

B.A. in RELIGION

(32 credits required for graduation with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00)

NOTE: This guide is not meant to replace the degree audit; it is subject to change and represents actions approved by Faculty to date. Students are encouraged to run their degree audit at the end of each term of enrollment. Please refer often to the *2020-2021 Online Catalog & Student Handbook* <http://catalog.berea.edu/en/current/catalog>, which will be updated with the most current information.

GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

No single transfer course can meet more than one General Education requirement.

Core Courses

(Developmental math courses may be waived on basis of test scores.)

MAT 010 Pre-Algebra
MAT 011 Elementary Algebra
MAT 012 Elementary Algebra II

GSTR 110 Writing Seminar I: Critical Thinking in the Liberal Arts *(Transfer students may waive if College Composition was taken as a degree-seeking student at another college and earned a grade of B or higher.)*

GSTR 210 Writing Seminar II: Identity and Diversity in the U.S.
GSTR 310 Understandings of Christianity
GSTR 410 Seminar-Contemporary Global Issues

Scientific Knowledge and Inquiry

GSTR 332 Scientific Origins **OR**

Two (2) approved science courses, from two different disciplines, one of which must be an approved lab course. The following courses have been approved to meet this requirement: ANR 110, BIO 100, 101, 110, CHM 113, 131, PHY 111, 127, 221

Wellness & Fitness

WELL 101 Principles of Wellness I

WELL 102 Principles of Wellness II

Two (2) ¼-credit HHP activity courses *(HHP 200 will satisfy both the SWIM requirement and one of the activity course requirements)*

Practical Reasoning (PR & PRQ)

Two (2) courses, at least one firmly grounded in math or statistics (PRQ); the other can be an approved practical reasoning (PR) course or another PRQ course.

Perspectives (Six areas required)

One (1) course in **each** of the six areas is required. Individual courses may be approved to satisfy more than one perspective, but no single course may satisfy more than two perspective areas.

- 1) Arts
- 2) Social Science
- 3) Western History
- 4) Religion
- 5) African American/Appalachian/Women
- 6) International (choose one option):
 - A) Two (2) courses in the same non-English language, one of which may be waived through testing; **OR**
 - B) Two (2) world culture courses, one of which must be grounded in a non-western culture

Active Learning Experience

An approved experience, taken for credit or non-credit (e.g. internships, undergraduate research experiences).

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

A minimum GPA of 2.0 in the major is required for graduation.

Core Course

REL 100 The Study of Religions

Capstone Course

REL 480 Seminar in Religion

Required Distribution Courses (Six total credits)

(A minimum of one course from each of the following categories (two of the distribution and/or elective courses must be at the 200-level and at least one 200-level course is recommended to be chosen from distribution course.)

Area 1: Historical Studies of Religion

REL 105 Introduction to the Old Testament
REL 107 Introduction to the New Testament
AST132 Religions of China
AST 135 Religions of Japan

Area 2: Cultural Studies of Religion

REL 102 Introduction to the Study of Spirituality
REL/AFR 136 Traditional African Religion
REL/WGS 211 Religions, Spirituality, and Gender
REL/AST 260 Buddhism

Area 3: Normative Studies of Religion

REL 109 Introduction to Christian Thought
REL 126 Poverty and Justice
REL 212 Religion, Rhetoric, and Rationality
REL 235 Christian Social Ethics

Three additional courses (one of which must be at the 300-level) chosen from all other Religion courses, including courses that the three distributive areas of study do not include, with the option of choosing interdisciplinary collateral courses in religious studies from other academic programs that may be approved upon request

Electives

20 credits outside the major

Students who plan to pursue graduate studies in religion or ministry are strongly recommended to study a foreign language through the third level.

Learning Goal 1: Students will cultivate understanding of religion and religious experience as a primary and an enduring human expression of and response to the human condition.

Learning Outcome 1.1: Students will have the ability to identify basic religious issues, questions, and concerns that emerge as human expressions of and responses to the human condition.

Learning Outcome 1.2: Students will demonstrate understanding of the basic religious issues, questions, and concerns that arise in human experience.

Learning Goal 2: Students will encounter many of the intellectual, practical, and theoretical issues and questions that accompany the appearance of religion in human life and communities.

Learning Outcome 2.1: Students will have the ability to identify key intellectual, practical, and theoretical issues that emerge in human religious experience.

Learning Outcome 2.2: Students will have the ability to articulate some of the most basic intellectual, practical, and theoretical issues that emerge in the human experience of religion.

Learning Goal 3: Students will acquire knowledge of diverse historical and contemporary religious communities, traditions, ideas, and phenomena, as well as knowledge of diverse academic methods for the study of religion.

Learning Outcome 3.1: Students will demonstrate knowledge of several historical and contemporary religious communities, traditions, ideas, and phenomena.

Learning Outcome 3.2: Students will demonstrate knowledge of several of the most well-known historical and contemporary definitions of religion and methods for the study of religious phenomena.

Learning Goal 4: Students will examine some of the classic texts in both human religious history and the academic study of religion.

Learning Outcome 4.1: Students will demonstrate knowledge about several classic texts from human religious history and the history of their interpretation.

Learning Outcome 4.2: Students will demonstrate knowledge about some of the classic texts in the academic study of religion.

Learning Goal 5: Students will develop descriptive, analytical, interpretive, critical, creative, and constructive skills for the study of religious phenomena.

Learning Outcome 5.1: Students will possess the ability to articulate basic issues that shape and guide the academic study of religion.

Learning Outcome 5.2: Students will have the ability to construct well-designed arguments to describe and to interpret religious phenomena.

Learning Goal 6: Students will sharpen abilities to communicate critically, yet constructively, through engagement with the religious practices and ideas of other people and their communities.

Learning Outcome 6.1: Students will possess increased ability to communicate critically and constructively about the religious practices and ideas of other people and communities.

Learning Outcome 6.2: Students will possess enhanced ability to communicate critically and constructively with people and communities about their religious practices and ideas.

Learning Goal 7: Students will develop or enhance appreciation for the complexities and possibilities in the academic study of religion.

Learning Outcome 7.1: Students will demonstrate understanding of the complex relationships between religious experiences, practices, and beliefs, on the one hand, and between religious experience and the study of religion, on the other hand.

Learning Outcome 7.2: Students will perceive the values in the academic study of religion and employ those values in addressing issues, questions, and problems in human life and communities.