

# BACHELOR OF ARTS WITH A MAJOR IN RELIGION

GW's non-sectarian Religion program examines various faiths and their impact on contemporary society. As a student, you will learn about topics from the abstract to the concrete—gaining a holistic view of religion that combines scholarly and religious ideals in a comprehensive understanding of faith. Areas of study include biblical literature, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, ethics, the sociology of religion, contemporary movements in theology, and religion in American culture. Our graduates have careers within a variety of fields, including positions as caseworkers, child welfare workers, church administrators, community services directors, counselors, ministers, rabbis, missionaries, Peace Corps workers, and nonprofit administrators.

Visit the program website (<https://religion.columbian.gwu.edu/>) for additional information.

## ADMISSIONS

For information about the admission process, including deadlines, visit the Office of Undergraduate Admissions website (<https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/>). Applications can be submitted via the Common Application (<https://go.gwu.edu/commonapp/>).

Supporting documents not submitted online should be mailed to:

Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
The George Washington University  
800 21st St NW Suite 100  
Washington, DC 20052

For questions visit [undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us](https://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us) (<http://undergraduate.admissions.gwu.edu/contact-us/>).

## REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements must be fulfilled:

The general requirements stated under Columbian College of Arts and Sciences, Undergraduate Programs (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#degreeregulationstext>).

Program-specific curriculum:

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Prerequisite</b>		
REL 1003	Introduction to World Religions	
<b>Required</b>		
REL 3901	Thinking About Religion: Classic and Contemporary Approaches	
REL 4101W	Senior Capstone Seminar	

## Electives

Nine Religion (REL) courses (27 credits). At least two of these courses must be taken at the 2000-level or above. At least two courses must focus on Abrahamic religions and at least two on non-Abrahamic religions, selected from the following:

Code	Title	Credits
Abrahamic religions		
REL 1009	The Hebrew Scriptures	
REL 1010	The New Testament	
or REL 1010W	The New Testament	
REL 2165	The Gospels	
REL 2169	Lost Gospels	
REL 2201	Judaism	
REL 2211	Rabbinic Thought and Literature	
REL 2301	Christianity	
REL 2401	Islam	
REL 2981	Women in Western Religion	
REL 3141	Second Temple/Hellenistic Judaism	
REL 3151	The Historical Jesus	
or REL 3151W	The Historical Jesus	
REL 3221	Issues in Jewish Ethics	
REL 3291	Modern Jewish Thought	
REL 3310	Apocalypse and Social Change	
REL 3321	Christian Ethics and Modern Society	
REL 3342	Medieval Faith and Symbolism	
REL 3343	Religion in the Renaissance and Reformation	
REL 3405	Shi'ite Islam	
REL 3414	Islamic Philosophy and Theology	
REL 3419	Islamic Civilization and the West	
REL 3425	Islamic Political Thought	
REL 3431	Sufism/Islamic Mysticism	
REL 3432	Persian Sufi Literature East and West	
REL 3475	Islamic Religion and Art	

REL 3481	Women in Islam
REL 3482	Gender and Piety in Islam
REL 3666	The Book of Revelation and Other Apocalypses
REL 3701	Religion in the United States
REL 3711	Religion in Contemporary America
or REL 3711W	Religion in Contemporary America
REL 3915	Islam and Hinduism in South Asia
REL 3923	Violence and Peace in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam
Non-Abrahamic religions	
REL 2501	Hinduism
REL 2562	Mythologies of India
REL 2601	Buddhism
REL 2802	Introduction to Chinese Religions
REL 2811	Confucian Literature in East Asia
REL 2814	Religion and Philosophy in East Asia
REL 2831	Introduction to Daoism
REL 3566	Dharma in Hinduism and Buddhism
REL 3614	Buddhist Philosophy
REL 3814W	Religion and Philosophy in East Asia
REL 3831W	Daoism in East Asia
REL 3832	Myth, Ritual, and Popular Religion in China
REL 3841	Religion and Politics in China
REL 3881	Women, Gender, and Religion in China
REL 3915	Islam and Hinduism in South Asia
REL 3989	The Goddess in India and Beyond

## GENERAL EDUCATION

In addition to the University General Education Requirement (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/>), undergraduate students in Columbian College must complete a further, College-specific general education curriculum—Perspective, Analysis, Communication (G-PAC) (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/gpac/>) as well as the course CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience. Together with the University General Education Requirement, G-PAC engages students in active

intellectual inquiry across the liberal arts. Students achieve a set of learning outcomes that enhance their analytical skills, develop their communication competencies, and invite them to participate as responsible citizens who are attentive to issues of culture, diversity, and privilege.

Coursework (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/university-regulations/general-education/#generaleducationtext>) **for the University General Education Requirement is distributed as follows:**

- One course in critical thinking in the humanities.
- Two courses in critical thinking, quantitative reasoning, or scientific reasoning in the social sciences.
- One course that has an approved oral communication component.
- One course in quantitative reasoning (must be in mathematics or statistics).
- One course in scientific reasoning (must be in natural and/or physical laboratory sciences).
- UW 1020 (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/search/?P=UW%201020>) University Writing (4 credits).
- After successful completion of UW 1020, 6 credits distributed over at least two writing in the discipline (WID) courses taken in separate semesters. WID courses are designated by a "W" appended to the course number.

**Coursework for the CCAS G-PAC requirement is distributed as follows:**

- Arts—one approved arts course that involves the study or creation of artwork based on an understanding or interpretation of artistic traditions or knowledge of art in a contemporary context.
- Global or cross-cultural perspective—one approved course that analyzes the ways in which institutions, practices, and problems transcend national and regional boundaries.
- Local or civic engagement—one approved course that develops the values, ethics, disciplines, and commitment to pursue responsible public action.
- Natural or physical science—one additional approved laboratory course that employs the process of scientific inquiry (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- Humanities—one additional approved humanities course that involves critical thinking skills (in addition to the one course in this category required by the University General Education Requirement).
- CCAS 1001 First-Year Experience

**Certain courses are approved to fulfill GPAC requirements in more than one category.**

Courses taken in fulfillment of G-PAC requirements may also be counted toward majors or minors. Transfer courses taken prior to, but not after, admission to George Washington University may count

toward the University General Education Requirement and G-PAC, if those transfer courses are equivalent to GW courses that have been approved by the University and the College.

Lists of approved courses in the above categories are included on each undergraduate major's (<https://bulletin.gwu.edu/arts-sciences/#majorstext>) page in this Bulletin.

## SPECIAL HONORS

In addition to the general requirements stated under University Regulations, in order to be considered for graduation with Special Honors, students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 in courses in the major, and receive a minimum grade of A- in REL 4101W