Religious Studies

College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Major Description
Religion has played a central role in civilizations throughout history and around the globe. We find religion at the center of humanitarian initiatives and global conflict, in towns and neighborhoods, and in people’s individual search for meaning. The academic study of religion does not promote or reject any particular religion. Rather, we examine all forms of religious practice and belief, using the methods of many different disciplines, such as history, anthropology, gender studies, philosophy, and textual studies. Religious Studies majors learn critical thinking, cultural understanding, and strong communication skills.

Admission Requirements

Freshmen: New freshmen admitted to USU in good standing qualify for admission to this major.

How to Customize Your Own Class Schedule

1. ACT/SAT Scores, AP, IBO, and Concurrent Enrollment/Transfer Credits

Gather your ACT/SAT and advanced placement (AP) scores, any concurrent enrollment, International Baccalaureate (IB), and transfer credits you have taken or are currently taking.

- Know your ACT/SAT scores so you can determine which prerequisites you have already met (particularly for math). Make sure these scores are all in Banner by clicking “Test Scores” in your student records, and double check when you took the test (math scores are only good as prereqs if taken after September 1, 2018)
- See how your AP credits will count at USU by viewing the AP table in the University Catalog. You can see if USU has received your AP scores by viewing your transcript by clicking on “View Transcript” in your student records
- See how your IBO credits will count at USU by viewing the IBO table in the University Catalog.
- See if your transfer or concurrent enrollment credits are equivalent to any courses or requirements at USU by looking at the “Course by Course” page on the transfer page. Make sure your previous courses are on your USU transcript by clicking “View Transcript” in your student records.
- Go to the Finding Your Scores/Courses webpage if you need help getting current scores or credits transferred to USU.

If you have already satisfied some recommended first semester courses listed on this guide, you may need additional credits to complete your schedule. Refer to the four-year plans in the University Catalog, register for the next courses listed in your plan, and then verify your course selections with your advisor after the date listed in the advising section below.

2. Placement Tests

Math Placement

Every incoming student has access to the ALEKS math system for free. ALEKS is the software you will use to place into a math class, and brush up on math skills you lack. You can take up to five proctored exams for placement purposes, and
you can work through customized learning modules for up to six months so you can place higher in math, or learn some basic skills so your math class isn’t as difficult once you get into it.

Go to ALEKS and take a proctored math exam to determine where you can place in math. After that, feel free to study in ALEKS before the semester begins, and take additional placement exams if you think you can place higher. This website has information about how to take a proctored exam in Logan, throughout Utah, and at an out-of-state location.

Note: some students with math ACT/SAT scores, AP scores, or college-credit math grades earned after September 1, 2018 are able to automatically register for a math class because they meet the pre-requisite for the course. If you think you can automatically qualify to register for a math class, click on a specific math class in the math path below to see pre-requisite scores needed for that class.

Language Placement

If you have foreign language skills, take the language placement exam by going to https://lpcs.usu.edu/programs/languages/language-testing/ if you would like to earn inexpensive elective credits for previous knowledge, or place into a higher language course.

Call the freshman hotline at 435-797-0283 if you have additional questions as you prepare.

3. Class Schedule

Use the results from steps one and two, along with the recommended courses below, to make a list of several classes you would like to take. Be sure to include a few extra courses as back-ups.

First Semester Registration Guide

Recommended First Semester Courses

Register for five of the following classes, which have been recommended by your academic advisor. We recommend you take 15 to 16 credits your first semester. Make sure you register for a math class each semester until you are finished with math/stats.

Critical First Semester Courses are the classes you need to take during your first semester at USU. Additional Classes should be used to fill in to reach 15 to 16 credits. If more credits are needed, refer to the four-year plan in the University Catalog or take additional breadth courses.

Critical First Semester Courses

Do everything you can to get into these classes. If a class is full, add yourself to a waitlist. If the class doesn’t have a waitlist option, check back frequently to look for openings. You’ll be surprised how quickly waitlists turn over, and remember you can add yourself to multiple waitlists for the same course. (Don’t forget to check your email daily so you see any waitlist notifications before they expire.)

RELS 1010 (BHU)

3 credits

Intro to Religious Studies

MATH CLASS

3-5 credits
(See Math Path below)

ENGL 1010 (CL1)

3 credits

(or ENGL 2010* (CL2) if you already have ENGL 1010 credit)

Additional Courses

Fill in the rest of your schedule with these classes as needed until you have 15-18 credits.

USU 1010

2 credits

BREADTH LIFE SCIENCES

(See catalog to view all options)

BREADTH CREATIVE ARTS

(See catalog to view all options)

BREADTH PHYSICAL SCIENCES

(See catalog to view all options)

BREADTH AMER. INSTITUTIONS

(See catalog to view all options)

BREADTH SOCIAL SCIENCE

(See catalog to view all options)

Your Math Path

• The following math path has been recommended by the advisor for this major. Start at the highest math class you can. Click on the course below to see the catalog description, along with prerequisites needed to register for the course. All math prerequisites expire after one year, so your prerequisite will only be valid to get you into another math class if it was earned after September 1, 2018

• If you need to complete the QL, choose from STAT 1045, STAT 1040, or MATH 1050. Start at the highest math class that your prerequisites allow. Consider a math placement exam or refresher if you think you can place higher than your current math level. Follow one path below:

Math 0950 and Math 0995 are developmental courses and do not count for credit toward graduation. They are not required for your major.

MATH 0950 --> STAT 1045* (QL) or STAT 1040* (QL)

You need a higher math ACT, higher math placement score, or MATH 0995 to take STAT 1040. Take STAT 1040 if you can place into it now, otherwise take STAT 1045.

or
MATH 0950 --> MATH 0995* --> MATH 1050* (QL)

Prerequisites and Course Descriptions

The classes marked with an asterisk(*) have prerequisites. For course descriptions and prerequisite information, click on the the course in this guide or see the University Catalog and click on "Course Numbers and Descriptions."

If you have met a class prerequisite via AP or IBO scores or college credits, but have not yet transferred them to USU, you can request a temporary prerequisite override. Only do this if you have already met the prerequisite and are certain you can get your test scores/credits to USU and into Banner well before August 1, 2019. This is the day that your temporary override will expire and your class will be dropped unless you meet the prerequisite in Banner. After you submit a temporary override request, allow for up to 3-4 business days for the request to be processed. Once processed, the Registrar's office will reach out to you via email.

Math prerequisites only last 1 year, so will not be valid for fall 2019 semester unless they were earned after September 1, 2018.

English 1010 (CL1) and English 2010 (CL2)

The Communications Literacy 1 requirement (CL1) is typically fulfilled by ENGL 1010. You have already satisfied the CL1 requirement if you have any of the following:

- ACT English Test: Score of 29 or higher
- SAT (taken before March 2016) Critical Reading Test: Score of 640 or higher
- RSAT (SAT taken since March 2016) Reading Test: Score of 34 or higher
- AP English Language Test: Score of 3 or higher
- AP English Literature Test: Score of 3 or higher
- CLEP English Composition Test: Score of 50 or higher
- CLEP Freshman College Composition Test: Score of 53 or higher
- IBO English A1 Test: Higher-level Score of 5 or higher
- Transfer credit that is equivalent to ENGL 1010

If you have already met the CL1 requirement, you should take English 2010 (CL2). (Note: An IBO English A1 test with a score of 5 or higher satisfies both CL1 and CL2.)

When Can You Register?

Students register according to the number of earned hours on their USU transcript. You can see the number of “EARNED” hours on your transcript by clicking “View Transcript” in your student records. Remember that credits that have not yet been received or applied to your USU transcript DO NOT COUNT toward earned hours until they are officially on your USU transcript (USU cannot override this and give you an earlier registration time, even if you have credits en route to USU).

Wednesday, April 10 at 8:00 p.m.—students with 50 or more earned hours on their transcript
Wednesday, April 10 at 9:00 p.m.—students with 40 or more earned hours on their transcript
Wednesday, April 10 at 10:00 p.m.—students with 30 or more earned hours on their transcript
Thursday, April 11 at 8:00 p.m.—students with 20 or more earned hours on their transcript
Thursday, April 11 at 9:00 p.m.—students with 10 or more earned hours on their transcript
Thursday, April 11 at 10:00 p.m.—students with 0-9 earned hours on their transcript
Again, the system looks at earned hours that are already on the USU transcript when determining when a student can register. This cannot be overridden, even if the student has additional credits that are not yet on their USU transcript.

**Advising for First-Year Students in this Major**

You can find more information about the Religious Studies degree on the [degree finder website](#) or at the [department website](#).

For general registration questions, please call the freshman hotline at (435) 797-0283 from 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, or during special hours April 10-11 from 8 a.m. to midnight. You can also email the hotline at orientation@usu.edu.

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences has Peer Ambassadors who can introduce you to how to begin the Religious Studies major at USU and answer questions about the registration process. Prior to when your registration opens, you can schedule a phone, in person, or video-chat with one of our Peer Ambassadors at [http://chassadvising.usu.edu](http://chassadvising.usu.edu) or 435-797-3883. Additionally, you can view our advising webpage at [http://chassadvising.usu.edu](http://chassadvising.usu.edu) to view call-in/walk-in times that you can contact us for any immediate questions during your registration week on April 8-12.

The Religious Studies advisor, Amanda Adison, can answer questions for incoming first-year students via phone or email. Call 435-797-3883 or email amanda.adison@usu.edu with questions (please include your A# in any e-mail). If you wish to have a one-on-one appointment, you can make a phone, in-person, or video-chat appointment at [http://chassadvising.usu.edu](http://chassadvising.usu.edu) starting April 22.

**Amanda Adison**

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Schedule appointment at:

[chassadvising.usu.edu](http://chassadvising.usu.edu)