

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

Student Learning Outcomes for the B.A. in Religious Studies

Students completing the B.A. major will be able to:

1. obtain knowledge of Religious Traditions and Features --That students know the key features of major religious traditions. Religious traditions taught include Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Confucianism, and Sikhism; also Taoist, Shinto, African-American, and Native American traditions. Features include such topics as key texts, history, convictions, ritual and other practices, key figures, ethical modes of discerning virtues and values, and the ways religions reflect and impact the social contexts in which they are embedded. Knowledge of the classical and contemporary criticisms of religion is also expected. (Knowledge-focused outcome)
2. recognize and utilize various methods for interrogating religions; these methods include those characteristic of the arts, the humanities, and the social sciences. Students will recognize the languages that are needed for an in-depth examination of given areas of specialization. (Skills-focused outcome)
3. acquire the vocabulary and intellectual skills necessary to articulate and to defend a point of view or thesis on key debates in the field. (Examples of debates include religion as worthy of study and religion as unworthy of serious attention; the relationships among religions and politics; ethical issues such as physician-assisted suicide; changes to religions in the diaspora, among numerous others.) Majors will practice the skills of inquiring, analyzing, comparing and contrasting, appreciating and criticizing as they study the world's religions. They will also gain practice assessing and constructing arguments, writing, and speaking with a concern for accuracy, clarity, intelligence, and insight. (Knowledge- and Skills-focused outcomes)
4. develop an appreciation for lifelong learning about the traditions and cultures of the world, and that they have practice engaging in civil discourse about difference in the face of the diverse convictions, commitments, and loyalties that mark the multi-religious, multi-cultural world in which we all live. (Attitudes- and Skills-focused outcomes)

Program Website: <http://religiousstudies.ucr.edu/>