

## THE MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES PROGRAM

The Master of Arts in Religious Studies program is designed for any individual interested in the academic study of religion. This program is non-denominational and provides individuals an opportunity to learn about Religious Studies in a neutral setting. The Master of Arts in Religious Studies program is designed to promote learning, critical thinking, and research in an open and honest environment.

Students in the program will gain a broad perspective on the study of religion that will encompass major religious traditions across the world. In addition, they will strengthen their knowledge and understanding of the subject matter through analysis of:

- Religious texts in terms of their historical and social development and their literary value
- The diversity of religious traditions and their significance for culture and society
- Religious institutions and their operations
- The individual's religious orientation in relation to the larger society

## YOUR PROFESSORS

### Dr. Tony L. Moyers

- Ph.D. in Religion from Baylor University;
- Masters work at Vanderbilt University transferred to Ph.D. program at Baylor;
- B.A. in Religion from Athens State University

Academic areas of focus related to graduate program: Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Semitic languages, archaeology, and social theory

### Dr. Robert A. White

- D.Min. from Southern Theological Seminary;
- M.Div. from Southern Theological Seminary;
- B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from Athens State University

Academic areas of focus related to graduate program: Education and research

### Dr. Ron Fritze

- Ph.D. in History from University of Cambridge
- MLS in Library Science from Louisiana State University
- M.A. in History from Louisiana State University
- B.A. in History from Concordia University

Academic areas of focus related to graduate program: History of Religions - Reformation and Pseudo-History

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE**

**ATHENS.EDU/MASTERS/RELIGIOUS-STUDIES**

**OR CONTACT AN  
ADMISSIONS SPECIALIST**

**(256) 233-8130 OR (800) 522-0272**

**YOUNIVERSITY**<sup>®</sup>  
YOUR UNIVERSITY. YOUR WAY.



ONLINE  
GRADUATE PROGRAM

**RELIGIOUS  
STUDIES**



ATHENS.EDU/  
**MASTERS/RELIGIOUS-STUDIES**

## YOUR ONLINE PROGRAM

- The **Master of Arts in Religious Studies** program is offered online and in blended settings as appropriate
- The **thesis track** prepares students interested in pursuing doctoral degrees in religious studies or employment in research-related careers
- The **non-thesis track** prepares students who are interested in developing a leadership career in faith communities and/or non-profit organizations and want to improve their opportunities for employment in related fields.

## YOUR COST

**An affordable rate of \$332 per credit hour**

Student loans are available for qualified applicants. Please visit [athens.edu/financial-aid](http://athens.edu/financial-aid) for more details.

## YOUR START DATE

**Fall, Spring, or Summer**

## YOUR CAREER

There are many possibilities with a **Master of Arts in Religious Studies!**

- Pastoral leadership
- Children, youth, and adult education positions
- Teaching and/or research
- Social work
- Nonprofit and community service and leadership
- Counseling
- Other helping professions

This degree also prepares students for Ph.D. work in religious studies.

**APPLY TODAY!**

[ATHENS.EDU/MASTERS/RELIGIOUS-STUDIES](http://ATHENS.EDU/MASTERS/RELIGIOUS-STUDIES)

## YOUR ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Students may be admitted unconditionally or conditionally. Unconditional admittance requires a BA Degree with a 3.0 GPA (4.0 scale), minimum score on Graduate Record Examination (GRE) of 282.5 or on Miller Analogies Test (MAT) of 391, and appropriate coursework in religion.

Conditional admittance requires a GPA of 2.75, appropriate score on the GRE or MAT before the beginning of the second semester, and completion of appropriate prerequisites if necessary.

The GRE/MAT may be waived for applicants who hold a graduate degree.

## YOUR APPLICATION PACKAGE:

- Graduate Admissions Application
- Official Transcripts
- Official Transcript/Score Report from GRE or MAT
- Personal Philosophy Statement
- Writing Sample

Unconditional and conditional acceptance depends on GPA. Please visit our website at [athens.edu/masters/religious-studies](http://athens.edu/masters/religious-studies) to learn more about program details.

## YOUR COURSES

**RELIGIOUS STUDIES CORE:** (required for both tracks)

- RE 516 Interpreting the Text (Dr. Moyers or Dr. White)
- RE 527 Jesus, Muhammad, and Buddha (Dr. White)
- RE 600 Seminar in Biblical Studies (Dr. Moyers)
- RE 601 Seminar in History of Religion (Dr. Fritze)

Total: 12 Hours

## THESIS TRACK:

- 12 Hours At least one course from each area of focus:
  - Biblical Studies
  - History of Religions

RE 701 Thesis Research (6 Hours - Dr. Moyers)

**Total: 30 Hours**

## NON-THESIS TRACK:

- 9 Hours RE 510 - Leading Change in Faith Communities and Other Non-Profits (Dr. White)
- RE 526 - Social Change and Transformational Leadership (Dr. White)
- RE 602 - Seminar in Leadership and Community Service (Dr. White)

- 12 Hours Areas of focus:
  - Biblical Studies
  - History of Religions
  - Theology

RE 700 Religion Project (3 Hours - Dr. White)

**Total: 36 Hours**

## OTHER MA RELIGION COURSES

### Biblical Studies

- RE 509 Christian Thought in Early Centuries (Dr. Moyers or Dr. White)
- RE 512 The Hebrew Prophets (Dr. Moyers or Dr. White)
- RE 513 Psalms and Wisdom Literature (Dr. Moyers)
- RE 530 Biblical Hebrew Grammar I (Dr. Moyers)
- RE 531 Biblical Hebrew Grammar II (Dr. Moyers)
- RE 540 New Testament Greek I (Dr. Moyers)
- RE 541 New Testament Greek II (Dr. Moyers)

### History of Religions

- RE 501 History of Judaism (Dr. Fritze or Dr. White)
- RE 502 History of Islam (Dr. Fritze or Dr. White)
- RE 511 Age of Reformation (Dr. Fritze)

### General Elective

- RE 552 Problems of Evil and Suffering (Dr. White)