



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**Religious studies major • Religious studies minor • Religion and nonprofits track option**

**100%**

of our students  
complete an internship  
or undergraduate  
research.

**There's never been a more important time for today's global citizens to engage in dialogue across differences. Explore religious and cultural diversity as a Franklin College religious studies major, and transform that learning into a marketable skill set as you facilitate productive dialogue across any number of professional environments, from nonprofit institutions to international corporations.**

## THE CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

### Exploring timeless and modern religious concepts

**SCAN**

to learn more



The Franklin College religious studies major is designed to empower students to explore religious diversity, reflect on what's meaningful to them and define how to create a purposeful career out of their passions. The curriculum blends fundamental concepts about faith and religion with modern issues and popular culture; recent course offerings include Religion and the Environment and Star Wars and Religion.

Some religious studies majors choose to supplement the core curriculum with independent studies where they explore niche topics, like fundraising for nonprofit organizations, Japanese mythology, and the role of female leaders in the early Christian church. Finally, religious studies majors work with the college's Center for Technology and Innovation's digital fluency initiative to produce research that involves 3D printing, digital storytelling, and student-centered podcasts.

**EVERY FRANKLIN COLLEGE RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR PARTICIPATES IN AT LEAST ONE INTERNSHIP. THE DEPARTMENT HAS A MENU OF POTENTIAL INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ALREADY AVAILABLE FOR RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJORS, AND WORKS ONE-ON-ONE WITH STUDENTS TO SECURE INTERNSHIP PLACEMENT.**

#### OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

##### Internships, research and study abroad opportunities

Every Franklin College religious studies major participates in at least one internship, a process that's made possible due to the department's connections at local and national for-profit and nonprofit organizations. The department has a menu of potential internship opportunities already available for religious studies majors, and works one-on-one with students to secure internship placement. Students have interned at local and national institutions including the Peace Learning Center, Interfaith Youth Core, Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Red Cross of Central Indiana and the Children's Museum of Indianapolis.

While many religious studies students travel abroad to explore religion in the Middle East or Asia, the department faculty members bring those international experiences to campus regularly; every two years, students have the opportunity to have dinner with a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks who visit campus. Toward the end of their four-year experience, students participate in a senior research seminar, exploring topics of personal interest like religious freedom and Supreme Court cases, religious rhetoric used in presidential State of the Union addresses and the intersection of role playing games and religion.

#### POST-GRADUATION

##### Empowering religious diversity across industries

Some Franklin College religious studies majors go on to graduate school, pursuing advanced degrees in theology, religious studies, law and many other disciplines. Most graduates, however, choose to go directly into the field after graduation and secure jobs across many industries including:

- Nonprofits
- Business
- Higher education
- Finance

## DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

- **Major and minor options:** Select religious studies as your primary discipline, or couple a religious studies major or minor with any number of other subjects like political science, psychology, sociology, history or English.
- **Religion and nonprofits track option:** Students with the goal of creating meaningful change in their communities may choose the religion and nonprofits track. This path pairs well with a minor in nonprofit leadership, allowing students to develop an even more robust post-graduation skill set.
- **Individualized major:** Work with the religious studies faculty to craft a highly specialized major. Most recently, graduates have pursued individualized majors in Middle Eastern Culture and Conflict and Peace and Conflict Studies.
- **Department contact information:** Read more about the department at [FranklinCollege.edu/religion](https://FranklinCollege.edu/religion) or contact the department chair, Jim Alexander, directly at 317.738.8154 or [jalexander@FranklinCollege.edu](mailto:jalexander@FranklinCollege.edu).