MASTER OF ARTS (MA) DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF RELIGION

Program Learning Outcomes for the MA Degree in the field of Religion

Upon completing the MA degree in the field of Religion, students will be able to:

1. Develop and apply critical toolkit to the study of religion and religious traditions, including (inter)disciplinary methodologies and theories at a level of mastery.
   (Critical Skills for the Study of Religion: Theory, Method and (Inter)Disciplinarity)

2. Understand and interpret religious traditions by examining religion(s) as historical, social, and cultural phenomena. When appropriate, attention is given to the impact of globalism, immigration, colonialism, and other forms of transnational and multi-cultural (non)religious exchange at a level of mastery.
   (Historical, Social, (Multi-)Cultural Dimensions of Religion)

3. Understand and interpret the subjective dimensions of religion(s) through analyses that explore the psychological, philosophical, and cognitive dynamics of religion and religious experience at a level of mastery.
   (Psychological, Philosophical, and Cognitive Dimensions of Religion)

4. Understand and interpret religious traditions by examining the plurality of religious voices and expressions, including currents that have been marginalized, neglected, repressed, and censored in a variety of sociological, psychological, philosophical, and political ways at a level of mastery.
   (Religious Plurality and Marginal Currents)

5. Develop the ability to read and understand relevant scholarly research/literature that has been published in foreign languages. Develop the ability to read religious texts in their original languages and perform translations of texts when appropriate to the student’s course of study at a level of mastery.
   (Foreign Language Skills)

Requirements for the MA Degree in the field of Religion

The MA degree is a thesis master’s degree. For general university requirements, please see Thesis Master's Degrees (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees). For additional requirements, regulations, and procedures for all graduate programs, please see All Graduate Students (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees). Students pursuing the MA degree in the field of Religion must complete:

- A minimum of 10 courses (30 credit hours) to satisfy degree requirements.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate-level study (coursework at the 500-level or above).
- A minimum of 24 credit hours must be taken at Rice University.
- A minimum residency enrollment of one fall or spring semester of full-time graduate study at Rice University.
- A minimum of 2 courses (6 credit hours) from the Graduate Methods Seminar Requirement.
- A minimum of 8 courses (24 credit hours) of graduate-level coursework in departmental (RELI) course offerings with a minimum grade of B- (2.67). At least 12 credit hours of the RELI coursework must be seminars at the 500 or 600-level, where research papers are required.
- A secondary language reading exam (French or German).
- A comprehensive exam on Method and Theory in the study of religion.
- A master’s thesis developed from a paper in a course that represents the student’s interests in the study of religion.
- An oral defense of thesis with student and three faculty members who have worked with the student in the Department of Religion. Candidacy, defense, and thesis submission will follow the guidelines described here (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-thesis-masters-degrees).
- A minimum overall GPA of 2.67.
- A minimum GPA of 3.00 in required coursework with a minimum grade of B- (2.67 grade points) in departmental (RELI) course offerings.

The courses listed below satisfy the requirements for this degree program. In certain instances, courses not on this official list may be substituted upon approval of the program’s academic advisor, or where applicable, the department or program’s Director of Graduate Studies. (Course substitutions must be formally applied and entered into Degree Works by the department or program's Official Certifier (https://registrar.rice.edu/facstaff/degroworks/officialcertifier).) Students and their academic advisors should identify and clearly document the courses to be taken.

| Summary |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Code  | Title          | Credit Hours |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Total Credit Hours Required for the MA degree in the field of Religion | 30 |

| Degree Requirements |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Code  | Title          | Credit Hours |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| RELI 527 | HISTORY AND METHODS: 19TH CENTURY | 3 |
| RELI 559 | HISTORY AND METHODS: TWENTIETH CENTURY | 3 |

Additional Coursework as Defined by Department 24

Total Credit Hours 30

Policies for the MA Degree in the field of Religion

Department of Religion Graduate Program Handbook

The General Announcements (GA) is the official Rice curriculum. As an additional resource for students, the Department of Religion publishes a graduate program handbook, which can be found here:

Admission
Students will apply for admittance to the MA program via the Rice Grad Apps webpage. Each January, the faculty in the Religion Department will evaluate the applications and select the MA students for the next academic year.

Application for Degree
The student must file a petition to receive the MA. This petition can be obtained from the Graduate Administrator and must be approved and signed by the Chair of the Department and submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies. In exceptional cases, when a student who has completed the terminal MA, applies to the PhD program, and is admitted, the coursework already completed by the student may be applied toward the PhD requirements.

Transfer Credit
For Rice University's policy regarding transfer credit, see Transfer Credit (ga.rice.edu/graduate-students/academic-policies-procedures/regulations-procedures-all-degrees/#transfer). Some departments and programs have additional restrictions on transfer credit. Students are encouraged to meet with their academic program's advisor when considering transfer credit possibilities.

Additional Information
For additional information, please see the Religion website: https://reli.rice.edu/

Opportunities for the MA Degree in the field of Religion
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