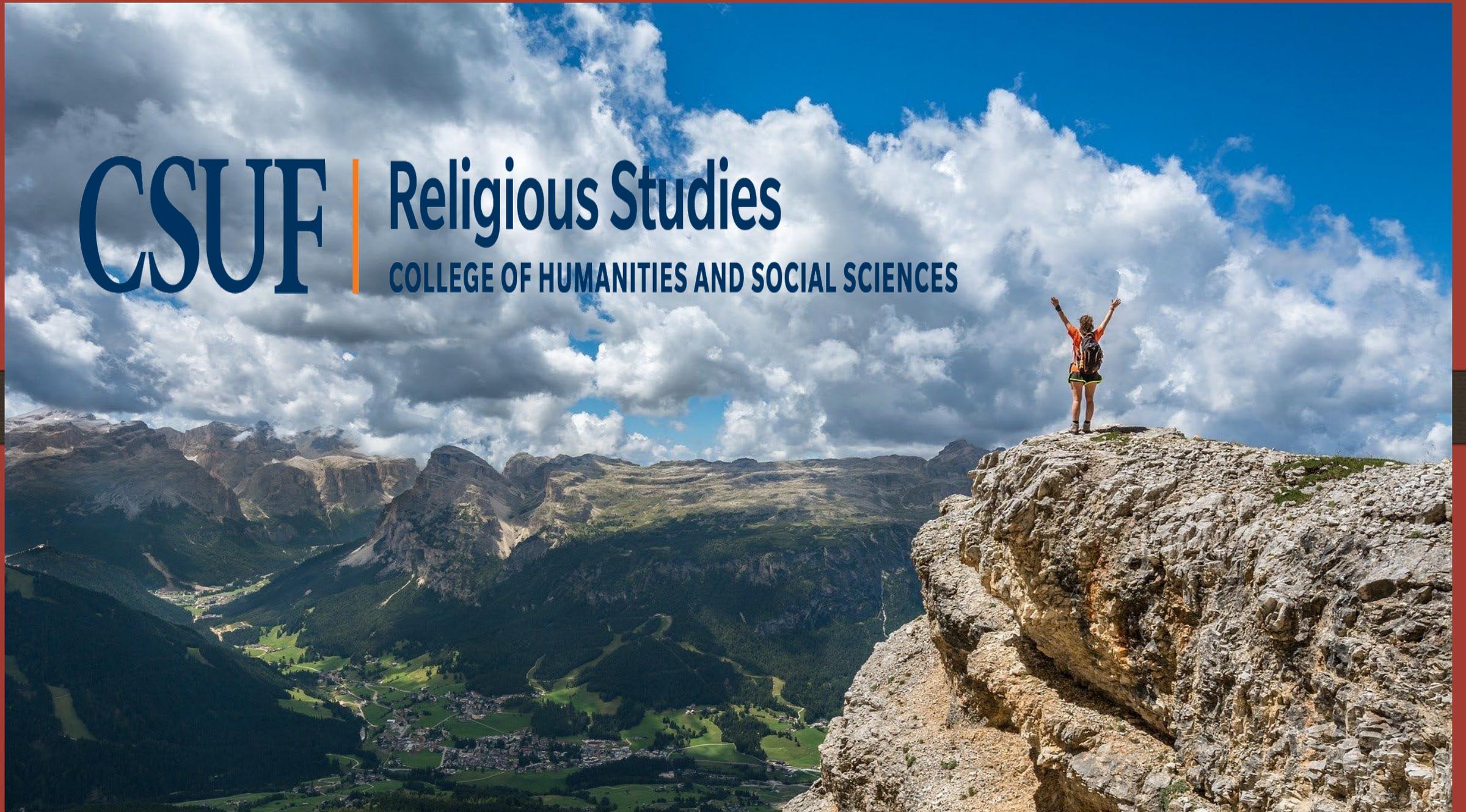


CSUF

Religious Studies

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES



Why major in religious studies at a state university?

- Religion is studied academically because of its powerful influence on the lives of billions of people.
- Our society is culturally and religiously diverse.
- Religion affects international relations, U.S. politics, and ethical controversies.
- Religious Studies prepares students to understanding the religious beliefs and practices of future clients and co-workers.

Why this Department?

- *Diverse and Talented Faculty* <http://religion.fullerton.edu/>
- Our faculty have been trained across the globe (U.S., Australia, India, Malaysia, Belgium, Canada), they bring unique cultural competencies to classroom
- *Flexible Offerings and schedule (online /prime time/ in-person)*
- We are a small department catering to needs of each student, with many advising opportunities.

What skills do you learn by taking courses in religious studies?

- Critical thinking and writing
- Global outlook
- Cultural sensitivity
- Intercultural communication skills for being successful in professional careers
- Empathy towards diverse people and situations

What do you do with a degree in Religious Studies?

- Advertisement and Publishing
- Marketing and Management
- Higher Education
- International Business
- Counseling and Social Work
- Corporate Environment
- Government Agencies
- Foreign Service
- Human Rights
- US Government Policymaking
- Religious Vocations
- Museum and Arts
- Law
- Journalism and Media
- Health Care and Medicine
- Non-profits or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Psychology
- Peace Corps/Americorps

Why Religious Studies?

- Spark Page:
<https://spark.adobe.com/page/bftbb/>
- Has the **lowest unemployment** in the nation
- Offers a broad training in the liberal arts

Majors with the lowest unemployment rates

1. Theology and Religion

- **Unemployment:** 1.0%
- **Underemployment:** 46.9%

2. Medical Technicians

- **Unemployment:** 1.0%
- **Underemployment:** 50.9%

3. Early Childhood Education

- **Unemployment:** 1.7%
- Underemployment:** 19.2%

4. General Education

- **Unemployment:** 1.7%
- **Underemployment:** 22.2%

5. Public Policy and Law

- **Unemployment:** 1.7%
- **Underemployment:** 62.8%

6. Elementary Education

- **Unemployment:** 1.9%
- **Underemployment:** 15.9%

7. Civil Engineering

- **Unemployment:** 1.9%
- Underemployment:** 17.5%

Religious Studies at CSUF

- We teach courses about Sikhism, Indigenous Religions, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Jainism, Buddhism, and new religious movements
- We teach courses about Religion and aspects of social life: Religion and Sexuality, Religion and Violence, Religion and film, Religion and Politics
- Various lectures and events: Religion through photographs; Dinners with faculty; Magic, Miracles and Religion
- Conferences: Jain Studies Conference
- Religious Studies Student Club: bowling nights, career counselling, alumni interactions, lectures, social gatherings

Overall Units Needed for Graduation



CSUF students need a
minimum of 120 units to graduate

B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Effective Catalog Year Spring 2025 the major is only 27 Units

Including courses you can double count in General Education areas

- C2 Introduction to the Humanities
- C3 Explorations in the Humanities
- D1 Introduction to the Social Sciences
- D3 Explorations in Social Sciences

Major and minors in Religious Studies

- **Major:**
 - **BA in Religious Studies** (27 Units beginning Spring 2025)
- **5 Minors:** (18 Units: 6 classes)
 - **Religious Studies**
 - **Christian Studies**
 - **Islamic Studies**
 - **Jewish Studies**
 - **Southwest Asia and North Africa (SWANA) (15 units)**

B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES (27 units)

1. Introduction & Methods (6 units)
2. Religious Traditions 1: Judaism, Christianity, Islam (9 units)
3. Religious Traditions 2: Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism (9 units)
4. Religion, Culture and Experience (3 units)

B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES (27 units)

Sample Lower-Division Courses:

RLST 100 - Introduction to the Study of Religion

RLST 110 - Religions of the World

RLST 200 - Introduction to Christianity

RLST 201 - Introduction to the New Testament

RLST 210 - Introduction to Judaism

RLST 250 - Introduction to Islam

RLST 270T - Introduction to the Asian Religions

RLST 280 - Introduction to Buddhism

B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES (27 units)

Sample Upper-Division Courses:

RLST 307 - Non-violence, Animal Rights and Diet in Jainism

RLST 311 - Religion and Film

RLST 321 - Psychology of Religion

RLST 325 - African American Religions and Spirituality

RLST 373 - Women in Islam

RLST 375 - Conceptions of the Afterlife

RLST 381 - Religion and Politics in the United States

RLST 400 - Religion, the Media, and Contemporary Culture

Student Support and Mentoring

- **Donald Gard Award: Amount: \$300- \$500**
- **Jain Studies Scholarship: Amount: \$500- \$1000 each (up to three scholarships)**
- **Islamic Studies Scholarship: Amount: \$500- \$1000 each (up to three scholarships)**
- **James Parkes- Morton Fierman Award: Amount: \$300- \$500**
- **Robert and Althea McLaren Outstanding Essay Award: Amount: \$300- \$500**

Sources

- **Source: Tutoring firm HeyTutor/ Fox Business: June 22, 2019**
- **Data from a Federal Reserve Bank of New York analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2016 & 2017 American Community Survey.**
- **The unemployment and underemployment rates shown are for recent college graduates (ages 22 to 27).**
- <https://heytutor.com/blog/college-majors-with-the-highest-lowest-unemployment-rates/>
(Hey Tutor)
- <https://www.foxbusiness.com/features/these-are-the-college-majors-with-the-highest-and-lowest-unemployment-rates> (Fox Business)