), Rels 110 (Basic Issues), or Rels 210 (Religions and Morality) as a freshman.

Helpful Tips:
- Because religion is such an important factor in human life (influencing everything from the political/economic to the personal), Religious Studies makes an excellent 2nd major or a minor/certificate program for any of the major areas of study.
- Students who major in Religious Studies consistently do very well on graduate school admissions tests like the LSAT, MAT, and GRE.
- Students are encouraged to seek as much variety as possible both within and outside of the major. The cross-cultural nature of the discipline and its longtime associations with science, medicine, law, foreign languages, and the arts suggest the value of studying in other disciplines.
- The department sponsors a chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the National Honor Society for Religious Studies.

Contact information:
Dr. Charlene Burns
burnscp@uwec.edu
Hibbard Humanities Hall 632
(715) 836-2545

UW-Eau Claire respects individual differences. This guide complements rather than substitutes for individual advising.
For instructions about how to declare this major:
www.uwec.edu/Registrar/student/chgofmajor/index.htm