Religion
Are you interested in exploring the great religious traditions of the East and West? Would you like to understand how people express their deepest convictions through myth, ritual, symbol and story? Do you want to seek a better understanding of the rich multicultural texture of Canadian society or learn how others have probed the meaning of life?

If so, then the study of religion is the place to begin.

Much human social development throughout history has been fueled by people’s religious views. Human interaction has often been shaped by religious allegiance and rivalry. Human communities have long been organized by religious identity, affiliation, and the threat of disaffiliation. Laws and systems of justice are often based in religious texts and their interpretation, and social and economic reforms motivated by religious conviction. Religious identity and experience can be the motivation for vicious wars and the inspiration for great artists.

The Carleton advantage

As a non-sectarian, secular university, Carleton offers you an opportunity to examine critically how religious thought, values, and beliefs have influenced individuals and societies, and how they have both oppressed and given voice to women, ethnic minorities and the socially disadvantaged. Sometimes the very same religious text inspires some people to condemn those who are different and others to accept them.

You will benefit from the wide range of disciplines offered at the university that are central to the exploration of religious phenomena, including:

- history;
- philosophy;
- literature and art;
- sociology and anthropology; and
- music and language.

Analyzing religion through these various lenses allows you to hone your critical and analytical skills, teaching you to become more precise and expressive in speech and writing, more discerning in your reading, and more understanding of human behaviour.
Faculty expertise
Carleton professors specialize in a range of religious traditions—Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Their research focuses on historical aspects of particular traditions, appropriate methods and approaches to understanding religion, past interaction and modern dialogue between religions, and contemporary religious thought.

The capital advantage
You will benefit from a rich array of resources in the National Capital Region. For example,

- Library and Archives Canada houses important collections on the history of religion in Canada;
- the National Gallery of Canada has an impressive collection of religiously inspired art;
- the Canadian Museum of History is home to a vast collection of religious and cultural artifacts; and
- Saint Paul University in downtown Ottawa maintains a large library and extraordinary collection of scholarly works in religion.

Choosing the right program
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Carleton offers you several ways to make the study of religion part of your university experience.

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Religion is offered as a Bachelor of Arts (General) and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) program. Both will help you develop a mature understanding of the myths, rituals, and systems of belief and practice in a variety of traditions; the rise and fall of religious leaders and movements; and the significance that religious traditions have had and continue to have in human culture and society.

The BA (General) in Religion requires 15.0 credits and is normally completed after three years of full-time study. Your required courses include 6.0 credits in Religion.

The BA (Honours) program in Religion is a more intensive program requiring 20.0 credits, normally completed in four years of full-time study. Your required credits for this degree include 9.0 credits in Religion.
Will Pereboom, student in Humanities and Religion

“I have really enjoyed my time in the Religion program at Carleton. The staff and faculty are the warmest and most welcoming a student could ask for. It’s hard to leave the program without feeling not only smarter, but wiser. I know that, whether I end up in the public, private, or non-profit sector, I will be able to put what I have learned here to good use, with a sensitivity and capacity for understanding that is hard to get somewhere else.”

Combined Honours
If you wish to combine the study of Religion with another discipline, you could consider a Combined Honours degree. You will need 6.0 credits in Religion and you must meet the requirements for a Combined Honours in the other discipline.

Minor in Religion
If you are majoring in another discipline but have an interest in Religion, you may wish to consider completing a minor in Religion. The minor requires 4.0 credits in Religion.

Minor in Islamic Studies
Take 3.5 credits in specific Religion courses on Islam and—if desired and with the approval of the Religion coordinator—an additional 0.5 credit pertaining to Islamic Studies from another discipline.

Minor in Jewish Studies
Take 2.5 credits in specific Religion courses on Judaism and—if desired and with the approval of the Religion coordinator—an additional 1.5 credit pertaining to Jewish Studies from other disciplines.
Courses in Religion fall into three categories:

- courses covering Judaism, Christianity and Islam that study the history and literature of these influential Western traditions;

- courses that examine the worldview and evolution of Asian religions—especially Buddhism and Hinduism; and

- courses that consider themes common to the major religious traditions—such as the role of women, death and afterlife, and religion and ethics—and ways in which scholars have tried to comprehend and compare religious phenomena.

Your first-year experience

First-year Seminars
First-year BA students are strongly encouraged to include a First-year Seminar (FYSM) in their first-year course load. Our First-year Seminars will get you away from the lecture hall and give you the chance, in a small class of no more than 30, to discuss and debate topics with your classmates and your professors. You will get early and frequent feedback on class assignments, as well as instruction in research, writing and study skills. Although some FYSMs count as courses leading to a major, you do not have to choose a FYSM in your major discipline.

A sample first year

- 1.0 credit in Judaism, Christianity, Islam and South Asian Religions
- 1.0 credit in Literature, Genre, Context
- 1.0 credit in The Making of Europe
- 1.0 credit in Introduction to Psychology I and Introduction to Psychology II
- 1.0 credit in any First-year Seminar
Future opportunities

The workplace
The study of religion provides broad intellectual training and an understanding of a wide range of human cultures. Both of these assets are attractive to future employers.

It is increasingly recognized that a Bachelor of Arts degree is fine training for, and an indicator of, future success in many different kinds of careers. A BA will give you research, analytical, organizational and communication skills that are highly transferable in our knowledge-based economy.

Graduate studies
Graduates of our program are generally well qualified to go on to graduate studies in a variety of fields including religion, sociology and philosophy.

If you think that you may wish to pursue an advanced degree, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early in order to ensure that your program is suited to meet the relevant graduate-level requirements.

Professional programs
Many professional programs, including teaching, social work and law, encourage well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds to apply.

Religion provides a strong foundation for such programs, and you are encouraged to pursue interests you may have in these fields after completing an undergraduate degree in Religion.

FAQs
1. Why would I choose an Honours program?
   Honours or four-year programs have many advantages including offering more courses in your chosen field and access to co-op and internship opportunities where available, as well as preparing you for graduate studies, professional programs and employment.
2. When do I have to declare a major?
   You will need to choose a major by the end of your first year. Course registration is generally easier for students who have declared a major, so even if you are not 100 per cent certain, it is best to choose a major upfront and change it later if you need to.

3. Where can I go for academic advice?
   Once you are studying at Carleton, you can visit our Student Academic Success Centre, which offers a range of services including academic advising and free study-skill development workshops. Friendly academic advisors are available by appointment year-round to assist you with your educational planning needs.
   [carleton.ca/sasc]

Admission requirements

For admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Religion, you must have an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses or equivalent. Your six 4 U/M courses must include 4 U English (or Anglais).

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment.

Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary.

Please refer to our website at [admissions.carleton.ca/requirements] for the current admission requirements.

For more information

...on Carleton’s degree program in Religion please visit [carleton.ca/religion] or consult the Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar at [carleton.ca/cuuc].
Do you want more information? Please contact us at:

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This document is available in a variety of accessible formats upon request. A request can be made on the Carleton University website at: carleton.ca/accessibility/request.
For more information on all of Carleton’s undergraduate programs, visit

admissions.carleton.ca

where you can browse program descriptions, career possibilities, and electronic versions of all of our program guides. You can also check out financial aid options, book a tour, sign up for our monthly newsletter, watch Carleton videos, and connect with us on social media.

You may also wish to consult our current

Admissions Viewbook

We look forward to hearing from you!