



# MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## OVERVIEW

The Religious Studies major is grounded in the rich Catholic intellectual tradition and Mercy heritage, and explored in the context of Scriptures, sacramental and liturgical life, Christian moral teaching, and inter-religious dialogue. The Program invites students to probe such important questions as follows:

How does religion in general, and Christianity specifically, answer fundamental human questions? How does theological/religious study lead to true Christian charity for others? What is the relationship between faith and reason?

Students pursue these and other questions in the various options that meet the core curriculum requirement of the **religious studies** major. **Advanced courses** allow **deeper study** of central issues in Christian thought.

## YOUR COURSES

### CORE REQUIREMENTS

Christian Moral Life

**or** Introduction to Ethics

Introduction to the Bible: Old Testament

Introduction to the Bible: New Testament

Introduction to Christianity

Church in Contemporary Society

Faith and Reason

Senior Field Instruction

Students must choose 3 additional electives in consultation with their religious studies advisor.

### WHAT TO EXPECT

By the time you graduate from Mount Mercy, you will have the ability to:

- understand central theological themes of Catholicism and other Christian traditions.
- appreciate scriptural texts and employ the basic principles of Catholic and other Christian biblical interpretations.
- employ social teaching and moral theology in the creation of a more just and peaceful world.
- recognize the significance of openness to ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue.
- engage with and theologically reflect on the lived faith experiences of people and communities.

### WHAT CAN I DO WITH A RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEGREE?

Our religious studies major's flexibility meets the specific needs of individual students and functions well as a second major option. Students majoring in the program are well prepared to pursue many career opportunities inside or outside of the church, or pursue graduate study in a variety of disciplines.

#### RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJORS FIND CHURCH-RELATED CAREERS AS:

- teachers of religion
- directors of religious education programs
- youth or family-life ministers
- directors of volunteers or of social justice activities
- liturgical ministers
- pastoral associate

Graduates also may enter law school, study politics, or become journalists or chaplains in campus or hospital settings.

**17,500+**

— **MMU volunteer hours** —

in communities and around the globe in 2017-18

**74%**

— **internship rate** —

74% of students participate in internships or other career-related experiences before they graduate.

**96%**

— **employment rate** —

96% of alumni are employed or in graduate school within nine months of graduation.

"The Religious Studies major is filled with compelling courses that challenge you to break out of your own comfort zone and explore new avenues of religion. Courses are full of discussion and sharing personal experiences, while challenging prior thoughts and expanding personal understanding and beliefs. As someone planning to attend seminary, I feel that Mount Mercy is preparing me for future classes and challenges. The faculty is amazingly supportive, catering curriculum to your interests and goals whenever they can."

— Marisa Moon '18

United Lutheran Seminary  
Philadelphia, PA



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