

**Program Review DRAFT  
Department of Philosophy and Religion  
B.A. in Religious Studies**

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

**The objectives of the faculty in Religious Studies are to:**

1. encourage in its majors an awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of religious perspectives
2. provide its majors the guidance and skills to enable them to think and write critically about religion
3. develop in its majors an ability to apply critical, historical, and textual methods in the academic study of religion

**PROGRAM OUTCOMES**

**Upon graduation, Religious Studies majors should demonstrate:**

**1. an awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of religious perspectives**

**Specifically, students should be able to demonstrate that they:**

- a. are familiar with the variety of religious beliefs and practices in the world and can describe them fairly and accurately
- b. are familiar with the interaction between religion and culture in various traditions

**2. an ability to think and write critically about religion Specifically, students should be able to demonstrate that they:**

- a. can describe and analyze elements of religious traditions
- b. they can assess academic writings on religion
- c. they can make an effective and valid argument about religion, one that successfully establishes a premise and supports the premise with appropriate and persuasive evidence

**3. an ability to apply various analytical methods as part of the academic study of religion Specifically, students should be able to demonstrate that they:**

- a. can study religion from a critical perspective, applying a range of approaches, such as literary, comparative, psychological, sociological, rhetorical, feminist, and Marxist approaches
- b. can study religion from a historical perspective, understanding the historical contexts that define and are defined by religion
- c. can study religion from a textual perspective, analyzing primary religious texts as a way of gaining an enriched understanding of those texts and of the way the texts have been used to shape religious traditions

## SOURCES OF DATA FOR REVIEWING PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Portfolios of student work: to be identified by faculty

Faculty meeting to discuss impressions of students

Analyses of ADAs: coursework in critical, historical, and textual methods

*Outcome #1: an awareness of and appreciation for the diversity of religious perspectives*

- Analyses of ADAs: coursework in multiple religious traditions
- Faculty meeting to discuss impressions of students

*Outcome #2: an ability to think and write critically about religion*

*#2a: to demonstrate that majors can describe and analyze religious traditions*

- Portfolio of student work: papers and essays from appropriate courses (to be identified by faculty)
- Faculty meeting to discuss impressions of students

*#2b: to demonstrate that majors can assess academic writings on religion*

- Portfolio of student work: take-home exams, papers, and reaction papers to assigned reading from appropriate courses (to be identified by faculty)
- Faculty meeting to discuss impressions of students

*#2c: to demonstrate that majors can make an effective and valid argument about religion, one that successfully establishes a premise and supports the premise with appropriate and persuasive evidence*

- Portfolio of student work: research papers and analytical papers (to be identified by faculty)
- Faculty meeting to discuss impressions of students

*Outcome #3: an ability to apply various analytical methods as part of the academic study of religion*

- Portfolio of student work: assignments collected from upper-level seminars (to be identified by faculty)
- Analyses of ADAs: coursework in critical, historical, and textual methods
- Faculty meeting to discuss impressions of students

## PROGRAM REVIEW CYCLES

*Initial Program Review Cycle*

2001/2002: Develop program objectives, outcomes, and assessment plan; initiate assessment of outcomes

August 2002 Preliminary program review report submitted to CHASS Dean and to Committee for Undergraduate Program Review:

- program objectives
- program outcomes
- program review plan
- results of initial assessment
- description of assessment activities to be carried out in the following year

Fall 2002: Continue gathering assessment data and complete assessment of outcomes

Spring 2003: Assessment reports submitted to departmental Curriculum Committee:

- description of process of assessing program outcomes,
- results of assessment
- recommendations for changes in curriculum and/or changes in outcomes and assessment plan

Departmental Curriculum Committee considers recommendations and takes them to faculty for discussion and approval

August 2003: Full program review portfolio completed and submitted to College for review and then, with any necessary revisions, to Committee for Undergraduate Program Review

*Subsequent Seven-Year Review Cycles for University Program Review*

2002-2005: Continue gathering assessment data at appropriate intervals

Fall 2004: Assessment reports submitted to departmental Curriculum Committee:

- description of process of assessing program outcomes,
- results of assessment
- recommendations for changes in curriculum and/or changes in outcomes and assessment plan

Spring 2005: Departmental Curriculum Committee takes recommendations to faculty for discussion and approval

August 2005: Full program review portfolio completed and submitted to College for review and then, with any necessary revisions, to Committee for Undergraduate Program Review

2005-2008: Continue gathering assessment data at appropriate intervals for third review cycle

Fall 2007: Complete assessment of outcomes; assessment reports (including description of assessment process, results, and recommendations for changes in curriculum and changes in outcomes and assessment plan) submitted to Curriculum Committee

Spring 2008: Curriculum Committee takes recommendations to faculty for discussion and approval

August 2008: Program review report completed

August 2009: Reports of both review cycles submitted to Committee for Undergraduate Program Review  
Etc.