THE ACADEMIC STUDY OF RELIGION IN A SPIRIT OF FREE INTELLECTUAL INQUIRY

Biblical Studies | Theology and Spirituality | Comparative Religion | Religion and Culture/Ethics

The Master of Arts program with a major in Religious Studies at University of Detroit Mercy provides advanced study of religion in the Detroit/southeast Michigan area. We welcome students from various traditions and backgrounds and with differing career goals. This graduate education develops personal insight, scholarly research and critical analysis in areas of religious and theological inquiry. A faculty advisor will work with you to create a program that meets your professional and intellectual interests and needs focused in one of the four areas of concentration listed above. This Master of Arts program must include an area of concentration as well as representative courses from each of the other three areas. In consultation with an advisor, you may take graduate courses in other disciplines (e.g., Psychology, Liberal Studies) that align with your interests and needs.

Admission Requirements
To apply to this program, you must have completed 30 hours of undergraduate work in religious studies, philosophy or related humanities with a grade of B or above, and earned a cumulative 3.00 undergraduate grade point average. You must also submit an essay in which you discuss your individual background preparation for this program and goals in choosing to pursue this degree.

Additional courses and/or the GRE or GMAT may also be required. Initial entry to the program is through probationary status. Once you satisfactorily complete 12 hours of approved coursework, you will be admitted to degree candidacy.

Degree Requirements
The Master of Arts with a major in Religious Studies requires successful completion of 30 credit hours of coursework at the 5000 level. Each student is required to take RELS 5000—“Study of Religion”—usually within the first nine credit hours of the program coursework. In addition, one course must be taken from each of the program’s four areas of concentration (Biblical Studies, Theology and Spirituality, Comparative Religions and Religion and Culture/Ethics); the student must choose one of those four areas of concentration as the focus of their remaining coursework.

Plan A
24 credit hours of regular coursework, six credit hours of thesis research (RELS 5990), and successful completion and defense of a master’s thesis. Recommended for students entering with a strong background in Religious Studies, excellent research and writing skills, well-defined research interests, and/or who may plan to go on to a doctoral program.

Plan B
30 credit hours of regular coursework, plus the successful completion, with a grade of “pass,” for each of the four comprehensive exams based upon the four areas of program concentration and the student’s individualized focus of concentration.

Curriculum may change. Refer to the most recent edition of the Detroit Mercy Catalog: udmercy.edu/catalog

Website: udmercy.edu/religiousstudies

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