

# The Honors Program in Religious Studies

## Writing a Thesis in Religious Studies

### Reasons to complete an Honors Thesis in Religious Studies

- Completing an Honors Thesis provides the student an opportunity to examine a topic of interest in depth
- Students considering graduate study in religious studies are encouraged to complete a thesis
- Scholarship may be recognized in the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Honors Convocation
- Scholarship may be considered for presentation at various undergraduate conferences



## Eligibility & Process

You must be a declared Religious Studies Major and demonstrate exceptional academic ability. You may be invited to enter the program by one of your professors or the Department Chair, or you may request to enter the program.

Once it has been determined that you qualify for the program, the next steps are to:

- Enroll in, and complete, RELG 4300: Honors Tutorial in Religious Studies. As part of this course, you must complete a thesis.
- Choose a thesis director and two readers from the continuing full-time faculty members of the Department of Philosophy and Religion
- Pass an oral exam, conducted by three faculty members, on your thesis
- Maintain a cumulative university GPA of at least 3.25, and a GPA of at least 3.50 in the Religious Studies Major



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## More about the thesis:

Expectations and guidelines are provided by your thesis director, who is usually a professor whose areas of research and teaching most closely match your area of interest.

You may begin work on the thesis as early as the second semester of your junior year, but most students begin in the first semester of their senior year.

The thesis may be combined with internship work, if you and your thesis director agree that this is an appropriate option.

At least three, and no more than six hours of credit will be awarded upon completion of the program.

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