

MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES



The Religious Studies Master of Arts program at the University of Denver explores the phenomenon of religion as well as religious traditions from around the world. The M.A. program helps students qualify for doctoral programs, teach related courses in colleges and high schools, and bring cultural and cross-cultural analytical tools to professions such as business, social work, government and journalism.

Course offerings and faculty appointments reflect the department's commitment to providing a balance of various traditions, methods, and theoretical approaches.

What can I do with a RLGS M.A.? The Religious Studies M.A. program prepares students for Ph.D. work or for teaching, and for careers in journalism, government and nonprofit organizations in which cross-cultural analytical skills are important. The program provides broad competencies in several religious traditions while offering students the opportunity to specialize.

What do I need to qualify for the RLGS M.A. program? Applicants must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited college, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. Applicants must have an appropriate background in the study of the humanities. Undergraduate courses in Religious Studies are highly desirable, but all work in related areas will be taken into consideration.

- Applications are due February 1 for Fall admission the following academic year. Late applications will be considered, but priority will be given to applicants meeting the deadline. Students may apply at any time for Winter, Spring, and Summer admission, but will be considered on a space available basis.
- Please note: full-year financial aid packages are only awarded during the February applications.
- Apply online: www.du.edu/apply/index.html.
- Admission to the program is normally announced in mid-March.
- Financial aid is normally awarded in early April.

What goes into the RLGs M.A. degree? The RLGs M.A. requires a minimum of 45 hours of coursework, including one theory and methods course as well as courses providing a solid grounding in three of five religious traditions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism).

Students also take at least 16 hours in one of six areas of specialization:

- **Biblical studies.** *Students must take in addition to the core requirements at least one course in Christianity, Judaism, and Islam plus at least one additional course in either Judaism or Christianity. Students will also be expected to meet minimum competency standards in either Hebrew or Koiné Greek.*
- **Theory of religion.** *Students must take approved courses in each of the three theoretical areas of the study of religion: philosophy of religion, psychology of religion, anthropology of religion. The remaining course, or courses, can be chosen from the department's approved list of courses for the area of specialization.*
- **International and multicultural studies.** *This specialization focuses on the role of religion within the context of the globalization process. Particular attention may be given to certain regions such as the Americas, Europe, or Asia. Students must take at least one course in a specific religious tradition beyond the core requirements as well as one course in the theory of religion that pertains to international and multicultural studies. Finally, students must take at least 4 hours of course work (including independent study, service learning, or field work) at a location outside North America that meet the student's curricular and long-term professional goals. Depending on the program of study, the department may require a competency exam in a relevant language.*
- **Philosophy of religion.** *Students must take at least two courses in the theory of religion plus one course in a specific philosopher, or philosophers, from each of the two historical periods: ancient and modern (Plato to Kant), late modern and postmodern (Hegel to the present). The remaining courses can be chosen from the department's approved list of courses for this area of specialization, and will likely involve additional courses taken in the Philosophy Department.*
- **Islamic studies.** *This specialization introduces students to the textual foundations of Islamic theology and legal reasoning, as well as exposing them to major issues in the development of Islamic traditions. Finally, it introduces students to contemporary developments in Islam, and particularly to questions of reform and fundamentalism. Students must take the basic introductory course in Islam. In addition, students must take a minimum of three additional courses dealing with Islam. Students must pass a competency examination in Arabic, equivalent to two years of coursework.*
- **World religions.** *In addition to the core requirements, students must take at least four courses in the world's major religious traditions.*

Where can I go to learn more?

We invite you to visit our offices: Sturm Hall, second floor, #266.

We welcome your questions – please feel free to visit, email, or phone:

- Graduate Studies Adviser: Carl Raschke (carl.raschke@du.edu)
- Assistant to the Chair: Consuelo Bennett @ 303.871.2749 (consuelo.bennett@du.edu)