

Religious Studies (Religion, Culture and Public Life), BA

LARELCPBA

Accelerated options for this program are not currently available to ASU Online students.

Look around, and you will see religion everywhere. By studying a variety of materials, you gain an understanding of the role of religion in shaping the past, present and future of human societies and cultures --- an understanding that will aid you in any field you decide to pursue.

Program description


The BA in religious studies with a concentration in religion, culture and public life approaches religion as a mode of human culture, as constituted in intellect, language, emotion, practice, art and everyday life.

The program focuses on the role religions play in the formation of cultural identities, traditions, norms and memories, and it examines in particular the impact religions have on culturally specified ways that people reason, communicate, socialize, work, entertain, dress, eat, live and die. Special consideration is given to the influence of religion on gender roles and sexual norms; the formation of images of the body and the moral assessment of medical practices; and the reflection and reproduction of religion in film, popular culture and conventional, digital and social media.

In addition to reviewing the guidelines in the Concurrent Program Options section below, students interested in pursuing concurrent or second baccalaureate degrees in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences are advised to visit [The College's website](#) for more information and requirements.

At a glance

- **College/School:** [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#)
- **Location:** [Tempe](#) or [Online, ASU Local](#)

- **Second language requirement:** Yes
- **First required math course:** MAT 142 - College Mathematics
- **Math intensity:** General 

Required courses (Major Map)

[2024 - 2025 Major Map \(on-campus\)](#)

[2024 - 2025 Major Map \(online\)](#)

[Major Map \(Archives\)](#)

Concurrent program options

Students pursuing concurrent degrees (also known as a "double major") earn two distinct degrees and receive two diplomas. Working with their academic advisors, students can create their own concurrent degree combination. Some combinations are not possible due to high levels of overlap in curriculum.

Accelerated program options

This program allows students to obtain both a bachelor's and master's degree in as little as five years. It is offered as an **accelerated bachelor's plus master's degree** with:

[Global Management \(Creative Industries and Design Thinking\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Digital Audience Strategy\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Global Affairs\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Global Business\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Global Development and Innovation\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Global Digital Transformation\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Global Entrepreneurship\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Global Health Care Delivery\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Global Legal Studies\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Nonprofit Leadership and Management\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Public Administration\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Public Policy\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Sustainability Solutions\), MGM](#)

[Global Management \(Sustainable Tourism\), MGM](#)

[Global Management, MGM](#)

Acceptance to the graduate program requires a separate application. Students typically receive approval to pursue the accelerated master's during the junior year of their bachelor's degree program. Interested students can learn about eligibility requirements and [how to apply](#).

Admission requirements

General university admission requirements:

All students are required to meet general university admission requirements.

[First-year](#) | [Transfer](#) | [International](#) | [Readmission](#)

Tuition information

When it comes to paying for higher education, everyone's situation is different. Students can learn about [ASU tuition and financial aid](#) options to find out which will work best for them.

Change of Major Requirements

A current ASU student has no additional requirements for changing majors.

Students should visit the [Change of Major form](#) for information about how to change a major to this program.

Attend online

ASU Online

ASU offers this program in an online format with multiple enrollment sessions throughout the year. Applicants may [view the program's ASU Online page](#) for program descriptions and to request more information.

ASU Local

It is now possible to earn an ASU degree with [ASU Local](#), an integrated college experience in which students take advantage of in-person success coaching and programming experiences on site while completing one of 130+ undergraduate online degree programs, all of which come with online faculty interaction and tutoring support.

Transfer options

ASU is committed to helping students thrive by offering tools that allow personalization of the transfer path to ASU. Students may use [MyPath2ASU®](#) to outline a list of recommended courses to take prior to transfer.

ASU has [transfer partnerships](#) in Arizona and across the country to create a simplified transfer experience

for students. These pathway programs include exclusive benefits, tools and resources, and they help students save time and money in their college journey.

Program learning outcomes

Program learning outcomes identify what a student will learn or be able to do upon completion of their program. This program has the following program outcomes:

- Formulate a thesis about a significant issue in religious studies relating to culture and public life.
- Address and analyze a scholarly issue in religious studies relating to culture and public life.
- Develop a sustained, evidence-based argument about a significant issue in religious studies relating to culture and public life.

Global opportunities

Global experience

Religion plays a major role in cultural and societal norms, identities and traditions all over the world. Through one of more than 300 unique [Global Education programs](#), students witness firsthand diverse religions and cultures, and gain a heightened understanding of the impact of religion on human culture. Students also enrich their cultural competency, communication and critical thinking skills, which can enhance their resumes.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences recommends [these study abroad programs](#) for students majoring in religious studies with a concentration in religion, culture and public life.

Career opportunities

Religious studies majors seek jobs in many professional areas, including:

- chaplaincy
- diversity management
- education
- foreign service
- health care, including mental health and counseling
- journalism
- law
- nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations
- public service and public policy
- publishing

Religious studies is an excellent foundation for graduate and professional studies in:

- anthropology
- gender studies
- health care
- history
- law
- justice studies
- philosophy
- political science
- sociology
- theology

The concentration addresses present-day interests and prepares students for jobs in a variety of professions. In addition to the fields listed above, students also pursue employment in media studies, migration and international studies.

Example job titles and salaries listed below are not necessarily entry level, and students should take into consideration how years of experience and geographical location may affect pay scales. Some jobs also may require advanced degrees, certifications or state-specific licensure.

Career	*Growth	*Median salary
<u>Advocate</u> ☀️	8.6%	\$38,520
<u>Lawyer</u> ☀️	7.5%	\$135,740
<u>Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)</u> ☀️	14.9%	\$56,570
<u>Mental Health Counselor</u> ☀️	18.4%	\$49,710
<u>News Reporter</u>		\$55,960
<u>Politician</u>	3.4%	\$48,090
<u>Religion Professor</u>	2.7%	\$78,780
<u>Religious Education Director</u>		\$49,380
<u>Religious Leader</u>	0.6%	\$55,550
<u>Social Worker</u> ☀️	5.3%	\$50,820

* Data obtained from the Occupational Information Network (O*NET) under sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA).

☀️ [Bright Outlook](#)

Contact information

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