

Religious Studies

MAJOR MAP

How to use the map

This map is designed to give you information about your chosen major that will help keep you on track for graduation within 4 years. The introductory sections will help orient you to the “big picture” ideas like the topics and areas of interest inside your major, the kinds of courses you will take, university policies including admissions, and other general topics. The chart on the second page will help you to develop a productive plan to make the most of your 4 years at East Carolina University and prepare yourself for the job market after graduation.

Remember, it is important that you diversify your experiences, both for success in your degree program and for success outside of school. While coursework is critically important, it should not be your only focus. The chart below will show you how to incorporate other kinds of experiences that will expand your knowledge of your chosen field and make you a more desirable job candidate. The map is only a guideline. Remember to speak with your advisor often to learn about new opportunities, clarify concerns, and develop a plan that is right for you.



Questions?

East Carolina University offers an array of support to help you grow and learn from your first day of orientation until your graduation. New Student Orientation, Pirate to Pirate Mentoring, the University Writing Center, and the Career Center are only a few of the services and centers available to assist you throughout your time on campus.

WORKPLACE SUCCESS

What employers want

With your Religious Studies major, you will pursue a career that requires specific skills and experiences. These might include the ability to:

1. Absorb and retain complex information and identify key issues;
2. Develop a critical approach to contemporary issues;
3. Express ideas clearly through essay writing and discussion;
4. Develop investigative, analytical and critical evaluation skills;
5. Understand and take a sensitive approach to different cultures and beliefs;
6. Develop a disciplined approach to problem solving;
7. Tackle new languages from scratch;
8. Show a real curiosity in people and world cultures

WHAT CAN I LEARN?

A degree in Religious Studies helps to cultivate valuable general knowledge, flexible and applicable skills, and insightful perspectives that help to make sense of a globalized world; A major in Religious Studies will help you acquire the following skills:

- Critical thinking: the ability to think, speak and write effectively; Skills greatly valued by employers all across the job market;
- Appreciation of diversity: the ability to be globally fluent and a dynamic intercultural perspective;
- Communication skills to develop arguments through careful analysis, cogent writing, effective speaking and critical thinking;
- People skills with the ability to articulate characteristics of religion as a cultural phenomenon in the social, political and economic aspects of public life;
- Analytic abilities to engage in self-reflective, open, informed and civil conversations about diverse religious traditions;
- Problem solving skills to employ the methods and theories used in the academic study of religion;
- Service: the ability to connect learning with service.



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THOMAS HARRIOT COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Religious Studies



ADMISSIONS INFO

You can apply to the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website at www.ecu.edu/admissions. To be considered for admission, freshmen applicants will submit their high school transcript and standardized test scores. Transfer applicants will submit official transcripts from all previously attended institutions. Application deadlines and specific admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer applicants are listed on the website.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

The major offers a number of exciting courses. Some of these include:

- RELI 1000: Introduction to Religious Studies
- RELI 1500: Use and Abuse of the Bible
- RELI 1691: World Religions
- RELI 2300: Religion and Sexuality
- RELI 2340: Religion and Science
- RELI 2500: Study Abroad
- RELI 3691: Islam and the Modern World

WHY STUDY RELIGION?

The Religious Studies Program is unique because it offers the following:

- Cultural awareness and globalization sensitivity to the influence of religion in the world.
- Expands horizons through study abroad opportunities such as awards and scholarships to outstanding majors.
- Hosts symposiums towards mentoring students for academic presentations at conferences e.g. AAR & SBL regional and national conferences.
- Promotes community engagement through lectures and internships opportunities and R.S. advisory council.

ABOUT THE CONCENTRATION

Religious Studies at East Carolina University is studied in a nonsectarian, interdisciplinary fashion providing students with an understanding of religion as a historical and cultural phenomenon. Our program neither excludes nor promotes any religious tradition or viewpoint. In addition to courses on specific religions, students take courses in a variety of disciplines that consider religious themes and approaches, including anthropology, archaeology, art, history, literature, philosophy, psychology and sociology.

DEGREE OPTIONS

The Religious Studies Program offers a Bachelor of Arts in multidisciplinary studies with a concentration in religious studies.

To earn a BA in Religious Studies, you must complete course work within the major in addition to meeting additional requirements. You can also double major in religious studies in addition to your other degree major. Your total degree work will include:

- A minimum of 120 total semester hours
- Completion of all general education requirement (40 semester hours)
- 21 semester hours of core Religious Studies courses
- 12 semester hours of foreign language through level 1004
- 18 semester hours of religion electives
- 18 semester hours in a minor

Religious Studies MAJOR MAP

DEGREE INFORMATION



FIRST YEAR >>>

SECOND YEAR >>>

THIRD YEAR >>>

FOURTH YEAR >>>

POST-GRAD OPTIONS

THE COURSES YOU NEED

Complete a total of 32 credits: RELI 1000 or RELI 1690; General electives; Foreign Languages 1001 & 1002; Fine Art or ENGL 1100; Social Science; Science (3); Science lab (1); EXSS 1000 (3); Math 1050 (3)

Complete a total of 32 credits: RELI 2000 level courses or RELI 3500; Humanities/Fine Arts (5); Science (4); Social Science or ENGL 2201 (6); HLTH 1000 (2); Foreign Language 2003 & 2004 (6); Minor course (3); Consider a double major to enhance your degree

Complete 29 credits: RELI 3500 & RELI Elective 2999 & up (9); Elective (6); Minor course above 2999 (3); Humanities/Fine Arts (2); Social Science (3). Courses become more complex at this level. Learn to read and write more critically.

Complete 27 credits: RELI 3000 and RELI 4500 (6); RELI Elective about 2999 (6); Minor courses (9); Electives (9); Complete remaining required units; Complete elective courses; Complete minor or major course requirements; Apply to graduate school

Religious Studies majors have successfully moved into professional training or careers in:

- Archives
- Cultural affairs
- Law
- Journalism
- Medicine
- International business
- Social Service
- Public relations
- Teaching
- Ministry
- Ethics
- University Administration
- Faith-based leadership
- Peace Corps
- Immigration services
- Graduate school
- And many more

GAIN RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Explore your major and career options in consultation with your advisor. By the end of your first year you should have developed plans to complete specific internships, develop the experience necessary for the kind of employment you want, or begin to identify potential graduate schools.

Meet with [Career Services](#) often to work on your post-graduation plans. Investigate job-related skills and identify gaps in your résumé so you can address them early. Use the [Occupational Outlook Handbook](#), [USAJobs.gov](#), and/or other resources available through [Career Services](#) to identify common skills in your career field.

Internships, part-time jobs, student leadership positions, and volunteer or community engagement activities can help build your résumé and give you valuable experience. Internships can be found at various houses of worship, the chaplaincy program at the hospital, national/international service organizations or through the RS Advisory Council.

Volunteering for political, governmental, or social organizations is a great way to get experience in your field, build your résumé, test your interest in working with diverse populations, and develop your professional network. During your final year you should also participate in ECU's [Research and Creative Achievement Week](#).

CONSIDER AN INTERNSHIP

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Emails from the department will let you know about upcoming guest lectures, internship opportunities, and special events. Keep up with the department social calendar to attend events such as the Distinguished Lecture on Religion and Culture and the Religious Studies Symposium.

Join student organizations that suit your interests, like the [Religious Studies club](#). Also participate in the Research and Creative Activities week.

Connect with the [Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement](#) to explore local opportunities. Also consider contacting community partners using the [Orgsync](#) directory. To build your professional network, join a professional organization like [Southeastern Commission on the Study of Religion](#) or [American Academy of Religion](#).

Submit a proposal to present a polished research paper from one of your classes at the Distinguished Lecture on Religion and Culture, the Religious Studies Symposium or the Regional SBL/AAR Conference.

THINK GLOBALLY

Being internationally aware and culturally competent is increasingly important. Think about ways you could build these skills, which may include foreign language or Global Understanding courses, [study abroad](#), or internationally-focused courses or student organizations.

Integrate internationally-oriented classes into your electives and consider a minor or second major in an international field or foreign language such as Spanish or Greek. Consider a Summer or semester-long study abroad program. Apply for study abroad scholarships in the early Fall.

Make the most of your return from your study abroad or internship program by becoming more active in your student organizations. Work with the [Office of Global Affairs](#) and the [Career Center](#) to learn how to leverage your study abroad experience to improve your job placement possibilities.

Take on a leadership position in one of your globally-oriented student organizations. Complete your program by incorporating more internationally-focused courses.

VISIT US ONLINE

For more information and an interactive map PDF, visit: www.ecu.edu/cs-cas/religionprogram/

CAREER PREPAREDNESS

Visit [Career Services](#) to learn about their resources. Check out the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) and [Virtual Job Shadow](#) to explore potential careers. Log in to [Handshake](#) to set up your profile, check out career events, and begin to explore potential employers and job opportunities.

Meet with your Career Counselor to explore your goals and develop your résumé. Attend career fairs and other employer-related activities like lectures hosting speakers discussing Non-Profit Organizations or presentations by the THCAS representatives about careers for Liberal Arts majors/minors.

Develop your [LinkedIn](#) profile. Meet with your Career Counselor to discuss postgraduation plans. If needed, research graduate schools and program requirements. Continue to attend career fairs and other employer-related career events.

Meet with your Career Counselor to put your post-graduation plans into action. Refine your résumé, [LinkedIn](#) profile, and interview skills. Complete the Pirate Employment Survey. Apply to graduate school if appropriate.



APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR