

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

FALL 1¹

LANG 101
EN 111 or 114
FYS
CO 100
AH 101
CS 101 or 201

FALL 2³

LANG 201
CL 22x or 28x (L)
PO 102 or 104 or 1xx
PL 210 or 220 or 230
RL 200 (S)
RL 300

FALL 3⁵

LANG 301
RL 220 or 221
RL 260
RL 231 or 237
RL 251 (R)
RL elective

FALL 4⁶

RL 33x
RL 36x
RL 489
RL 492C
RL 400 (W)
RL 490

SUMMER 1, 2, OR 3

RL 4xx or 5xx

FALL 5

RL 4xx
RL 585
RL 592C (M.A. essay)

SPRING 1²

LANG 102
EN 112 or 116
SOC 101 (D)
MT 1xx
PL 101
RL 101

SPRING 2⁴

LANG 202
HS 302
PH 113/113L
PL 301 or 303 or 3xx
RL 205
PE or other 1 cr. Course

SPRING 3

LANG 302
Elective
Elective
Elective
Elective

SPRING 4⁷

Elective
Elective
Elective
RL 430
RL 46x

SUMMER 1, 2, OR 3

RL 4xx or 5xx

SPRING 5⁸

RL 5xx
RL 5xx
RL 5xx

¹ BLACK indicates a course required by the JCU Core Curriculum or the RL Major.

BLUE indicates a recommended elective course.

GREEN indicates recommended courses that fulfill Core or Major requirements.

Where possible, "companion courses" are grouped in the same semester; helpful cognate courses are scheduled for the prior semester.

² JCU Core Curriculum Division 1 completed.

³ JCU Core Curriculum Division 3 completed.

⁴ JCU Core Curriculum completed.

⁵ If the student chooses to study abroad for one semester of the junior year, the proposed schedules for spring and fall semester can be exchanged.

⁶ RL Major completed.

⁷ Baccalaureate degree completed.

⁸ Master of Arts degree completed.



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What is the Five-Year Integrated B.A./M.A. Program in Religious Studies?

The five-year integrated program allows a student to complete both the Bachelor of Arts and the Master of Arts degrees in five years, typically including two graduate courses in the summer between the fourth and fifth years. The sample course schedule (on opposite side) includes all the courses required for the undergraduate Core Curriculum, all those required for the Religious Studies (RL) Major and Master of Arts degree, and several cognate courses that are recommended for students desiring a solid background for advanced studies in the field.

Do I have options?

The five-year integrated program allows you to choose. You can design a course of studies that gives a broad treatment of the field of religious studies, or one that provides depth in a particular area (e.g., Catholic Theology, Ethics, Scripture, History, World Religions), depending upon your career plans or research interests. Working closely with an advisor in the RL department, you can get a start on a Ph.D. program; prepare for a career in education, law, medicine, or ministry; and accomplish many other objectives of a liberal arts education.¹

How does it work?

The first two years of the collegiate program focus on language studies, basic approaches to a variety of humanities and social science fields, and other objectives of the JCU Core Curriculum. The various fields of religious and theological studies are introduced in the second and third years, toward the end of which time the student applies for admission to the M.A. program. In the fourth year, the student completes the bachelor's degree and begins graduate-level work by surveying various methods for advanced study in the field of religion/theology. Typically a student will take two graduate courses in the summer after the baccalaureate is completed, and then will finish the Master's degree by the following spring.²

Will I have to take an overload?

The five-year integrated program requires a rigorous undergraduate program, but never a course overload. The recommended schedule calls for 17–18 credit hours in the first five semesters and then tapers off to 15–16 credit hours for the next three semesters. (Students who enter the University with Advanced Placement credits can use the credits to lighten their course load somewhat.) Graduate-level courses are introduced in the fourth year. Once a student begins the fifth year of full-time graduate-level studies, the course load is reduced to the nine credits per semester that is customary in the Master's degree program.

Why is the Five-Year Integrated B.A./M.A. Program in Religious Studies advantageous?

The five-year integrated program allows students to gain the M.A. credentials in less time and with lower tuition costs than the typical six-year program. Baccalaureate students are able to increase their earnings potential in only one year, rather than postponing their careers for two years. RL majors who wish to teach high school theology benefit from the professional credentials provided by the M.A. degree. They typically begin their careers at a higher pay scale, and their diocesan certification as theology teachers begins at a level superior to that of a teacher with a baccalaureate degree. The integrated B.A./M.A. program provides an attractive option to JCU students who want to earn masters-level credentials without spending two more years in school before beginning full-time work.

How soon should I think of applying for the five-year integrated program?

Even if you have not made up your mind about applying to the five-year integrated program, we encourage you to discuss the option with the Chairperson of the Department of Religious Studies as early as possible in your university career (normally, no later than spring semester of sophomore year). Request a faculty advisor in the Department of Religious Studies and meet with the advisor to plan a course of studies that best meets your needs and objectives while ensuring timely completion of the program. The sooner you begin planning, the easier it will be to accomplish all of the requirements in the five-year time-span. With the proper advising at an early stage, even transfer students can take advantage of the five-year option.

But what will it cost me?

Students in the fifth year of the integrated program benefit from a one-third tuition reduction granted to all graduate students in religious studies. In other words, you gain two years of coursework at two-thirds the cost of one year's tuition—effectively at a price equivalent to that of one-third the regular tuition cost. If you follow the recommended schedule and take two summer courses between the fourth and fifth years, this cost increases somewhat; but it still does not exceed half the "list price" tuition outlay for the Master of Arts degree.

How do I begin?

Candidates for the five-year integrated program must be formally admitted to the Master of Arts Program. Students will apply for acceptance into the Master of Arts Program in spring of the junior year or no later than fall semester of the senior year. (The application form is available online at www.jcu.edu/graduate.) Students admitted to the Master of Arts Program typically will begin graduate studies in spring semester of the senior year.

Entrance Requirements

Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores and two letters of recommendation from university instructors are required for consideration for admission. (Potential applicants should plan on taking the GRE in spring of the junior year or the summer immediately following.) Entrance requirements for the Five-Year Integrated B.A./M.A. Program in Religious Studies include:

- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better
- A cumulative GPA in the Religious Studies major of 3.3 or better
- GRE Verbal and Critical Thinking scores in the 80th percentile or better

Students whose GPA or test scores do not meet these minimums will be considered for admission on a case-by-case basis.

¹Students who are interested in obtaining a teaching certificate should consult the Education Department during first-year orientation prior to their first semester of coursework. Those interested in teaching in a Catholic high school should contact the diocese in which they wish to work to obtain information about the ecclesiastical requirements for theology teacher certification. All students interested in pursuing a teaching career are advised to take pertinent courses in the Psychology and Education Departments.

Students interested in pursuing a double-major (e.g., with communications, a foreign language, history, philosophy, political science) should consult their RL advisor to design a course of studies that will accomplish that objective. To ensure timely completion of the five-year program, this should be done at the outset of the first year, or certainly no later than fall of the sophomore year.

²Students who enter the University with a significant number of AP credits or transfer credits from a prior institution should consult their RL advisors to design a streamlined course of studies; depending upon the number of credits and their distribution, it may be possible to accelerate the B.A./M.A. program.