

This course plan is a recommended sequence for this major. Courses designated as critical (!) may have a deadline for completion and/or affect time to graduation. Please see the Program Notes section for details regarding “critical courses” for this particular Program of Study.

Critical	Course Subject and Title	Credit Hours	Min. Grade ¹	Major GPA ²	Code	Prerequisites	Notes
Semester One (15-17 Credit Hours)							
!	ENGL 101 Critical Reading and Composition	3	C		CC-CMW		
	Carolina Core ARP Requirement	3-4			CC-ARP		
	Foreign language ³ or other Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3-4			CC-GFL		
	RELG 101 Exploring Religions or RELG 120 Comparative Religion	3	C		CC-GSS/ CR		
	UNIV 101 The Student in the University or Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3			PR/CC		
Semester Two (15-16 Credit Hours)							
!	ENGL 102 Rhetoric and Composition	3	C		CC-CMW CC-INF		
	Carolina Core ARP Requirement	3-4			CC-ARP		
	Foreign language ³ or other Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3			CC-GFL		
	Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3			CC		
	RELG Major Course (200-level) ⁵	3	C		MR		
Semester Three (15-16 Credit Hours)							
	RELG Major Course (200-level) ⁵	3	C		MR		
	Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3-4			CC		
	Foreign language ³ or Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3			CR/CC		
	Social Science	3			CR		
	Cognate or Minor Course ⁶	3	C		PR		
Semester Four (15-16 Credit Hours)							
	RELG Major Course (300-level) ⁵	3	C		MR		
	Cognate or Minor Course ⁶	3	C		PR		
	Humanities or Fine Arts	3			CR		
	Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3-4			CC		
	Carolina Core Requirement ⁴	3			CC		
Semester Five (15 Credit Hours)							
	RELG 390 Theories of Religion	3	C		MR		
	RELG Major Course (300-level) ⁵	3	C		MR		
	Cognate or Minor Course ⁶	3	C		PR		
	History ⁷	3			CR		
	Humanities or Fine Arts	3			CR		
Semester Six (15 Credit Hours)							
	RELG Major Course (400-level) ⁵	3	C		MR		
	Cognate or Minor Course ⁶	3	C		PR		
	Humanities or Fine Arts (or Approved Elective ⁸ if RELG 120 chosen above)	3			CR/PR		
	Carolina Core Requirement ⁴ or Approved Elective ⁸	3			CC/PR		
	Approved Elective ⁸	3			PR		
Semester Seven (15 Credit Hours)							
	RELG Major Course (400-level) ⁵	3	C		MR		
	Minor Course ⁶ or Approved Elective ⁸	3	C (minor)		PR		
	Approved Elective ⁸	3			PR		
	Approved Elective ⁸	3			PR		
	Approved Elective ⁸	3			PR		
Semester Eight (13 Credit Hours)							
	RELG 488 Perspective in Religious Studies ⁹ (offered only in Spring semester)	3	C		MR/CC- INT		
	Minor Course ⁶ or Approved Elective ⁸	3	C (minor)		PR		
	Approved Elective ⁸	3			PR		
	Approved Elective ⁸	3			PR		
	Approved Elective ⁸	1			PR		

Graduation Requirements Summary

Minimum Total Hours	Minimum Major Requirements Hours	College & Program Requirements Hours	Carolina Core Hours	Minimum Institutional GPA
120	24	52-64	32-44	2.000

- Regardless of individual course grades, students must maintain a minimum 2.000 cumulative GPA.
- Some colleges require a minimum GPA for major courses. Courses indicated in this column are included in the major GPA for this program of study.
- Students in the College of Arts and Sciences are required to demonstrate proficiency in one foreign language equivalent to the 122 course through course credit or the corresponding foreign language placement score.
- The [Carolina Core](#) provides the common core of knowledge, skill and academic experience for all Carolina undergraduate students.
- A Religious Studies course list may be found on the Bulletin.
- The cognate is intended to support the course work in the major. The cognate must consist of twelve hours of courses at the advanced level, outside of, but related to the major. In place of a cognate, a student may choose a minor consisting of at least 18 credit hours of courses concentrated in one area that follow a structured sequence. A second major eliminates the minor/cognate requirement.
- The College of Arts and Sciences requires one U.S. History and one non-U.S. History course, both of which must be chosen from the approved Carolina Core GHS courses. Whichever is not fulfilled through the Carolina Core GHS requirement must be fulfilled through this college requirement.
- No courses of a remedial, developmental, skill-acquiring, or vocational nature may apply as credit toward degrees in the College of Arts and Sciences. The College of Arts and Sciences allows the use of the Pass-Fail option on elective courses. Further clarification on inapplicable courses can be obtained from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- RELG 488 may be taken in the spring semester prior to the senior year or in the spring of the senior year.

Program Notes:

- Courses identified as “critical” must be completed in the student’s first 60 semester hours of work in order for these courses to be credited toward graduation.
- Students have the option to complete an Intensive Major in Religious Studies. In addition to all of the Religious Studies degree requirements, students must complete: 1) an additional RELG course at the 300-level or above or, with advisor approval, a course that relates directly to the research path selected from anthropology, classics, history, languages, or philosophy, and 2) RELG 498, Advanced Project, in the senior year.
- Graduation “with Distinction” is an optional program of study, in which students actively engage in significant research, scholarship, and/or performance activities in collaboration with a faculty mentor within a chosen major. Graduation with Distinction for this program of study requires: 1) fulfillment of all requirements for the Intensive Major in Religious Studies, 2) a minimum major GPA of 3.75, and 3) a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50.
- The last 30 credit hours toward your degree must be earned in residence at the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

University Requirements: Bachelor’s degree-seeking students must meet Carolina Core (general education) requirements. For more information regarding these requirements, please visit the [Carolina Core](#) page on the University website.

Codes:	
CC	Carolina Core
CC-AIU	Carolina Core-Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding
CC-ARP	Carolina Core-Analytical Reasoning and Problem-Solving
CC-CMS	Carolina Core-Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Spoken Component
CC-CMW	Effective, Engaged, and Persuasive Communication: Written Component
CC-GFL	Carolina Core-Global Citizenship and Multicultural Understanding: Foreign Language
CC-GHS	Carolina Core – Historical Thinking
CC-GSS	Carolina Core – Social Sciences
CC-INF	Carolina Core – Information Literacy
CC-INT	Carolina Core – Integrative Course
CC-SCI	Carolina Core – Scientific Literacy
CC-VSR	Carolina Core – Values, Ethics, and Social Responsibility
CR	College Requirement
MR	Major Requirement
PR	Program Requirement

Disclaimer: Major maps are only a suggested or recommended sequence of courses required in a program of study. Please contact your academic advisor for assistance in the application of specific coursework to a program of study and course selection and planning for upcoming semesters.