

## Why study religion?

Religion is intertwined with just about every aspect of human experience, from art and literature, to law and politics, to pop culture and marketing. Reports of the 'death of God' (and of religion) have turned out, to paraphrase Mark Twain, to be greatly exaggerated. Studying religion means trying to understand time-tested traditions and dynamic social movements across all kinds of cultural differences. Majoring in religion is an exemplary way to fulfill the promise of a liberal arts education and gain breadth and depth for understanding the world in which we live.

## Degrees offered

- Bachelor of Arts in religion
- Minor in religion

## Student clubs

- Interfaith Dinner Club
- Pre-ministerial Students
- Theta Alpha Kappa, religion honors society
- Weekly Chapel services

## Students often pair this major with a major or minor in:

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| ■ Biology        | ■ English    |
| ■ Business       | ■ History    |
| ■ Chemistry      | ■ Philosophy |
| ■ Communications | ■ Psychology |
| ■ Education      | ■ Sociology  |



## Interesting facts about religion majors

- Religion graduates enter jobs in a wide variety of fields, ranging from health occupations to sales to business and management.
- Humanities majors taking the GMAT did better, on average, than business majors, and performed on the same level as social science and natural science majors.
- Humanities majors were among the highest scoring cohort taking the MCAT, scoring well above the biological sciences, behavioral and social sciences, and specialized health sciences.
- Medical research has increasingly focused on the connections between religion and health, forecasting a promising new area of investigation.
- Religion majors ranked #2 on the LSAT.
- Religion majors ranked #6 on the GRE in the verbal and writing categories.

*"If I went back to college today, I would probably major in Comparative Religion." – John Kerry, former U.S. Secretary of State*

## Study abroad

### Holy Land: Geography, History and Theology Maymester

Recently, HPU students traveled to Israel and Palestine and explored the complex historical and theological questions about the relationship between Christianity and Judaism and the role land has played in the intersection of these two faiths. The group visited the Sea of Galilee, site of many biblical stories about Jesus, went to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, experienced Christian, Jewish, and Muslim holy spaces in and around Jerusalem, and learned from locals about current political and social issues.

# RELIGION

## Outcomes

Recent religion graduates are excelling in a variety of fields:

- Marketing and development officer for World Relief nonprofit
- Law office case manager
- Graduate student in public health
- Graduate student in public policy
- Graduate student in sacred music
- Divinity students with scholarships to
  - Duke Divinity School
  - Vanderbilt School of Divinity
  - Princeton Theological Seminary
  - Wake Forest University Divinity School

## What can I do with this major?

- Business finance
- Graduate school
- Law
- Medicine
- Ministry
- Nonprofit work
- Religious education
- Social work

## Unique course offerings

- Contemporary Buddhist Developments
- Evil, Suffering and God
- Gender, Sexuality, and Christianity in America
- Sages, Monks and Ascetics
- Women in the Bible

## Areas of specialization

- Biblical Studies
- Catholic Theology and Ethics
- Christian Ministry
- Comparative Religious Studies
- Early and Medieval Western Thought
- Feminist Approaches to Religion
- Jewish Studies
- Theology and Economics



*HPU students took part in the Fall Pilgrimage—a week of programming intersecting spirituality and service that allowed students to explore different communities of faith and faith-based organizations around the Triad.*

## Meet Cassie

**Hometown:** Brentwood, Tenn.

**Major:** Religion and Marketing

**Clubs:** Board of Stewards, Club Running, American Marketing Association

**Greek Life Involvement:** Alpha Gamma Delta

**Leadership Positions:** Vice President of the Board of Stewards, Vice President of Membership for the American Marketing Association, Director of Ritual for 3 years for Alpha Gamma Delta

**Post Graduation:** Associate recruiter for IQTalents in Nashville

**Why I Chose HPU:** "I have truly valued receiving both a major in marketing and religion. Every time I interview or connect with companies I am always asked about my religion major. It has set me apart as an applicant. My religion major has helped me to gain skills of understanding people better as well as critical thinking skills and analysis skills that I will continue to use in my career. Nothing compares to being a religion major at HPU; the department is dedicated to helping students succeed and challenges students to gain the best education possible. It has been my favorite part of my four years at HPU and I know it is something that will always be applicable in my life."



For more information about HPU's Religion Program, contact: