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—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.

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 pathway 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.

CURRICULUM

Gonzaga’s Religious Studies major requires 36 credits, including an eight course integrated core and one of two concentrations:

- Christian Theology
- Religious Pluralism

A minor in Religious Studies requires only six courses. 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.

Examples of upper-division courses include:

- Bible and Film in Dialogue
- Christian Medical Ethics
- Christianity & Human Rights
- Women and the Bible

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gonzaga.edu/religious-studies