RELIGION

http://religion.illinois.edu

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Graduate Major: Religion

Degrees Offered: M.A.

Graduate Minor: Religion

Graduate Degree Programs

The Department of Religion offers a Master of Arts in Religion.

Admission

The Graduate College admission requirements apply. Applicants need not have an undergraduate major in the study of religion. But they must demonstrate a capacity to undertake advanced study in this area of inquiry. All applications for admission must be supported by three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to comment on the applicant’s aptitude for graduate study in religion. Applicants are required to submit a sample of their written work. The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required. International applicants whose native language is not English must take the IELTS or the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and have their scores submitted to Institution Code #1836, Dept. #00. A score of at least 600 on the paper-based test (PBT), or 250 on the computer-based test (CBT), or 100 on the internet-based test (iBT) is required for admission to this program.

Graduate Teaching Experience

Although teaching is not a general Graduate College requirement, experience in teaching is considered an important part of the graduate experience in this program.

Facilities and Resources

The extraordinary University Library is the department’s main research facility; within it, the History, Philosophy & Newspaper Library, the Rare Book Room, and the area studies libraries (Slavic, Africana, Latin American, Asian Libraries) all serve faculty and students with expert bibliographers and focused collections. Among other special collections that are likely to be useful to our students are Afro-Americana and Women’s Studies; the library is also a major repository for government documents.

Financial Aid

Financial aid is available to many students in the form of fellowships or assistantships. More information is available on the Graduate College web site, http://www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship/finaid.

Master of Arts in Religion

Thesis Option

REL 510  Graduate Intro to Religion  4
Two additional 500-level courses at least one of which must be in Religion  8
Each student will establish a primary field of study in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and the student’s advisor. Two courses must be taken within that field. In most cases, the primary field of study will be a particular field such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Philosophy of Religion, or Religion in America, min. 8

Language Requirement: Students will demonstrate reading comprehension in one language other than English that is appropriate for research in the main field of the student’s interest. The student will demonstrate that competence by completing a fourth-semester (or more advanced) course in a foreign language or by passing a reading comprehension test administered by the department. Credit does not apply to requirements

REL 599  Thesis Research  0 to 16
Total Hours  24-40

Other Requirements 1
Other requirements may overlap

Students may take up to two of the required eight courses in departments other than Religion. Courses must be relevant to the student’s curriculum in Religion.

Minimum 500-level Hours Required  12
Overall:
Minimum 500-level Hours Required  8
Within the Unit:
Student’s must pass the MA examination
Minimum GPA:  2.75

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s graduate degree requirements and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Non-Thesis Option

REL 510  Graduate Intro to Religion  4
Two additional 500-level courses at least one of which must be in Religion  8
Each student will establish a primary field of study in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies and the student’s advisor. Two courses must be taken within that field. In most cases, the primary field of study will be a particular field such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Philosophy of Religion, or Religion in America, min. 8
Language Requirement: Students will demonstrate reading comprehension in one language other than English that is appropriate for research in the main field of the student’s interest. The student will demonstrate that competence by completing a fourth-semester (or more advanced) course in a foreign language or by passing a reading comprehension test administered by the department. Credit does not apply to requirements.

Total Hours 32

Other Requirements 1

Other requirements may overlap

Minimum 500-level Hours Required 12
Overall:
Minimum 500-level Hours Required 8
Within the Unit:
Students may take up to two of the required eight courses in departments other than Religion. Courses must be relevant to the student's curriculum in Religion.

Two Revised research papers in the student's primary field of study are required.

Student's must pass the MA examination

Minimum GPA: 2.75

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department's graduate degree requirements and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).

Graduate Minor in Religion

The graduate minor in Religion is designed for graduate or professional students in other disciplines who desire to complement their degree program with a study of Religion. The Minor will consist of any coherent set of at least 12 graduate hours of courses that is approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Religion. It will include at least one graduate seminar in the Department of Religion. The successful completion of a minor is noted on the student’s transcript. For admission to the program contact the department.

Any graduate seminar in Religion 4
Graduate electives in Religion at the 400 level or above 8
Total Hours 12

Other Requirements 1

Minimum 500-level Hours Required Overall: 8

1 For additional details and requirements refer to the department’s graduate degree requirements and the Graduate College Handbook (http://www.grad.illinois.edu/gradhandbook).