



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

THE ACADEMIC STUDY OF RELIGION IN A SPIRIT OF FREE INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY

Biblical Studies | Theology and Spirituality | Comparative Religion | Religion and Culture/Ethics

The Master of Arts program with a major in Religious Studies at University of Detroit Mercy provides advanced study of religion in the Detroit/southeast Michigan area. We welcome students from various traditions and backgrounds and with differing career goals. This graduate education develops personal insight, scholarly research and critical analysis in areas of religious and theological inquiry. A faculty advisor will work with you to create a program that meets your professional and intellectual interests and needs focused in one of the four areas of concentration listed above. This Master of Arts program must include an area of concentration as well as representative courses from each of the other three areas. In consultation with an advisor, you may take graduate courses in other disciplines (e.g., Psychology, Liberal Studies) that align with your interests and needs.

Admission Requirements

To apply to this program, you must have completed 30 hours of undergraduate work in religious studies, philosophy or related humanities with a grade of B or above, and earned a cumulative 3.00 undergraduate grade point average.

You must also submit an essay in which you discuss your individual background preparation for this program and goals in choosing to pursue this degree.

Additional courses and/or the GRE or MAT may also be required. Initial entry to the program is through probationary status. Once you satisfactorily complete 12 hours of approved coursework, you will be admitted to degree candidacy.

Related Programs

The program also participates in the University's interdisciplinary Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program. In addition, University of Detroit Mercy's participation in the Michigan Intercollegiate Graduate Studies Program permits students to take courses in other area graduate programs in theology, religious studies and pastoral studies, such as those at Marygrove College or Sacred Heart Major Seminary. The program also maintains a transfer arrangement with the Manresa Center's Internship in Ignatian Spirituality. Students have further access to faculty and courses at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary through a consortium arrangement between that institution and this program.

Degree Requirements

The degree requires successful completion of 30 credit hours of coursework in 5000-level courses. All degree requirements are to be completed within five years after the student begins coursework in the program. You may choose between two options for degree candidacy: Plan A and Plan B.

Plan A

24 credit hours of regular coursework, six credit hours of thesis research (RELS 5990), and the successful completion and defense of a master's thesis. This plan is recommended for students entering with a strong background in Religious Studies, excellent research and writing skills, well-defined research interests, and/or who may plan to go on to a doctoral program.

Plan B

30 credit hours of regular coursework, plus the successful completion of comprehensive exams based on the four areas of program concentration and the student's individualized focus of concentration.

All degree requirements are to be completed within five years after the student begins coursework in the program.

Website: udmercy.edu/religiousstudies

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