

Religious Studies, Ph.D.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy program in religious studies requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit. Students may transfer up to 24 s.h. of credit from another accredited graduate school. They must maintain a cumulative g.p.a. of at least 3.40 in University of Iowa coursework.

Course requirements for the Ph.D. vary according to concentration area. However, all students must complete the following eight required courses.

Code	Title	Hours
RELS:5100	Teaching and Public Engagement	1
RELS:5200	Varieties of Religion in the Contemporary World	3
RELS:5300	Genealogies of Religion	3
RELS:5400	Methods and Theories in the Study of Religion	3
GRAD:6217	Seminar in College Teaching	3
Three graduate seminars, including at least two in religious studies (prefix RELS)		9
Total Hours		22

During their fourth semester in residence, students must submit a departmental program of study, which must be approved by the religious studies faculty. To gain approval to continue in the Ph.D. program, students must complete three of the required courses listed above and two of the graduate seminars; show satisfactory progress toward the language and course requirements of their individual programs; demonstrate the ability to write scholarly papers at a level satisfactory for the Ph.D., as assessed by their advisor and core committee members (at least two papers must be submitted to the committee); and have a cumulative University of Iowa g.p.a. of at least 3.40 (language courses that do not count toward the Ph.D. are excluded).

Students must pass a comprehensive examination based on a bibliography that covers their main focus area within religious studies (the history, influential figures, perennial debates, and/or theoretical approaches); a secondary chosen area of focus, distinct from the dissertation topic; and an area of specialization or dissertation topic. The comprehensive exam includes an oral defense. Students also must write a dissertation prospectus and a dissertation based on original research, both of which are defended orally. They may count a maximum of 12 s.h. of dissertation credit toward the degree.

Students working toward a Ph.D. may receive an M.A. upon completing at least 30 s.h. of coursework and successfully passing the comprehensive examination.