



The Core Curriculum's religious studies courses balance empirical inquiry with an investigation of what people believe and why they believe it. Any meaningful dialogue about the human condition must include questions about values and spirituality. Familiarity with the basic principles of Christianity is essential to understanding Western history, politics, and society. Gonzaga students are not required to embrace a certain belief system, but the Core does engage them in an exploration of life's spiritual dimension.

Except for the Thought and Expression Block, which is taken during the freshman year, the Core Curriculum can be completed at each student's own pace. Those undecided about a major usually finish the Core early and use it as a foundation for future academic endeavors. Those eager to begin their major during their freshman and sophomore years generally distribute the Core over four years. There is no "correct" way to complete these courses, and Gonzaga encourages students to finish the Core in a manner best suited to their personal, intellectual, spiritual, and ethical development.

### **The People**

Gonzaga's Core Curriculum courses are taught by many of the most talented and experienced professors in the University. Gonzaga alumni rank the Core among the most influential and beneficial elements of their Gonzaga education and consistently cite exceptional teaching as the primary reason.

Finally, the Core is a unique venue for students from different majors to interact in the classroom, bringing together the experience of all departments in enlivened discussion. The Core is the intellectual bond that unites Gonzaga University and makes it a true academic community.

*Photo Credits: Alan Bisson, Dean Davis, Eric Galey, Craig Hill, Lauren Intinarelli, Jennifer Raudebaugh, Amy Sinisterra, and Allen Hubbard.*

**For more information, please contact:** Office of Admission, [admissions@gonzaga.edu](mailto:admissions@gonzaga.edu),  
(509) 313-6572 or (800) 322-2584