



University of California, Santa Barbara  
Program Learning Outcomes

**MA in Religious Studies**

***Upon graduation with a MA in Religious Studies:***

*Core Knowledge*

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- Students will be able to demonstrate basic knowledge of the classical and contemporary theories and methods employed in the study of religion.
- Students will have specific command of the theory and methods most relevant to their program of research.
- Students will be able to frame a plan of study under the guidance of a faculty mentor that will enhance their existing or envisioned career in a field outside religious studies or prepare them for doctoral study in another program.

*Research Methods and Analysis*

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- Students will be able to identify and describe a range of theories and methods typically used in the study of religion, analyze their underlying presuppositions, and critically read research that uses these methods.
- Students will be able to frame a seminar paper or research project guided by theory and prior research.
- Students will be able to plan and execute a research paper, identify, analyze, and interpret relevant sources (data), and organize their findings into a coherent argument.
- Students will follow ethical guidelines in the handling of sources and subjects and the collection and dissemination of research.

*Scholarly Communication*

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- Students will be able to synthesize and critique relevant scholarship.
- Students will be able to structure a coherent academic argument that rigorously presents and evaluates evidence to support claims.
- Students will be able to produce high quality writing able to meet the standards for graduate work in religious studies.
- Students will be able to clearly communicate scholarly ideas to academic audiences beyond disciplinary boundaries.
- Students will be able to cogently summarize their research and its significance for non-specialist audiences.