World Religion B.A.
The College of Public and International Affairs

The Bachelor of Arts in World Religion addresses the increasing demand for professionals who can navigate the complexities of religion, culture and society at a global level.

Program Overview
Religion nourishes the deepest and broadest values that shape culture, life, language and identity. It’s impossible to understand the news or the direction of contemporary affairs, without some knowledge of these traditions. In the World Religions undergraduate program, students explore all of the world’s major religions from a non-sectarian point of view and engage in comparative analysis. The Program cultivates historical, social, scientific, and philosophical reflection upon core religious values, both in areas where there is consensus and in areas where there is conflict. Students can choose to focus on one of three concentrations: Islamic Religion and Society, East Asian Religion and Society, and Judeo-Christian Thought and Society. Students are also highly encouraged to pursue an overseas internship and numerous options exist in East Asia, the Middle East and in Latin America and Africa. The major offers excellent pre-professional training for law, international business or politics, journalism, seminary, work in government and non-governmental organizations, graduate school and other careers.

Internship and Career Opportunities
Students in the program have interned as student teachers, youth ministry interns, and in non-governmental organizations such as the National Council of Churches, UN agencies, and the International Institute of Connecticut. Program graduates have been admitted to the most prestigious graduate schools in the country. They teach in colleges and in private schools.
Program of Study

The Bachelor of Arts in World Religions requires students to complete 120 credits and it includes a Senior Thesis and an optional overseas internship. Classes are conducted in both lecture and seminar styles and student presentations and simulations are essential pedagogical dimensions of the program. The program typically takes four years for full-time students to complete. Students are required to have completed at least two years of university study in a second language in addition to English or must demonstrate competency at that level prior to completion of the program. Students may choose from Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and French. There is also a minor in Religion and Politics available to students in the program as well in other majors.

Program Core

All students share the following core courses: Introduction to Religions of Asian Origin; and Introduction to Religions of Middle Eastern Origins and a Senior Thesis. Additionally, they must choose from four of the following program courses: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Unification Philosophy, and Confucianism. The World Religions program offers three specialized emphases from which the students choose upper level courses: Islamic Religion and Society, East Asian Religion and Society, and Judeo-Christian Thought and Society.

Program Curriculum

World Religions Program requires a minimum of 120 credit hours

I. Core Competencies (6 Semester Hours): Required for all program tracks.

- Introduction to Religions of Asian Origin 3
- Introduction to Religions of Middle Eastern Origin 3

II. Program Courses (12 Semester Hours): Choose any 4 courses.

- Buddhism 3
- Christianity 3
- Confucianism 3
- Hinduism 3
- Islam 3
- Judaism 3
- Unification Philosophy 3

III. Thesis (3 Semester hours): May be taken for 6 credit hours

- Thesis* 3

*Thesis may be taken for six credit hours.

IV. General Education Requirements (33 Semester Hours)

- Composition and Rhetoric 3
- First Year Seminar 3
- Intermediate Algebra 3
- Humanities I 3
- Approved Humanities Elective 3
- Social Sciences I 3
- Approved Social Science Elective 3
- Natural Sciences I 3
- Natural Sciences II 3
- World Music in the Liberal Arts 3
- Capstone Seminar 3