



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Why major in religious studies?

The academic study of religion offers the opportunity to further our appreciation of the religious traditions of which we are a part, to deepen our understanding of our faith commitments and to responsibly explore the worldviews, values and practices of others.

Religion is one of the driving forces in human experience. Great good (as well as great harm) has been done in the name of religious values and religious belonging. Religious literacy (the ability to think carefully about religious language) remains an invaluable skill for making sense of the world in which we live.

What can you do with a religious studies degree?

In order to understand the role of religion in all aspects of human life, the study of religion incorporates a variety of different disciplines, from theology to history and from ethics to anthropology. The skills developed through thoughtful and critical thinking about the role of religion in American culture can transfer to a range of different fields.

Many religious studies majors go on to graduate school in theology, biblical studies and ministry, and they enter careers such as secondary or parish-based religious education, youth and campus ministry, and hospital chaplaincy. At the same time, the rigorous training from careful reading and argument offered by a degree in religious studies has led other SXU graduates to careers in business, law, health care and community service.

Why major in religious studies at SXU?

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1846, Saint Xavier University is an officially recognized ministry of the Catholic Church. In keeping with this long tradition, faculty in the Department of Religious Studies promote the rigorous study of Catholic theology and the complex intersections of Christianity and culture. Religious studies majors join other students in a range of opportunities for worship, peer ministry and service, both to the local community and abroad. At the same time, SXU boasts a profoundly diverse university community in which interfaith dialogue and the study of the world's religious traditions can take place in an atmosphere of academic rigor and respect.

The study of religious history, values and stories is also a valuable addition to other fields of study. In addition to the major, students can integrate their interest in religion into their studies by pursuing the minor in religious studies or by completing shorter certificates in biblical studies, Catholic perspectives on health care, comparative religious studies or Christianity and culture.