The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.

- Albert Einstein

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Religious Studies

Deepen the mind and widen the heart

Cross-cultural in content and multi-disciplinary in approach, Religious Studies investigates a wide variety of the world’s spiritual practices and religious traditions. Students in Religious Studies learn to explore critically the beliefs and assumptions of the world they inhabit, and they engage in a perennial conversation with the unanswerable questions, vital ideas, and struggle for meaning exemplified by human religiousness. Such studies contribute to the quality of work and life, and offer an academic training in critical thinking and writing greatly desirable for success in a variety of professions.

Career Opportunities

Graduates in Religious Studies go on to successful and rewarding careers in a wide range of fields, including:

- Education
- Law
- Journalism
- Business
- Government
- Non-profit organizations
- Counseling
- Social work
- Health Professions
- Politics
- Information technology
- Marketing
- Communications
- Writing
- Research

Benefits of Double Major or Minor

A degree in Religious Studies can be combined with a major or minor in a different discipline to broaden and deepen a student’s education. Many students find that Religious Studies gives them an advantage over other students pursuing careers in a variety of professions. Some common double majors include: Religious Studies and Political Science, Religious Studies and Sociology, Religious Studies and Psychology, Religious Studies and the Health Professions, Religious Studies and Business, Religious Studies and History, Religious Studies and English, Religious Studies and Engineering, Religious Studies and Physics, and Religious Studies and Art.

Faculty & Staff

- Jacquelyn Kegley, Ph.D. Philosophy of Science, Philosophy and Technology, Self and Mind, American Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, Neuro/Bio-Ethics
- S.T. Campagna-Pinto, Ph.D. Religion, Conflict, and Peacemaking; Religion in America; Religion in the Modern West; Holocaust Studies
- Liora Gubkin, Ph.D. Sociology of Religion, Judaism, Women and Religion, Holocaust Studies
- Tim Vivian, Ph.D. Western Religion, Western Scriptures, Christianity, New Testament, Islam, Mysticism, Native American Religion
- Jonathan Young, Ph.D. Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Comparative Ethics, Religion and Politics in Asia
- Tamar Anthony Administrative Support Coordinator
Double majoring in religious studies transformed my mind and heart; it truly helped me develop into a well-rounded individual throughout my undergraduate studies. Religious studies complemented my chemistry major and continues to do so in my pursuit toward a Master’s of Science in Biology, and becoming a physician.

The Religious Studies program taught me to be able to fully communicate and interpret the ideas, beliefs, emotions, and worldview of myself and others. This is essential to my job as a union organizer because workers need to know that their thoughts and feelings are understood and valued so that they can find the courage to change their own lives.

The RS program at CSUB was instrumental in my development of critical thinking, writing, and reading abilities; it also fostered an empathetic understanding with cultures other than my own. Without these important life-skills I doubt I would have been as strong a candidate for my current job as a teacher in Kamichi, Japan. The RS program gave me the tools and foundation to accomplish what I wanted. For that, I am grateful.

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Religious Studies

Degree Requirements

Religious Studies Major Track

The Religious Studies major track is for students majoring in RS and requires thirty-six (36) units in total. The major is organized into five areas of study: Foundational Courses; World Religious Traditions; Religion and an Applied Field; Religion in the Contemporary World; and required courses for majors.

1. Foundational Courses
   Two (2) courses required from:
   RS 1008, 1018, 1028, 1038

2. World Religious Traditions
   a. One (1) course required from:
      RS 3208, 3218, 3220, 3230
   b. One (1) course required from:
      RS 3240, 3250, 3260
   c. One Elective (1)

3. Approaches to the Study of Religion
   a. Two (2) courses required from:
      RS 3340, 3350, 3360, 3368

4. Religion and Culture in Global Perspective
   a. Two (2) courses required from:
      RS 3518, 3528, 3538, 3548, 4518, 4528

5. Major Requirements
   RS 3268, 4900

6. One Elective (1) from Religious Studies courses or from another field

Religious Studies Double Major Track

The Religious Studies double major track requires completion of another major degree track, plus a minimum of twenty-four (24) units in total.

1. Foundational Courses
   Two (2) courses required from:
   RS 1008, 1018, 1028, 1038

2. World Religious Traditions
   a. One (1) course required from:
      RS 3208, 3218, 3220, 3230
   b. One (1) course required from:
      RS 3240, 3250, 3260
   c. One Elective (1)

3. Approaches to the Study of Religion
   a. Two (2) courses required from:
      RS 3340, 3350, 3360, 3368

4. Religion and Culture in Global Perspective
   a. Two (2) courses required from:
      RS 3518, 3528, 3538, 3548, 4518, 4528

5. One Elective (1) from Religious Studies courses or from another field