



# 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 most vulnerable. 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, Harvard Divinity School, University of Notre Dame, Candler School of Theology, and Princeton Theological Seminary.**

## CURRICULUM

Students majoring in Religious Studies are required to fulfill 36 credit hours in accordance with the following four methodological areas: one course in Sacred Texts and Traditions; one course in Theology and Spirituality; one course in Religion, Culture, and Society; and one course in Ethics. In addition, majors are required to take one course in Methodology (399) and at least four seminar-level (400s) courses, including Senior Thesis (499) and/or Internship (497). The remaining nine credits for the major are electives and may be fulfilled by taking courses in any of the four methodological areas listed above.

Students minoring in Religious Studies are required to fulfill 18 credit hours in accordance with the following: one course in Ethics; one course in Methodology (399); and two seminar-level courses (400s). Any remaining credits needed for the required total of 18 credit hours are electives and may be fulfilled by taking courses in any of the four methodological areas listed above.

*Gonzaga also offers an online Master of Arts in Theology and Leadership.*

**Contact:** [gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@gonzaga.edu)

## Faculty Contact

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**For more information:**

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