



University of California, Santa Barbara
Program Learning Outcomes

PhD in Religious Studies

Upon graduation with a PhD in Religious Studies:

(Items listed in italics are considered highly desirable outcomes but are not required for degree completion.)

Core Knowledge

- Students will be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of the classical and contemporary theories and methods employed in the study of religion.
- Students will have specific command of the theory and methods most relevant to their program of research.
- Students will be able to demonstrate a deep understanding and linguistic expertise in an area of study within religious studies sufficient to carry out substantive independent original research. Current areas of study are Buddhist Studies, Christian Traditions, Islamic Studies, East Asian Religions, Mediterranean Religions, Religions in North America, South Asian Religions, Philosophy and Religion, and Religion and Culture.

Research Methods and Analysis

- Students will be able to identify and describe the range of theories and methods typically used in the study of religion, analyze their underlying presuppositions, and critically read research that uses these methods.
- Students will be able to frame a research project guided by theory and prior research.
- Students will be able to plan and execute an original research project, identify, analyze, and interpret relevant sources (data), and organize their findings into a coherent argument.
- Students will follow ethical guidelines in the handling of sources and subjects and the collection and dissemination of research.

Pedagogy

- Students will communicate effectively to large and small groups of undergraduates in both lecture and discussion formats.
- Students will demonstrate the basics of undergraduate classroom management.
- Students will assess students effectively, including developing and using appropriate measures and rubrics.

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University of California, Santa Barbara Program Learning Outcomes, continued

- *Students will design a course in the study of religion with clear goals, appropriate readings, assignments, and sequencing of topics.*

Scholarly Communication

- Students will be able to synthesize and critique relevant scholarship.
- Students will be able to structure a coherent academic argument that rigorously presents and evaluates evidence to support claims.
- Students will be able to produce high quality writing able to meet the standards of university presses and journals in religious studies.
- Students will be able to clearly communicate scholarly ideas to academic audiences beyond disciplinary boundaries.
- Students will be able to cogently summarize their research and its significance for non-specialist audiences.

Professionalism

- Students will be able to select appropriate conferences venues for presenting their research and produce competitive research proposals for them.
- Students will be able to select appropriate fellowship opportunities and prepare competitive proposals for them.
- Students will be able to prepare manuscripts that meet the standards of specific research journals and respond appropriately to recommendations for revision.
- Students will be able to make effective contributions to the university and profession.

Independent Research

- Students will develop their own research projects that meet high standards of theoretical and methodological rigor.
- Students will produce scholarship that is comparable in scope and format to articles and books that appear in leading peer reviewed journals and presses in the field of religious studies.