Religious Studies

Gonzaga's Mission and Vision Statements identify the distinguishing characteristics of Gonzaga as Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic. These pillars of the Jesuit tradition emphasize finding God in all things, caring for the whole person, promoting justice, and being women and men for and with others, especially the poor. The Catholic tradition affirms the centrality of Christ at work in the world, the guidance of scripture, the tradition of faith seeking understanding, the importance of social responsibility, and appreciation of religious difference. The humanistic tradition affirms humanity's creativity and intelligence reflected in its societies, cultures, and religious traditions.

THE PROGRAM

All Gonzaga students—indeed, independent of their majors—take Religious Studies courses as part of the University Core Curriculum. These courses advance the essential values of the Gonzaga mission. They consist of one course in Christianity and Catholic Traditions, and one course in world or comparative religions.

Gonzaga's Religious Studies major requires 36 credits, including an eight course integrated core (24 credits) and one of two concentrations (either Christian Theology or Religious Pluralism—each 9 credits). Each concentration requires students to complete one course in three of four areas, plus a Senior Seminar. A minor in Religious Studies requires only six courses (18 credits). That means that all students at Gonzaga are on their way to a minor in Religious Studies simply by completing the University's Core requirements.

The Religious Studies/Law 3+3 program consists of three years in the Department and three years in the Law School, resulting in a B.A. in Religious Studies and a J.D. from the Gonzaga University School of Law in six years. This program allows students to engage in furthering justice and the common good in our complex and diverse world. Students should begin the program in their first year at Gonzaga.

OUTCOMES

Students and graduates from the Religious Studies Department can be found working in a variety of fields and studying in a wide array of graduate programs.

Religious studies is often good preparation for careers in law, counseling, education, business, health care, journalism, ministry, and the administration of hospitals, schools, and church communities. Recent graduates have joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and the Peace Corps, as well as other social service agencies.

Many students use their Gonzaga undergraduate studies as a springboard to prestigious graduate programs. After receiving their bachelor’s degree, Religious Studies majors have attended graduate schools such as Boston College, the University of Chicago, Marquette University, and the University of Notre Dame.

THE PEOPLE

The Religious Studies Department faculty hold the distinction of being among the most widely published in the University. They have received their doctoral degrees from some of the most prestigious institutions in both the United States and Europe. They are nationally- and internationally-known scholars who are highly sought after for presentations, workshops, conferences, and retreats. They are best known, however, for being mentors, advisors, and friends of Gonzaga students studying in their classes and chatting in their offices. They are a high-caliber, face-to-face faculty known for their work teaching and advising undergraduate students.

Sample Faculty Publications


**FACULTY CONTACTS & SPECIALITIES**

Kevin McCruden | **Dept. Chair**  
Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago  
New Testament  
mccruden@gonzaga.edu

Fr. Patrick Wanakuta Baraza  
Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)  
Islamic studies and African traditional religions  
baraza@gonzaga.edu

I-ling (Gloria) Chien  
Ph.D., University of Virginia  
Buddhism, Asian religions  
chien@gonzaga.edu

Emily Clark  
Ph.D., Florida State University  
American religion and culture  
clarke2@gonzaga.edu

Michael Cook, S.J.  
Professor Emeritus  
Th.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)  
systematic theology and Christology  
cookm@gonzaga.edu

John Downey  
Professor Emeritus  
Ph.D., Marquette University  
fundamental and political theology  
downey@gonzaga.edu

Shannon Dunn  
Ph.D., Florida State University  
comparative Islamic and Christian ethics, gender and religion, and use of violence in religious discourses  
dunns@gonzaga.edu

Elizabeth Goldstein  
Ph.D., University of California, San Diego  
Hebrew Bible/Old Testament and Jewish studies  
goldstein@gonzaga.edu

Robert Hauck  
Ph.D., Duke University  
history of early Christianity  
hauck@gonzaga.edu

Steve Kuder, S.J.  
Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)  
religion and literature  
kuder@gonzaga.edu

Ron Large  
Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley)  
Christian ethics and non-violence studies  
large@gonzaga.edu

Megan McCabe  
Ph.D., Boston College  
thought  
mccabem@gonzaga.edu

Patrick McCormick  
S.T.D., Gregorian University (Rome)  
Christian ethics and Catholic social thought  
mccormick@gonzaga.edu

Joy Milos, C.S.J.  
Ph.D., Catholic University of America  
Christian spirituality and spiritual direction studies  
milos@gonzaga.edu

Joseph Mudd  
Ph.D., Boston College  
sacramental/liturgical theology  
mudd@gonzaga.edu

Joseph Nguyen, S.J.  
S.T.D. Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University  
thought  
guyen@gonzaga.edu

Matthew Rindge  
Ph.D., Emory University  
New Testament and Christianity and culture  
rindge@gonzaga.edu

Linda Schearing  
Ph.D., Emory University  
Hebrew scriptures  
schearing@gonzaga.edu

John Sheveland  
Ph.D., Boston College  
interreligious dialogue and comparative theology  
sheveland@gonzaga.edu

R. Brian Siebeking  
Ph.D., University of Virginia  
Quran and Sufism  
siebeking@gonzaga.edu

Cate Siejk  
Professor Emerita  
Ph.D., Boston College  
religious education and feminist studies  
siejk@gonzaga.edu

Scott Starbuck  
Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary  
Hebrew Bible  
starbuck@gonzaga.edu

Bernie Tyrrell, S.J.  
Professor Emeritus  
Ph.D., Fordham University  
B.A. Gonzaga University  
philosophy of religion  
tyrell@gonzaga.edu

Anastasia Wendlinger  
Ph.D., Notre Dame University  
systematic and sacramental theology  
wendlinger@gonzaga.edu

Kevin M. Vander Schel  
Ph.D., Boston College  
systematic theology  
vanderschel@gonzaga.edu