



**Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies**  
College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
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## **Capstone Project/Thesis Guidelines for Religion, Culture, and Values**

### Requirements

In the Religion, Culture and Values concentration students are expected to demonstrate the following in their coursework and projects or theses. These demonstrated skills and abilities, along with conceptual, analytical and intellectual comprehension factor into the outcomes assessment of the program.

1. Students must demonstrate descriptive skill and analytical ability in writing about the historical background, social environment, and cultural and religious traditions in the subject matter.
2. Students must articulate the construction and application of the conceptual language required in the comprehension of any abstract ideas and metaphysical notions involved in understanding and interpreting religious phenomena.
3. Students are expected to develop and employ a language of respect and sensitivity in dealing with religions, cultures and values other than their own.
4. Students are required to comprehend and appreciate the symbolic, metaphoric and allusive language that is used to express human spirituality.
5. Students must demonstrate both a narrative and poetic appreciation of the literary and ritual dimensions of religion.

Creativity and imagination are also vital in the process of analysis and expression in the area of religion, culture and values.

### Project (MAIS 798)

A project in Religion, Culture and Values would address applied rather than theoretical subjects. Typically this might involve topics such as religious conflict in an identifiable social, ethnic or cultural group; issues of the interpretation and application of religious ethics by different religious traditions or different groups within one tradition; or the cultural issues raised by globalization. Such projects would routinely involve the collection of appropriate data for a variety of courses, including analysis and interpretation of such data and potential uses for the results.

### Thesis (MAIS 799)

Most students in Religion, Culture and Values will elect to write a thesis that reflects the primarily, intellectual, conceptual and analytical nature of the concentration. Such theses will involve original research and will be expected to demonstrate the five categories enumerated above, with emphasis on those that are primary to the topic.