

Graduate Degree Programs in the College of Arts and Sciences Admission Requirements for Master of Arts: Major in Religious Studies (See also the General University requirements for Admission to Graduate Programs on page 8 of this catalog.)

Requirements for Degree-Seeking Students for unconditional admission, a prospective student must:

- Have earned a bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale), AND;
- Submit for review as a part of the application process:
 - Students will respond to an essay question
 - Students will schedule a Zoom interview with religion faculty
 - Student will secure two professional recommendations preferably from faculty members
 - A writing sample (for example, a research paper written for an undergraduate course) that demonstrates the applicant's writing and research skills.

For conditional admission, a prospective student must:

- Have earned a bachelor's degree from an institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, with a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 (4.0 scale), AND;
- Submit for review as a part of the application process:
 - Students will respond to an essay question
 - Students will schedule a Zoom interview with religion faculty
 - Students will secure two professional recommendations preferably from faculty members
 - A writing sample (for example, a research paper written for an undergraduate course) that demonstrates the applicant's writing and research skills. The maximum number of hours to be taken during this semester is six. A student admitted on conditional status will be admitted on academic probation. Conditional status will be removed only upon successful completion of a minimum of 9 semester hours of graduate coursework at Athens State with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

Please Note: A student who has met the above requirements may be required to complete specific undergraduate prerequisite courses or their equivalents as determined by departmental review.

A student may be admitted provisionally if all required application documents have been submitted. Provisional admission allows the student to register for graduate religion

courses in an upcoming term; however, registration for these courses is subject to change pending departmental review of the application materials and final determination of conditional or unconditional admission.

Requirements for Non-Degree Seeking Students A student who does not meet the requirements for one of the above admission categories as a degree-seeking graduate student may be admitted as a non-degree seeking graduate student. Records are kept of the work completed and credits are transferable.

Non-degree seeking graduate students are ineligible for federal aid funding under Title IV.

Students seeking admission as non-degree seeking students must: Athens State University 2020-2021 Graduate Academic Catalog 28

- Submit a completed graduate non-degree seeking admissions application and pay any required application fees.
- Submit official transcripts from the last institution attended, and from at least one institution accredited by an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education documenting conferral of a bachelor's or higher degree. Official transcripts must indicate that the student is in good standing at the last institution attended. Students admitted as non-degree seeking students will only be allowed to register for graduate courses in a given term subject to space availability and/or cohort restrictions. Non-degree seeking students may complete no more than one-half of the total program hours; in order to register for additional courses, students must submit a degree-seeking application and all required materials, and be approved for degree-seeking status.

Non-degree seeking students will not be awarded a graduate degree from Athens State University.

General University Requirements for Graduation – Graduate Programs Every student planning on completing a graduate degree/major program at Athens State University must satisfy all University requirements and meet all financial obligations before a degree is awarded.

Coursework that is more than five (5) years old at the time of application for graduation may not be used for fulfilling graduate course requirements or a degree. A maximum of two C's in courses required for the graduate degree will be applied for fulfilling course requirements or a degree. To be eligible to receive a graduate degree, a student must:

- Complete all degree requirements. (NOTE: Transfer students may only transfer a maximum of six (6) semester hours of graduate coursework into the University. All other graduate coursework must be completed at Athens State University.)
- Attain a minimum institutional grade point average of 3.0 on all graduate coursework attempted at Athens State University.

- Complete all course requirements for the degree or major(s). 44
- Complete all course requirements for the specialty track or concentration (when applicable). The rules, regulations, policies, fees and other charges, courses, programs of study, and academic requirements that appear in this catalog were in effect at the time of its publication and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of all information. The contents are published for informational purposes only, and do not constitute a contract between the University and any student, applicant for admission or other person. Statements regarding courses, programs of study, fees, and conditions are subject to change without advance notice.