

Religious Studies Proficiency Certificate

Description: The Religious Studies Proficiency Certificate is primarily designed to provide supplementary training for those going into social work, education, and health care, to provide a credential for those working in faith-based social welfare or educational non-profit organizations, or for lay and assistant clerical leadership positions in religious organizations, and/or a gateway to an academic degree in Liberal Arts or related fields at the College or at a transfer institution. Students take courses that provide a background to religious and spiritual beliefs, practices and institutions from around the world and the United States. As well as taking introductory courses in comparative religion, students can choose courses that deal with more specialized issues such as death and dying, and the role of spirituality in human services. The Religious Studies Proficiency Certificate can be used in a variety of professions, such as economics, health care, social work, education, and law. Students earning the Religious Studies Proficiency Certificate may elect to continue their education at the College by completing 43 additional credits to earn the A.A. degree in Liberal Arts.

Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the Religious Studies proficiency certificate, students will be able to:

- Compare a variety of religious traditions and recognize the internal diversity of religious traditions.
- Explain how religions have shaped and are shaped by the experiences and histories of individuals, communities, nations and cultural/geographical regions.
- Analyze religious texts (written, visual, architectural, aural) and practices, from across the world, using a variety of theoretical approaches.

Program Entry Requirements: This certificate is open to interested students. New students are normally required to take the College's placement test at their time of entry. Students who are identified as needing developmental course work must satisfactorily complete the appropriate English and mathematics courses as part of the certificate when applicable.

Program of Study and Graduation Requirements: Successful completion of the program requires a "C" grade or better in each of the courses in the program.

Course Sequence

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites	Credits
ENGL 101 - English Composition		3
RS 101 - Introduction to Religion		3
RS 151/PHIL151 - World Religions		3
RS 160 - Death and Dying		3
RS Elective (choose one): RS 152/PHIL 152 - Philosophy of Religion		3

Course Number and Name	Prerequisites	Credits
RS 170/HIST 170 - Religion in American History* RS 175 - Religions of the Middle East RS 180 - Religions of Asia BHHS 131 - Faith and Spirituality in Human Services		
Communication Course (choose one) ENGL 115 - Public Speaking ENGL 116 - Interpersonal Communication ENGL 118 - Intercultural Communication	ENGL 101, which may be taken concurrently	3
Minimum Credits Needed to Graduate:		18

* Students in the Liberal Arts program should take RS 170.

For More Information, Contact: The Division of Liberal Studies, Room BR-21, 1700 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19130. Telephone (215) 751-8768; or call the College Information Center (215) 751-8010.

[**Gainful Employment Information:** The Office of Institutional Research will insert gainful employment information.]

Courses and Completion Sequence

The following courses and sequence of courses is designed for the optimal success and completion of the [Religious Studies](#) degree/certificate. Any alterations should be discussed with your academic advisor.

Course Number and Name	Credits	Advisory Notes
ENGL 101 - English Composition	3	Prerequisite for Communication course
RS 101 - Introduction to Religion	3	Major Course
RS 151/PHIL 151 - World Religions	3	Major Course
RS 160 - Death and Dying	3	Major Course
RS Elective (choose one) RS 170/HIST 170 - Religion in American History RS 175 - Religions of the Middle East RS 180 - Religions of Asia BHHS 131 - Faith and Spirituality in Human Services	3	Major Course
Communication Course (choose one) ENGL 115 - Public Speaking ENGL 116 - Interpersonal Communication ENGL 118 - Intercultural Communication	3	