## RELIGIOUS STUDIES, BA

Apart from requirements that apply to all students in the College of Arts and Sciences, the only prerequisites for religious studies students are an interest in crosscultural work in different historical periods and a curiosity about the many ways that human communities, past and present, have devised for creating worlds in which to live and act.

### Admission into the Major

Students are encouraged to declare a major no later than the fourth semester of full-time enrollment (or at 61 semester hours for transfer students). Students declare a major by completing the Change of Major/Minor Application online under the Student tab on myBama. Prospective majors and double-majors should contact the religious studies office to make an appointment with the REL undergraduate advisor to discuss their career goals and academic interests.

### Special Opportunities

The department annually awards both Silverstein Fellowships (providing the opportunity to work in the department for one or more semesters, assisting in the main office and assisting professors with their work) and Silverstein Scholarships (awarded by the faculty each Honors Day based on a student’s GPA [REL majors and Judaic Studies minors are eligible]). To learn more about these funding opportunities, visit as.ua.edu/rel/stdeskscholarships.html. The department also conducts four ongoing lecture and discussion series, supports an active Religious Studies Student Association, and hosts the local chapter of Theta Alpha Kappa, the national honors society for the study of religion. Find us on Facebook: "Department of Religious Studies at The University of Alabama" and the "Religious Studies Student Association" or on Twitter @StudyReligion. Finally, in addition to featuring undergraduate research on the department’s blog, the Religious Studies department hosts an annual undergraduate research symposium. Talk to an REL professor about getting involved.

Students earning the bachelor of arts (BA) degree with a major in religious studies must complete all University, College, and departmental degree requirements. These include the general education requirements, the following major requirements, all requirements for an approved minor and other necessary credits to total 120 credit hours.

### Required Courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REL 100 or</td>
<td>Intro To Religious Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 105</td>
<td>Honors Intro Relig Stdy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 102</td>
<td>Intro to Religions of the World</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REL 490</td>
<td>Senior Capstone Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Track Requirement

Select a track

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Track</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
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### Electives

Select nine hours of REL electives

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
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Total Hours

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>30</td>
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1. REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar is offered only in the spring semester. Students are expected to enroll during the senior year, but may enroll as early as the junior year. The Department holds seats in this class for REL students so please contact the main office (8-5271) to learn how to enroll.

2. Students must earn 12 hours in one of the following three tracks: Religion in Communication, Religion in Conflict, or Religion in Context.

### Grade Point Average

A 2.0 grade point average in the major is required for completion of the degree. Please see the Grades and Grade Points section of this catalog for an explanation on grade point average calculations.

### Upper-level Residency

A minimum of 12 hours of 300- and 400-level courses in the major must be earned on this campus.

### Ancillary Courses

This major does not require ancillary courses; however, students interested in graduate-level work in the study of religion are advised to take either French or German as part of the undergraduate program of study. Prospective graduate students in religious studies should consult with faculty members concerning additional language study appropriate to their particular scholarly interests.

### Required Minor

This major requires the completion of a minor.

### Additional Major Requirements

Including REL 490 Senior Capstone Seminar, a minimum of 15 hours must be earned in 300- or 400-level courses; at least six of these upper-level hours (usually two courses) must be earned in courses offered by the religious studies department.

With department approval, the equivalent of up to 12 credit hours can be applied toward the major requirement from relevant coursework done outside the religious studies department. Consult the REL Advisor to discuss the possibility of counting courses done outside REL toward your REL major.

Students can count a maximum of six hours of online REL courses toward the major or minor.

For more information on degree requirements, visit as.ua.edu/rel/degree.html. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have met all University, College, major and minor requirements. However, each student must meet with an advisor in the major department for academic planning and to be cleared for registration each semester. College advisors are also available for additional assistance with minor, College, and University requirements.

### Prerequisites

Unless otherwise stated, the prerequisite for 300- and 400-level REL courses is junior standing or permission of the instructor.
Tracks

Track I: Religion in Communication

Courses in the Religion in Communication track focus on the ways in which religion and conflict overlap and intersect.

REL 110  Intro To The Old Testament  3
REL 124  Religion & Film in America  3
REL 224  Judaism  3
REL 228  Hy Of Christian Thought  3
REL 237  Self Society & Religions  3
REL 240  Apocalypse In Contemporary Fil  3
REL 311  English Bible As Literature  3
REL 322  Tales from Asia: Told and Retold in Film and Popular Culture  3
REL 340  Nietzsche and Religion  3
REL 341  Theories of Myth  3
REL 420  Gospel Of Mark  3
REL 430  Religion and Literature  3
REL 440  Theories of Religion  3

Track II: Religion in Conflict

Courses in the Religion in Conflict track emphasize the various ways in which religion and conflict overlap and intersect.

REL 101  The Violent and the Sacred: Religion and the Problem of Human Suffering  3
REL 220  Survey Of Asian Religion  3
REL 223  Holocaust Historical Perspecti  3
REL 226  African Diaspora Religions  3
REL 234  Women And Religion  3
REL 240  Apocalypse In Contemporary Fil  3
REL 241  American Religious History  3
REL 245  Honors Hist. Religions of Amer  3
REL 311  English Bible As Literature  3
REL 321  Rel & Ident in South Asia  3
REL 322  Tales from Asia: Told and Retold in Film and Popular Culture  3
REL 341  Theories of Myth  3
REL 415  Religion in the American South  3
REL 419  Myth Ritual And Magic  3
REL 420  Gospel Of Mark  3
REL 440  Theories of Religion  3

Track III: Religion in Context

Courses in the Religion in Context track focus on collections of beliefs and behaviors in relation to the social contexts in which they appear and operate.

REL 110  Intro To The Old Testament  3
REL 124  Religion & Film in America  3
REL 208  Hinduism  3
REL 220  Survey Of Asian Religion  3
REL 226  African Diaspora Religions  3
REL 228  Hy Of Christian Thought  3
REL 234  Women And Religion  3
REL 236  Islam  3
REL 237  Self Society & Religions  3
REL 238  Philosophies Of Judaism  3
REL 241  American Religious History  3
REL 245  Honors Hist. Religions of Amer  3
REL 311  English Bible As Literature  3
REL 321  Rel & Ident in South Asia  3
REL 322  Tales from Asia: Told and Retold in Film and Popular Culture  3
REL 341  Theories of Myth  3
REL 415  Religion in the American South  3
REL 419  Myth Ritual And Magic  3
REL 420  Gospel Of Mark  3
REL 440  Theories of Religion  3

Variable Topics Courses

Depending on the topic, the following courses may be counted toward any track. In addition, students can earn a maximum of nine hours for any variable topics courses that address different course content.

REL 361  Individual Research  3
REL 370  Adv Study Religion In Religion and Communication  3
REL 371  Adv St Religion and Conflict  3
REL 372  Adv Std Religion and Context  3
REL 373  Seminar Rel and Communication  3
REL 400  RELIGIOUS STUDIES HONORS THESIS  3
REL 460  Individual Research  3
REL 461  Individual Research  3
REL 480  Seminar Rel and Conflict  3
REL 483  Seminar Rel and Context  3
REL 490  Senior Capstone Seminar  3

Religion in Popular Culture

REL 360 Individual Research is offered every semester and is devoted to studying religion in popular culture/public humanities; it is a one credit hour course repeatable up to a total of six credit hours and is open to all students. REL 360 Individual Research meets in the evenings to view and then blog on films (different films are included each semester, with faculty introducing them and leading a discussion afterwards). It also includes attending either the annual Day or Aronov Lectures (the former each Fall and the latter each Spring).

REL Honors Track

REL 400 RELIGIOUS STUDIES HONORS THESIS is part of the REL Honors Track, which is open to majors/double majors in REL who have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA and at least a 3.5 GPA in their REL major. It involves enrolling in 3 hours of REL 400 (normally in your senior year) and writing a final thesis (equivalent to a publishable paper in an undergraduate student journal). The track also requires that one regularly offered REL seminar be designated as your Honors Seminar, normally taken prior to enrolling in REL 400. An oral defense of your thesis is required. Please speak with the REL advisor no later than your Junior year if you are
interested in applying for this track; for more information speak with an REL professor whom you would recommend to be your thesis advisor.

**Types of Jobs Accepted**

Majors and minors in Religious Studies develop crucial skills necessary for citizenship in the 21st century, including critical thinking, oral and written communication skills and cultural literacy. Graduates of the program have pursued careers in a variety of venues, such as medicine, law, non-profit government organizations, various religiously-affiliated ministries, public administration, music and teaching.

Learn more about opportunities in this field at the Career Center.