Religious Studies, PhD

Religion is a concept that is a thousand years old and affects cultures, politics and daily life. You will graduate with a firm understanding of the role religion plays in today's culture and politics and with an expertise that prepares you for careers in academia and beyond.

**Program Description**

**Degree Awarded: PHD Religious Studies**

The academic study of religion is a central component of the humanities and has become increasingly recognized as a critical tool in understanding society and politics in a globalized world.

The PhD program in religious studies is designed for graduate students who would benefit from greater expertise regarding the nature and role of religion around the world. The program provides supplementary training that includes history, anthropology, political science, journalism, secondary education and justice studies. Through this program, graduate students are trained for careers as scholars and teachers in the academic study of religion.

Doctoral tracks in the study of religion approach the study in a variety of contexts. Specifically offered are tracks in:

- anthropology of religion
- global Christianity
- Islam in global contexts
- religion in Asia
- religion in the Americas

**At a Glance**

- **College/School:** The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- **Location:** Tempe campus
**Degree Requirements**

84 credit hours, foreign language exams, a written comprehensive exam, an oral comprehensive exam, a prospectus and a dissertation

The plan of study must contain a minimum of 84 credit hours, including 12 hours of dissertation. Courses and research hours are approved by the student's supervisory committee.

**Admission Requirements**

Applicants must fulfill the requirements of both the Graduate College and The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Applicants are eligible to apply to the program if they have earned a bachelor's or master's degree, in any field, from a regionally accredited institution. Transcripts must show evidence of having completed the equivalent of 15 credit hours of undergraduate work in the study of religions, including advanced courses in both western and Asian or other nonwestern religions. Applicants who have not met this requirement may be required to take additional coursework beyond program requirements to remedy this deficiency.

Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.30 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in the last 60 hours of their first bachelor's degree program, or applicants must have a minimum of a 3.30 cumulative GPA (scale is 4.00 = "A") in an applicable master's degree program. The most competitive applicants will have a GPA of 3.50 or higher.

All applicants must submit:

1. graduate admission application and application fee
2. official transcripts
3. GRE scores
4. statement of purpose
5. curriculum vitae
6. writing sample
7. contact information for three references
8. proof of English proficiency

**Additional Application Information**

An applicant whose native language is not English (regardless of current residency) must provide proof of English proficiency. The Graduate College requires a minimum TOEFL score of 550 (PBT) or 80 (iBT).
The statement of purpose should be approximately 1,000 words describing the applicant's academic background, the reasons for wishing to pursue a doctorate in religious studies, the proposed area of specialization, and specific research topics the student plans to engage in at Arizona State University.

The writing sample should be a work of original scholarly writing, approximately 15 to 30 pages in length. It should represent the student's best academic writing.

Students are required to submit contact information for three academic references who are qualified to provide detailed, accurate evaluations of the applicant's potential as a graduate student in religious studies. Professors, particularly faculty advisors, are preferred. Recommenders are contacted by the Graduate College with a request to complete a reference questionnaire. Letters of recommendation can be submitted in addition to answering these questions online.

GRE scores should be no more than five years old. Official scores should be sent by the ETS to ASU using the university code 4007. The department code can be left blank or entered as 0000.

**Application Deadlines**

**Fall**

**Contact Information**

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