



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Interdisciplinary Studies

Inquiry into religion as a continuously evolving source of ethical ideas, cultural values, social critique, and human connection

Program Highlights

The Religious Studies (RELI) concentration explores the role of religion in intellectual and cultural life, the connections between religion and social justice, and the social impact of religious traditions. Students analyze the effects of religious ideas, movements, and practices from multiple perspectives and through the lens of both the humanities and the social sciences, fostering strong skills in critical and comparative thinking.

Many of the world's most pressing issues and problems—from fostering sustainable and equitable development, to peacemaking and the protection of human rights, to assessing the full ramifications of scientific and technological developments on all forms of life—require new moral philosophies and ethical responses that can reach across cultural and religious differences, while drawing upon the fundamental values, beliefs, and traditions that continue to guide human beings across the globe. The Washington, DC metropolitan area is rich in the presence of many major religious traditions and their places of worship. Students have the opportunity to study a wide range of religions in the context of their own communities and among their contemporary practitioners.

The MAIS concentration in religious studies can lead to careers in

- law,
- national and international government,
- print and media journalism,
- library sciences,
- archives and museums,
- public and social service,
- teaching,
- advanced graduate studies, religious communities and institutions, and organizations that address conflict and its aftermath.

For the most up-to-date application and degree requirements visit:

mais.gmu.edu/programs/la-mais-isin-reli

website: mais.gmu.edu
email: mais@gmu.edu

Degree Requirements - 36 Total Credits

RELI 600 Interdisciplinary Pathways in the Study of Religion - 3 Credits

RELI 630 Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion - 3 Credits

Interdisciplinary Competencies in Religious Studies - 9 Credits

- Students take 3 courses from a list of competencies in areas such as Religion, Philosophy, History, and Anthropology, to complement their interests, skills and professional experience.

Elective Courses - 15 Credits

- Students take 5 elective courses that complement the student's competencies, and/or reflect the topic of their project or thesis.

MAIS 793 Integrated Learning Experience - 3 Credits

Capstone Project or Thesis - 3 Credits

How to Apply

Along with the completed Application for Graduate Admission and application fee, applicants should submit:

- Official transcripts from previous institutions of higher education attended
- Goals statement
- Two letters of recommendation
- Resume
- Formal writing sample of at least 1,000 words

See chss.gmu.edu/admissions for complete details on the application process.

MAIS: Design Your Own Degree

The Interdisciplinary Studies (MAIS) program in the College of Humanities & Social Sciences consists of multiple established degree paths that exist in partnership with academic units and faculty across the University. It offers a home for students with broad academic interests who seek a master's degree to help them to create a better world. While their degree paths may vary dramatically, our students share a desire to address critical problems facing the world today.

Available Degree Paths

Computational Social Science
Energy and Sustainability
Individualized Studies
Religious Studies
Social Entrepreneurship
Social Justice and Human Rights
War and the Military in Society
Women and Gender Studies