

Department of Religion and Classics
Assessment Plan for the Majors

Program Learning Objectives

The Major Concentration in Religion:

- Students will develop the skills and knowledge needed to examine critically the religious beliefs, ideas, values, rituals, practices, texts and traditions of the world's religions and will study the ways these have persisted and developed historically from ancient to contemporary times.
- Students will develop a comparative understanding of religion and not just an understanding of a single, particular religious tradition.
- Students will become familiar with and develop an understanding of the central theoretical issues in and main methodological approaches to the study of religion.
- Students will develop the skills to understand the cultures of people living in other places or at other times by careful reading of texts, by proposing and defending interpretations, and by clearly written, carefully argued writing.

To achieve these goals, the religion major has been structured in such a way that by fulfilling the basic requirements for the major:

- Students must take a course in either Hebrew Bible or New Testament, in which they will learn the historical-critical methods of textual interpretation.
- Students must take a foundational course in the historical development of at least one religious tradition.
- Students may take no more than three elective courses in any one religious tradition, thereby insuring that they take courses in a broad range of religious traditions which is necessary for the development of a comparative understanding of religion.
- Students must take two writing intensive courses in theoretical, methodological, and thematic issues in the study of religion, namely the Junior Seminar on theories of religion and the Senior Seminar on methodological issues related to a central theme or topic in the study of religion.

The Major Concentration in Classics:

- Students will gain a broad understanding of the literature, culture, history, philosophy, art and architecture of ancient Greece and Rome
- Students will become proficient in at least one of the Classical languages, whether Greek or Latin
- Students will develop the skills and knowledge needed to analyze and interpret evidence from the ancient world, including particularly texts, and to present and defend their interpretations of the ancient evidence in clear, well written prose

To achieve these goals:

- Students will take one course each in ancient history, ancient philosophy or archaeology, and Classical literature or mythology
- Students will take a concentration of courses focused on one of the Classical languages, in which they will learn about both the language itself and the literature written in that language
- Students will take courses in which they will learn to develop written arguments about the Classical world based on ancient evidence

Assessment Plan

Direct methods

- Core and courses in the curriculum contain embedded assignments, research papers, and exams that measure achievement of program. (every term)
- Students are required to maintain an average of C or better in core degree requirements. Transcript review by faculty advisers of students maintains this measure. (every term)
- Program retention and graduation rates are reviewed to ensure students are making academic progress through the program. (annual)
- Post-graduation placement in graduate school, medical school, or employment as reported in senior survey (percentage accepted, quality of the programs). (annual)
- Success in professional schools and ultimate job placement as reported in alumni survey. (every 5 years)
- Awards and Scholarships received by students. (annual)

Indirect methods

- High level of satisfaction with overall program, advising, and teaching quality ratings in senior survey (annual)
- High level of ability self-assessment for program learning outcomes in senior survey (annual) and alumni surveys (every 5 years)
- Senior focus group review of program quality and learning processes (every other year)

Assessment Data Review

Assessment data will be reviewed annually by the undergraduate curriculum committee.

Recent Curriculum Changes based on Data Review

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