



Religious Studies, B.A.

The world is a richly meaningful place and every life is an authentic contribution to that larger meaning. Understanding the world's religions and spiritual traditions allows us to see how belief and belonging influence culture, ethics, and politics. Focusing on major religions of the world, spiritual paths, and secular belief systems, our curriculum helps students develop the capacity for scholarship and disciplined thought on the subject of religion and encourages them to utilize the study of religion to enrich their own quest for meaning, consider their values, and ponder the questions that have captivated people for millennia.

Experience Your Learning

One of our main goals is to make sure students are prepared for their future career. Whatever your path, you will develop practical skills in communication and lifelong learning so you can thrive—both professionally and personally.

We facilitate travel abroad (e.g., to India and China) and offer many opportunities for direct encounter with religious communities local to Northern California.

You will have ample opportunity to present your research findings at professional conferences, author papers, and intern with local agencies and Tribes.

Students paint stupas at Rigdzin Ling gonpa and hang out with peacocks at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas. They collect oral histories from local veterans, clean gravestones at Greenwood Cemetery, practice meditation with the Arcata Zen Group, and celebrate shabbat with Temple Beth El and Great Vespers with St. Innocent Orthodox Church. Sometimes, Ezekiel's Wheels Motorcycle Ministry cruises by to share their experience.



Did you know?

- Our major is designed to be completed in one or two years so you can study abroad, do an internship, or complete a double major.
- Religious Studies alumni are healthcare workers, scuba instructors, attorneys, teachers, grant writers, advertisers, and yoga instructors. Whatever path they follow, they lead interesting lives.
- Immerse yourself in Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Yogic, and other practices through a series of Experiential Weekends, which are one unit and can be taken multiple times for credit.



Academics & Options

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Our curriculum encourages the appreciation of cultural diversity as we consider traditional values, sacred texts, and religious history. Our approach is international and multidisciplinary and we collaborate with the following departments: World Languages & Cultures; Geography, Environment & Spatial Analysis; Environmental Studies; History; Philosophy; Anthropology; and Art + Film.

Minors

- Religious Studies Minor

Get Involved

Religious Studies Club

Opportunities to build community and leadership skills and establish bonds outside the classroom.

ideaFest

Religious Studies majors can present their projects at ideaFest, an annual event where more than 400 students, faculty, and staff showcase research, performances, digital projects, and more.

Service Learning

Apply your learning with a wide array of community partners—religious, spiritual, and secular—to collaborate on local projects and develop professional skills.



Careers

A Religious Studies degree will give you a competitive edge in today's increasingly diverse workforce. You will graduate with practical skills in communication and lifelong learning, so you can thrive—professionally as a citizen and future leader, and personally as an individual and community member.

- Artist
- Business Leader
- Case Manager
- Counselor
- Doctor
- Journalist
- Lawyer
- Nurse
- Social Worker
- Teacher



If it weren't for the Religious Studies department at Humboldt and their guidance in humbly setting my reality aside to learn about a rich world of cultures and experiences, I don't believe I would have such a fulfilling life or career. This program will always have a special place in my memories and in my heart."

Lacie Meyer ('18), administrative office coordinator at College of the Redwoods