### Undergraduate Degree Program

**Religious Studies - BA**

**Mission Statement**
The Religious Studies major serves as a basis for students who wish to pursue the study of religion or theology as a career, for students preparing for a career in counseling, education, business, law or medicine, or for students who wish to undertake a dual major in a related field of study. The major is designed to allow students to focus on either comparative topics in a critical approach to understanding religious phenomena and their relation to society in a broader cultural context or on the theory and practice of a specific religious tradition in its historical setting. Training is offered in a) understanding of the relation between religion and society; b) an ability to use research skills; and c) employment of a critical approach to religious texts or methodologies.

**Student Learning Outcomes**

FIU Religious Studies - BA graduates should be able to achieve the following:

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<tr>
<th>Content/Discipline Knowledge Skills</th>
<th>Direct Measures</th>
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| Graduates will demonstrate competency in the subject knowledge in the discipline of religious studies to include demonstration of knowledge of major methodologies in the study of religion and working knowledge of texts and sources in selected religious traditions. | **Procedure:** A three member faculty panel will assess a major research paper (normally written in the capstone course) written by graduating seniors. The attached rubric, which describes 4 indicators of subject knowledge, will be used to assess the research paper. **Indicators:**  
  • Identifies key issues in Religious Studies  
  • Demonstrates knowledge of texts and sources in selected religious traditions  
  • Utilizes major methodologies  
  • Analyzes relevant contexts for religious systems |
Minimum Criteria for Success:
Graduates will obtain an average minimum score of 12 on the subject knowledge rubric

**Technology Integration:**
Graduates will demonstrate competency in using technology to present ideas by using PowerPoint and other multimedia tools.

**Procedure:**
This outcome will not be implemented until AY 2016-2017. An assessment method is currently being developed.

**Critical Thinking Skills**
Graduates will demonstrate competency in critical thinking through the selection, application and defense of methodologies in the examination of the social, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions of religion.

**Direct Measures**
A three member faculty panel will assess a major research paper (normally written in the capstone course) written by graduating seniors. The attached rubric, which describes 4 indicators of critical thinking, will be used to assess the research paper (5 point rating scale; 20 point maximum).

Indicators:
- Identifies & summarizes the problem/question
- Analyzes & examines
- Assesses the influence of context
- Constructs & interprets

A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.

**Sampling:**
Graduating Seniors.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
Graduates will obtain an average minimum score of 12 on the subject knowledge rubric

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**Communication Skills**
Graduates will demonstrate effective written communication skills by effectively constructing arguments, assessments, or descriptive accounts employing diverse information and relevant ideas in oral and written forms in the area of religious studies.

**Direct Measures**

**Procedure:**
A three member faculty panel will assess a major research paper (normally written in the capstone course) written by graduating seniors. The attached rubric, which describes 4 indicators of written communication skills, will be used to assess the research paper (5 point rating scale; 20 point maximum).

Indicators:
- Content & development
- Organization
- Language
- Conventions

A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.

**Sampling:**
Graduating Seniors.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
Graduates will obtain an average minimum score of 12 on the subject knowledge rubric

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**Graduates will demonstrate effective oral communication skills.**

**Procedure:**

Graduates will demonstrate effective oral communication skills by effectively constructing arguments, assessments, or descriptive accounts employing diverse information and relevant ideas in oral and written forms in the area of religious studies.
A three member faculty panel will use the attached rubric, describing 4 indicators of oral communication skills (5 point rating scale; 20 point maximum), to assess the oral presentation required of graduating seniors.

Indicators:
• Subject knowledge
• Organization
• Connection to audience
• Delivery

A mean score for each student will be obtained from the faculty ratings.

**Sampling:**
Graduating Seniors.

**Minimum Criteria for Success:**
Graduates will obtain an average minimum score of 12 on the subject knowledge rubric.

by effectively constructing arguments, assessments, or descriptive accounts employing diverse information and relevant ideas in oral and written forms in the area of religious studies.