

RELIGIOUS STUDIES PHD

Degree Requirements

The following requirements are in addition to, or further elaborate upon, those requirements outlined in The Graduate School Policy Guide (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/tgs/academic-policies-procedures/>).

Master's

The Department of Religion does not admit students to a terminal master of arts program. However, PhD students in good standing are awarded the MA after they have met the following criteria:

- 5 quarters of residency
- successful completion of the two-quarter Religion research paper (RELIGION 570-1 Research Seminar, RELIGION 570-2 Research Seminar)
- 11 other courses graded ABC/NC

Note: Students whose second department's curriculum makes RELIGION 570-1 Research Seminar, RELIGION 570-2 Research Seminar impossible may petition for an oral examination in lieu of paper but must have a total of 13 ABC/NC courses.

PhD

Total Units Required: 16

*** including introductory graduate sequence during the first year**

Course	Title
Core Courses	
RELIGION 481-1 & RELIGION 481-2	Classical Theories of Religion and Contemporary Theories of Religion
RELIGION 482-0	Themes in Comparative Religion
RELIGION 570-1 & RELIGION 570-2	Research Seminar and Research Seminar
Additional Courses	
11 additional courses in Religion and/or affiliated disciplines	

Other PhD Degree Requirements

- **Language examination:** demonstration of proficiency in at least one foreign language; more may be necessary for a particular area
- **Examinations:** upon completion of coursework, written and oral comprehensive examinations
- **Research/Projects:** as required by dissertation
- **PhD Dissertation:** based on original, independent research
- **Final Evaluation:** oral defense of dissertation