

Religion and Philosophy

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Wartburg College understands itself as a community of faith and learning. Course work in religion helps students understand the Christian heritage, increase ethical sensitivity, gain understanding of and respect for other religions, and explore the relation between faith and life. The principal mission of philosophy is to foster in its practitioners a critical, reflective attitude. Thus, it provides students with tools to broaden narrow perspectives and analyze values, ideologies, and commitments.

During May Term, students may complete traditional courses on campus, participate in field experiences in a parish or church-related agency, take part in a Denver, Colo. immersion, visit Reformation lands, or participate in an archaeological dig.

The Religion and Philosophy Department offers several majors, minors, concentrations, and endorsements. Students are also encouraged to consider religion or philosophy as a second major to complement another area of academic study.

The goals of the religion program at Wartburg College are to equip students:

- To acquire, through the use of appropriate scholarly tools and methods, a critical understanding of the content of the Old and New Testament writings and the historical contexts from which they emerged.
- To examine the formative influence of the biblical tradition upon Western civilization and to reflect on its significance for contemporary life.
- To develop a critical understanding of the interrelationship among religious beliefs, institutions, and practices in changing historical contexts.
- To gain appreciation and respect for the common human quest for religious meaning, informed by the study of multiple religious traditions.
- To develop the ability to analyze scriptural, historical, and theological texts.
- To identify and articulate their own religious and/or ethical values and to engage in constructive dialogue with others whose values may differ.
- To develop moral reasoning skills and the ability to analyze issues using basic elements of ethical theory.
- To integrate their religious and/or ethical values within a chosen course of study and a chosen vocational field.

In addition to these, the goals of the various church vocations concentrations are for students:

- To demonstrate successful completion of a program of contextual education within the chosen concentration, through internships and/or immersion experiences.
- To be appropriately prepared for employment in their chosen area of ministry or for admission into graduate or professional schools.

- To develop qualities of respect, engagement, and thoughtfulness appropriate for religious leadership in a pluralistic society.

Major in Religion

8½ course credits:

RE 101 Literature of the Old and New Testaments
RE 150 Methods in the Study of Religion (½)
RE 202 World Religions in Dialogue or RE 324 Immigrant Communities and Their Religious Traditions
RE 301 Old Testament Themes
RE 302 New Testament Studies
RE 315 History of Christianity I
RE 460 Church in the Modern World

One course credit from

RE 200 Christian Faith and Life
RE 201 American Denominations
RE 304 Lutheran Heritage
RE 307 Philosophy of Religion
RE 316 History of Christianity II
RE 360 Readings in ...
RE 373 Religion Across Cultures
RE 415 Lutheran Confessions

One course credit from

RE 210 Theology and Ethics of Martin Luther King
RE 215 Contemporary Moral Problems
RE 222 Sexual Ethics
RE 310 Living with Death
RE 325 Christian Faith and Politics in America
RE 330 Christian Vocation
RE 350 Christian Ethics
RE 355 Ethics in Economic Life

Minor in Religion

6 course credits:

RE 101 Literature of the Old and New Testaments
RE 202 World Religions in Dialogue or RE 324 Immigrant Communities and Their Religious Traditions
RE 315 History of Christianity I

One course credit from

RE 200 Christian Faith and Life
RE 201 American Denominations
RE 304 Lutheran Heritage
RE 307 Philosophy of Religion
RE 316 History of Christianity II
RE 360 Readings in ...
RE 373 Religion Across Cultures
RE 415 Lutheran Confessions

One course credit from

RE 210 Theology and Ethics of Martin Luther King
RE 215 Contemporary Moral Problems
RE 222 Sexual Ethics
RE 310 Living with Death
RE 325 Christian Faith and Politics in America
RE 330 Christian Vocation
RE 350 Christian Ethics
RE 355 Ethics in Economic Life
RE 460 Church in the Modern World

One RE elective course credit

By completing the religion major, students have met the requirements for OCAC/ILAC.

Concentrations in Religion

CAMPING MINISTRY CONCENTRATION

Religion major plus 10-11 course credits:

BA 345 Principles of Management or BA 377 Nonprofit Management

ED 212 Human Relations

SW 202 Group Behavior

RE 370 Introduction to the Parish or RE 375 Youth and Family Ministry

RE 371 Internship and RE 372 Internship (one internship must be a camp supervisory experience)

RE 381 Camping Ministry: Theology and Praxis

One course credit from

BI 117 Environmental Biology

BI 130 Drugs and Personal Health

PHY 132 Earth Science

One course credit from

ID 305 Humanity and Environment

ID 307 The American Landscape

ID 315 Leadership Theories and Practices

Two course credits from

AC 121 Principles of Accounting I

BA 325 Business Communication

PSY 225 Life Span Human Development

PSY 240 Social Psychology

PRESEMINARY CONCENTRATION

Religion major plus 7-8 course credits:

PH 101 Introduction to Philosophy or PH 202 Logic

PH 303 Ancient and Medieval Philosophy

Two years Biblical language. May be fulfilled by two years of

Greek (3 cc) or two years of Hebrew (2 cc) or one year each of Greek and Hebrew (3 cc)

MU 322 Music in Christian Worship

Any EN 200- or 300-level course

Any HI European or non-Western history course

URBAN MINISTRY CONCENTRATION

Religion major plus 11 course credits:

PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology

PSY 224 Abnormal Psychology

RE 255 Urban Ministry

RE 371 Internship

SO 101 Introduction to Sociology

SO 225 Race and Ethnicity in America

SO 240 Social Psychology

SO 302 Communities

SW 101 Introduction to Social Work

SW 202 Group and Organizational Behavior

SW 300 Social Policy

Spanish recommended.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY CONCENTRATION

Religion major plus 10-11 course credits:

BI 130 Drugs and Personal Health

PSY 101 Introduction to Psychology

PSY 224 Abnormal Psychology

PSY 303 Counseling Psychology

RE 222 Sexual Ethics

RE 370 Introduction to the Parish

RE 371 Internship

RE 372 Internship

RE 375 Youth and Family Ministry

SO 101 Introduction to Sociology

SO 316 Sociology of the Family

SW 202 Group and Organizational Behavior

Christian Education

For teaching endorsements, see Christian Education in Education Department listings.

Church Music

See Music.

Global Service Emphasis

Students complete Intercultural Certification along with religion major.

Philosophy

Major in Philosophy

8 course credits:

PH 202 Logic

Six PH elective course credits

PH 470 Senior Thesis

The philosophy major constitutes its capstone.

By completing the philosophy major, students have met the requirements for OCAC/ILAC.

Minor in Philosophy

6 course credits:

PH 202 Logic

Five PH elective course credits