

UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON – PROGRAM CHANGE PROPOSAL

Electronically submit this completed form with attachments in one file to the Chair of the College Curriculum Committee.

COLLEGE (check one):	Arts and Sciences <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Business <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>
Proposal Submitted By: Mary Beth Mathews		Date Prepared: 10/30/17	
Department /Program:	CPR/ Religion major		

Note: for any program change entailing the addition any new courses, or revisions to existing courses, separate proposal for those course actions must also be submitted.

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE EXISTING PROGRAM (check no than one of the following)	
Revise requirements for existing major	X
Revise requirements for a concentration within an existing major	
Revise requirements for an existing degree program	
Revise requirements for existing certificate program	
Revise requirements for existing minor	
Implementation Date: FALL semester, year:	



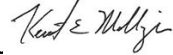

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR CHANGES TO EXISTING PROGRAMS:

1. **Rationale statement** (Why is this program change needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. **Impact Statement** (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, and impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of the program change are required.)
3. **Catalog Copy** (Provide the *existing* Catalog Description and the complete statement of the *proposed* new Catalog description that reflects the program changes)

PROPOSAL TO CREATE NEW PROGRAM NOT REQUIRING STATE ACTION (check no more that one of the following)	
New concentration within existing major	Name:
New minor	Name:
New Major but NOT a new degree*	Name:
*Use ONLY for interdisciplinary majors that will be grouped as part of the "Special Majors/General Liberal Arts and Sciences" degree (CIP Code 24.0101) or reported as a BLS degree (CIP Code 24.0199)	
Implementation Date (semester and year):	

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS FOR NEW PROGRAMS NOT REQUIRING STATE APPROVAL:

1. **Rationale statement** (Why is this additional program needed? What purposes will it serve?)
2. **Impact Statement** (Provide details about the Library, space, budget, technology, staffing and curricular impacts created by this program change. Supporting statements from the Library, IT Department, etc. evaluating the resource impact and feasibility of adding the new program are required.)
3. **Catalog Copy** (Provide the complete Catalog Description for the proposed new program)
4. Any change that impacts another Department must have a written statement (such as a copy of an email) from the Chair(s) agreeing to the change.

Department Chair Approval: <u></u>	Date: <u>10/30/17</u>
CCC Chair Approval: <u></u>	Date: <u>11/09/17</u>
Dean Approval: <u></u>	Date: <u>11/10/17</u>
UCC Chair Approval: <u></u>	Date: <u>11/16/17</u>
*Provost Approval: _____	Date: _____

*Required only in cases of proposals for new concentrations, new minors, or new majors that do not involve a new degree

Rationale statement for RELG major requirement changes and renaming of major

The Religion faculty in the Department of Classics, Philosophy, and Religion believe that the changes we propose will assist the program in addressing several needs we have identified and will lead to a strengthening of both the Religious Studies major and the graduates it produces.

First, we propose to make RELG 102 (Introduction to the Study of Religion) as a requirement for the major. Currently, students must take RELG 101 (Introduction to World Religions) to expose them to the broad variety of religious interpretations in a global context. RELG 101, however, does not spend significant time on the theory and disciplinary methods for studying religions, both of which are crucial for a successful understanding of Religious Studies as an academic discipline. Since the only other required course that all students must currently take is RELG 401 (Guided Research), only those students who elect to take RELG 102 get the important framework it provides, and the rest of the students who major in Religious Studies must learn these important concepts without the pedagogical assistance we should be providing them. By requiring RELG 102, we will fill that gap.

Second, we propose to make RELG 401 optional for majors. Over the past decade, we have found that RELG 401, which was designed to prepare Religious Studies majors for graduate study in Religious Studies, is not useful for the majority of our majors who go on to pursue careers outside academia. Instead, we would propose that those students who believe the guided research and thesis approach would best serve them be allowed to continue on that path but that the bulk of our majors who have interests in other career paths be allowed to fill those three credit hours with an additional 300- or 400-level course.

Finally, we propose to change the name of the major to Religious Studies. This name change is long overdue, as most scholars in the field concur that Religion as a singular construct is problematic and is baggage leftover from a time when "Religion" scholars often employed confessional arguments to support their research. Instead, it is more fitting to use "Religious Studies" in order to convey the idea that religious beliefs and practices come in myriad forms and that we as faculty encourage our students to study them in an academic and disciplined setting.

Impact Statement

These changes are relatively modest and require no additional resources on the part of the Religious Studies faculty or Simpson Library. We currently teach sections of RELG 102 regularly, and we will continue to offer RELG 401 annually for those students who opt to take it.

Existing catalog copy for Religion major

Religion Major

The Religion Program

The discipline of religion investigates the religious dimension of human existence throughout history and across cultures. Courses in religion acquaint students with the world's major religious traditions, texts, and figures. Students learn the many ways of studying religion and engage in critical discussion of diverse themes and issues. The small size of the religion program permits personal attention. The major in religion, leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies, offers a high degree of flexibility, and individual interests are encouraged. A major in religion equips students with the tools of a liberal education necessary for many careers. Religion graduates enter the world beyond college with a broad cultural awareness and an ability to engage in dialogue discerningly. They are trained to conduct research, to think critically, and to write and express ideas persuasively. Religion majors have pursued careers in such fields as public relations, journalism, teaching, library science, service organizations, business, and the arts. The program in religion also prepares students for graduate school or seminary study in religion, as well as for graduate study in other fields such as law and social work.

Honors are awarded in religion on the basis of excellence in religion major course work and in writing a senior thesis in Religion 401 – Guided Research. Internships are available to qualified students. Various courses in other disciplines are accepted towards the religion major which allows students to have an interdisciplinary approach in the formation of their major. Various religion offerings also complement work in American studies, anthropology, classics, drama, English, history, international affairs, philosophy, and psychology, among other disciplines.

Requirements for the Religion Major

Thirty (30) credits including Religion 101; one course from RELG 103, 117, 201, or 206; one course from RELG 210, 283, 284, 286, or 287; RELG 401; and 18 additional credits chosen from Religion courses or CPRD 299, PHIL 301, ANTH 318. Nine of the additional credits (3 courses) must be at the 300- or 400-level, and two of these must be religion courses (excluding 499).

Proposed new catalog copy

The Religious Studies Major

The academic discipline of the study of religion investigates the religious dimension of human experience throughout history, across cultures, and around the world. Courses in religion acquaint students with the world's major traditions, texts, and figures. Students learn the methodologies of religious studies and engage in critical discussion of diverse themes, issues,

and theories related to the study of these traditions. Leading to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religious Studies, the major in religion offers close faculty guidance and a high degree of flexibility such that individual interests are both encouraged and supported. Well-trained in the tools of a liberal arts education necessary for many careers, graduates of the major enter the world beyond college with a broad cultural awareness that appreciates the challenges of diversity and the ability to engage in dialogue skillfully. They are trained to conduct research, to think critically, and to write and express ideas persuasively. Religious Studies majors have pursued careers in fields such as public relations, journalism, teaching, library science, service organizations, business, and the arts. The Religious Studies major also prepares students for graduate or divinity school in the study of religion, as well as for graduate study in other fields such as law and social work.

Honors are awarded in Religious Studies on the basis of excellence both in coursework for the major and in a final project for RELG 401. Only students who complete 401 are eligible for Honors. Internships are available to qualified students.

Courses in other disciplines are accepted towards the Religious Studies major, which allows students to have an interdisciplinary approach in the formation of their major. Various religious studies offerings also complement work in American studies, anthropology, classics, drama, English, history, international affairs, philosophy, and psychology, among other disciplines. The Religious Studies program contributes to several minors, including Contemplative Studies and Asian Studies, as well as to the American Studies program.

Requirements for the Religious Studies Major

Thirty (30) credits including the introductory sequence (RELG 101 and 102); one course from Abrahamic religions (RELG 103, 117, 204, 205, 206, 207, 210, 252, or 253); one course from non-Abrahamic religions (RELG 251, 283, 284, or 383); fifteen (15) additional credits, nine of which must be at the 300- or 400- level (at least two of these must be religion courses or CPRD 104, 299, 304, PHIL 301, ANTH 318); and either 401 or another 300- or 400-level course. Additional courses (such as Special Topics in other disciplines) may count as electives towards the major with the approval of the Chair.

Prerequisites: All 300- and 400-level Religious Studies courses require any one 100- or 200-level Religious Studies course or the permission of the instructor.