

MA in Religion – Requirements

The MA Program in Religion requires thirty units of credit, which normally can be completed over a two-year period. There is a significant research and writing component, which can be realized in two different ways (below, 1a and 1b).

The program is structured as follows:

1. The student chooses one of two possible combinations:

- a) Twenty-four units of course work (i.e., eight courses) plus six units of research under the supervision of a member of the Department, resulting in a Master's thesis (ca. 60 pages);

OR:

- b) Thirty units of course work (i.e., ten courses). Two of these courses must include the writing of a research paper.

2. The following additional requirements apply:

- a) In both options, eighteen units must be focused on religious studies.
- b) One of the courses must be REL 212, "Theorizing Religion," or an approved equivalent.
- c) All but two courses must be at the 200-level or higher. Two courses (6 units) may be below 200.
- d) The choice between options 1a and 1b must be made no later than the end of the second semester.

At that point the student must complete a form indicating:

- the preferred option (1a or 1b);
- the title and short description of the research project (for option 1a) or a first indication of the courses for which the two papers will be written (for option b);
- the name of the advisor of the thesis (within the Department) or a first indication of the instructors with whom the two papers will be written;
- the names of two additional faculty members who will serve in the advisory committee and will administer the final exam.

3. At the matriculation each student will be assigned a supervisor who is a member of the MA committee. Regular consultation with the supervisor is recommended and the supervisor's approval is required when decisions are made. The supervisor is not necessarily an expert in the student's field of choice. In some cases a substitute may be designated.

In addition, the student will work with an advisor for the thesis or the two research papers as well as with an advisory committee of three faculty members (the advisor being one of them) which will administer the final exam.

4. Although it is not required, it is strongly recommended that students gain proficiency in the primary and secondary languages necessary for their field. Language courses may count toward the fulfillment of the course requirement with the prior approval of the supervisor (see also under 2.c).

October 7, 2005.