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# Religious Studies

## Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies

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### Why Should I Major in Religious Studies at Seton Hall?

Religious studies at Seton Hall University is based on a broad liberal education, using the study of religion as a central focus in understanding human history, thought and aesthetic experience. With a concentration in the Catholic Christian tradition, religious studies can also be the basis for further study and work in religious education, particularly in Catholic parishes. Seton Hall's chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honor society in religious studies, affords our majors other opportunities to expand their education beyond the classroom.

The Department of Religious Studies faculty members have doctoral degrees from many of the world's most prestigious academic institutions, including Princeton, Duke, Temple and Emory universities; The Catholic University; New York University; The University of St. Michael's College in Toronto; and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In recent years, faculty members have been invited to teach as visiting faculty at such institutions as The Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome, Princeton University, St. John's University, the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem and the Gadjah Mada University in Indonesia.

### The Curriculum:

Religious studies offers courses in four areas: biblical studies, Christian tradition, world religions and ethical studies. Students take introductory courses in three of these areas and at least four additional courses in one of these areas. Students also take the required course, *Methods in the Study of Religion and Theology*, and a Capstone Seminar. The courses for the major are taught in small classes with a strong emphasis on class discussion and seminar-style learning. In most years, the department offers courses abroad, often in conjunction with the Catholic Studies Program and the University Honors Program.

### What Does It Take to Graduate?

The awarding of a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies requires a total of 36 credits completed in the major, including the *Methods in the Study of Religion and Theology* course and the Capstone Seminar, as well as the completion of the College of Arts and Sciences core requirements.

### Career Opportunities:

A bachelor's degree in religious studies is an excellent foundation for graduate school. Opportunities for continued studies include master's and doctoral degree programs in religious studies and theology and graduate programs in religious education and seminary studies.

Since religious studies graduates have a broad training in human culture, they are also in demand in many professional fields, including law, conflict resolution, education, social work and various types of ministry.

### How Do I Apply for Admission?

Complete your application to Seton Hall University and include the \$55 non-refundable application fee (\$45 if applying online). Freshman applicants must submit official high school transcripts and any college or university transcripts where credit was attempted, plus the results of the SAT I or ACT assessments. Transfer students must submit transcripts from each college or university where credit was attempted. Those with fewer than 24 earned credits must complete the freshman requirements. Applications are available at [admissions.shu.edu](http://admissions.shu.edu).

### Can I Get Financial Aid?

Almost 90 percent of the students who entered Seton Hall last year received some form of financial aid, and 75 percent of these students received money directly from the University. The four types of financial aid include scholarships, grants and discounts, loans, and part-time jobs on campus. For further information, visit [admissions.shu.edu/FinancialAid.htm](http://admissions.shu.edu/FinancialAid.htm) or call (973) 761-9332.

## Religious Studies Requirements:

### Core Curriculum Requirements\*

- A. English Language (6 credits)
- B. Communication (3 credits)
- C. Mathematics (3 credits and prerequisites)
- D. Natural Sciences (6 credits) and Behavioral Sciences (6 credits)
- E. Western Civilization (6 credits), Foreign Language (6 credits) and American Civilization/African, Asian and Latino Civilizations/Foreign Literature/Advanced Language (6 credits)
- F. Ethical Questions (3 credits)
- G. Philosophy and Religious Studies (9 credits)

\* **Please see Undergraduate Catalogue**

### Religious Studies Major — 36 hours, including:

*Three of the following introductory courses:*

- RELS 1102 Introduction to the Bible
- RELS 1202 Christian Belief and Thought
- RELS 1302 Introduction to Catholic Theology
- RELS 1402 World Religions
- RELS 1502 Contemporary Moral Values
- RELS 2010 Methods in the Study of Religion and Theology

*21 credits in advanced-level religious studies courses as follows:*

- 12 credits in one of the four areas of concentration (biblical studies, Christian tradition, world religions and ethical studies)
  - 9 credits in any of the three other areas of concentration
- RELS 4010 Religious Studies Seminar

### Religious Studies Minor — 21 hours, including:

- 9 credits in introductory courses
- RELS 2010 Methods in the Study of Religion and Theology
- 9 credits in any of the four areas of study (biblical studies, Christian tradition, world religions and ethical studies)

### Degree Requirements: 130 total credit hours

Students can minor or double major in any of the College of Arts and Sciences disciplines.

**For more information,** call an admissions counselor at **1-800-THE-HALL**, send an e-mail to [thehall@shu.edu](mailto:thehall@shu.edu) or visit [admissions.shu.edu](http://admissions.shu.edu).

To talk to a faculty adviser, contact Charles Carter, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Religious Studies, at [carterch@shu.edu](mailto:carterch@shu.edu) or (973) 761-9480 or (973) 761-9480. Web site: [artsci.shu.edu/rs](http://artsci.shu.edu/rs)