Religious Studies

WASC Assessment Plan for PhD Program

Learning Outcomes
The Ph.D. program in Religious Studies will produce graduates who:

1. Have comprehensive knowledge of these core areas: (A) a major field of study (a specific aspect of a religious tradition or sub-discipline of religious studies); (B) the comparative study of religion (bringing the major field into intellectual conversation with a secondary field); (C) critical religious studies (dominant theories and methodologies of religious studies). They will be able to apply knowledge of these core areas to address complex problems in the study of religion.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in two of the following course areas: Religion, Politics, and Public Discourse; Representations, Interpretations, and Critical Histories; Religions in Contact. Assignments and examinations in one of the following course areas: Classic Theories in the Study of Religion; Contemporary Theories in the Study of Religion. Assignments and examinations in six courses dedicated to a major field. Assignments and examinations in three courses dedicated to a minor field. Qualifying examinations in core areas A, B, and C with written and oral components.

2. Are able to (1) critically read, understand, and evaluate scholarly literature; (2) integrate and synthesize ideas; (3) identify and evaluate novel and relevant research questions; (4) develop appropriate and effective research strategies; (5) communicate clearly and effectively.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in at least twelve relevant graduate courses; qualifying examination with written and oral components; prospectus defense.

3. Are able to (1) apply appropriate, responsible, and ethical research methods; (2) evaluate, analyze, and interpret evidence; (3) develop and sustain evidence-based arguments; (4) convey findings clearly and effectively; (5) identify broader implications of findings; (6) produce publishable results.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in at least twelve relevant graduate courses; annual progress reports; seminar presentations; dissertation defense.

4. Are able to produce acceptable results within reasonable timeframes.

   **Assessment Methods:** Advancement to candidacy within one year of passing Qualifying Exams; degree conferral within three years of prospectus defense.

5. Are effective teachers.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in teaching practicum course. Student teaching evaluations.
6. Are capable professionals.

**Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in professionalization course; conference presentations; fellowship and grant awards; publications; reviewer activities; job placement.

7. Are satisfied graduates.

**Assessment Method:** Exit interview.
WASC Assessment Plan for MA Program

Learning Outcomes

The Master’s program in Religious Studies will produce graduates who:

1. Have comprehensive knowledge of these core areas: (A) a major field of study (a specific aspect of a religious tradition or sub-discipline of religious studies); (B) the comparative study of religion (bringing the major field into intellectual conversation with a secondary field); (C) critical religious studies (dominant theories and methodologies of religious studies). They will be able to apply knowledge of these core areas to address complex problems in the study of religion.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in all three of the following course areas: Religion, Politics, and Public Discourse; Representations, Interpretations, and Critical Histories; Religions in Contact. Assignments and examinations in nine relevant graduate courses. Written comprehensive examinations in core areas A, B, and C.

2. Are able to (1) read and understand scholarly literature; (2) integrate and synthesize ideas; (3) evaluate research questions and research strategies; (4) communicate clearly and effectively.

   **Assessment Method:** Assignments and examinations in at least twelve graduate courses; written comprehensive examination.

3. Are able to (1) apply appropriate, responsible, and ethical research methods; (2) evaluate, analyze, and interpret evidence; (3) develop and sustain evidence-based arguments; (4) convey findings clearly and effectively; (5) identify broader implications of findings.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in at least twelve graduate courses; annual progress reports; written comprehensive examination.

4. Are able to produce acceptable results within reasonable timeframes.

   **Assessment Methods:** Degree granted within two years of entry into program.

5. Are capable professionals.

   **Assessment Methods:** Assignments and examinations in professionalization course; conference presentations; fellowship and grant awards; review activities; publications; job placement.

6. Are satisfied graduates.

   **Assessment Method:** Exit interview.