

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGION
Student Handbook for Majors
2010

1. WEBPAGES THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS

Before contacting the department to ask “what do I do now,” try checking out these useful webpages.

Every Religion major or minor should explore the website “**Why Study Religion?**” (<http://www.studyreligion.org>), operated by the American Academy of Religion. Among its pages are:

- Why Study Religion?
- What Is Religion?
- Some Misconceptions about Studying Religion
- Pressing Concerns in the Study of Religion
- What Will I Study?
- Where Can I Go With It?
- Where Do I Start?

For an **overview of the UGA Religion department**, go to <http://www.uga.edu/religion>.

For an outline of the department's **undergraduate programs**, go to <http://www.uga.edu/religion/undergraduateprogram.html>.

For more detailed information about **MAJORING in Religion**, go to http://bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/prg/religion_ab.html.

For more detailed information about **MINORING in Religion**, go to http://bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/prg/minors/religion_minor.html.

Many other questions that come up during a student’s undergraduate career can be answered by quickly checking pertinent university websites.

Unfortunately, the extensive index entitled “**Advising and Graduation: Frequently Addressed Topics**” (once found at <http://www.franklin.uga.edu/saga/index.htm>) is no longer available. But most of it seems now to be available at <http://www.franklin.uga.edu/students>, which you may also find useful in finding answers to common questions.

In addition, the Vice President for Instruction has established another important webpage: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/advising/advise.htm>. There you will find the following:

Student Resources

[Advising Programs](#)
[Advisors across Campus](#)
[Bulletin](#)
[Core Curriculum](#)
[DARS: Reading a Degree Audit Reporting System sheet](#) [pdf file]
[Major Decisions \(Choosing a Major\)](#)
[Minors](#) and [Certificates](#)
[National Survey of Student Engagement \(NSSE\)](#)
[Questions?](#)
[Regents' Test](#)
[Student Academic Appeals](#)
[Student Advisory Council](#)
[Transfer Course Equivalencies](#)
[Transfer Ombudpersons](#)
[UGA Schools and Colleges](#)
[UGA Tutorial Program](#)
[Undergraduate Admissions](#)
[Undergraduate Programs](#)
[UNIV courses](#)

In addition, you should carefully review the information on Graduation Requirements posted at http://www.franklin.uga.edu/print/students/grad/grad_req.htm:

University System of Georgia Requirements

- [Regents' Examinations](#)
- [American History](#); • [Federal and Georgia Constitution](#)
- [College Preparatory Curriculum](#).

University of Georgia Requirements

- [Minimum Hours for Graduation](#)
- [Resident Requirement](#); • [Environmental Literacy](#)
- [Minimum Grade Point Average Requirement](#)
- [General Academic Regulations and Information Regarding Graduation](#)
The [University's Cultural Diversity Requirement](#).

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Requirements

[College-Wide Degree Requirements](#)
[Franklin College Multicultural Literacy Requirement](#)
[Accommodations for Learning Disabled Students](#)

NOTE: You should distinguish two SEPARATE “Diversity” requirements:

- Franklin College students who first matriculated in Fall '02 or later must fulfill BOTH the College's "multicultural literacy" requirement AND the University's "Cultural Diversity " requirement.
- Franklin College students who first matriculated prior to Fall '02 must fulfill the College's "multicultural literacy" requirement, but not the University's "Cultural Diversity " requirement.

2. ACADEMIC ADVISING AND MENTORING

The Department of Religion, in keeping with both Franklin College and the University as a whole, regards the academic advising process as an important element of every student's educational experience. As the Office of the Vice President for Instruction states, the academic advising process should provide

(1) accurate and timely information [for the student] regarding course, degree, department, college, university and Regents requirements, and general academic policies and procedures and, (2) the opportunity for meaningful relationships to be developed between students and faculty members through which students may learn more about the discipline of study, graduate and professional school possibilities appropriate to the student's interests, and other academic and intellectual commonalities.

Once a Religion major attains third-year status—or, once any third- or fourth-year student declares a Religion major—he or she is required to come to a faculty advisor in this department. Naturally, the advisor helps the advisee consider the various possibilities regarding coursework that might help the student get the most out of his or her educational career at UGA. But also, the student must be properly “advised” in order to be *cleared* to register for classes.

Any junior/senior double-major for whom Religion is listed as the second major will continue to be advised in his or her primary department: it is that department that clears such a student for registration, not Religion. For such students, advising by a member of the Religion faculty regarding your Religion major is available but not necessary: such students may also simply consult the appropriate webpage or printed bulletin; note the requirements; discuss your situation with your advisor in your primary department; and register for the appropriate courses.

Generally, students may register for the coming semester approximately two months into the current semester. No advising can take place until each faculty advisor has the current DARs for each advisee (see section 3, below). All the DARs for “all Religion majors” (at least, of all students whom the Registrar has listed early in that particular semester) are usually sent to the department’s undergraduate coordinator a few weeks into the semester. Shortly thereafter, a list of advisor/advisee assignments for all those majors is posted on the bulletin board outside the main department office (Peabody 206). The DARs for all those students are sent on to their advisors, who then arrange advising sessions as appropriate.

Of course, if you have **recently** declared a Religion major, you *may* not be listed in the records that the department gets from the Registrar. If that is the case, don't worry: just e-mail the department's Undergraduate Co-ordinator at kirkland@uga.edu (please put "undergrad query" in the subject line). He will then ask you to return a form that tells us something about your coursework and interests, and will get you connected with a faculty advisor. In any case, you will need to go to the Franklin College office and ask them to print out your "DARs"; you will then need to bring it to the Religion department office (Peabody 206) to be delivered to the undergraduate co-ordinator, and then ultimately to your advisor.

3. THE "DEGREE AUDIT REPORT"

During academic advising, a student and his or her advisor will go over the student's "internal transcript," commonly known as the student's "DARs" (from its official title, "Degree Audit Report"). A detailed explanation of what that document says is found at: [DARS: Reading a Degree Audit Reporting System sheet](http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/advising/dars.pdf) [pdf file]: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/advising/dars.pdf>.

4. THE ADVISING SESSION

During the advising session, the student and advisor should fill out the pink form entitled ***Student Advisement Record – Undergraduate***. The advisor must sign the completed form. Afterward, the student **must** bring the form to the departmental office and turn it in to one of the department staff members. Until the department staff receives that form and *clears* the student to register for the upcoming term(s), the student cannot register for any classes on OASIS.

5. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RELIGION MAJOR

By the time any UGA student reaches junior status, he/she can be expected to be familiar with the [University of Georgia Bulletin](#). Each student is responsible for learning and understanding all the requirements for receiving his or her degree. It is the advisor's responsibility to assure that each student is duly apprised and reminded of all pertinent requirements.

As noted above, all requirements pertaining to the **major** in Religion can be found at http://bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/prg/religion_ab.html.

NOTE: As of January 2007 the requirements for completion of a Religion major have changed.

Students who declared a Religion major **before** 2007 **may** graduate **either** under the **new** requirements **or** under the **previous** requirements. (That is, you may graduate under the requirements that were in effect when you entered the program, **OR** under the new requirements that went into effect in 2007.)

Students who declare a Religion major **during** 2007 will graduate under the **NEW** requirements. **BOTH sets of requirements are explained at our department's webpage:** [HTTP://WWW.UGA.EDU/RELIGION/UNDERGRADUATE.HTM](http://WWW.UGA.EDU/RELIGION/UNDERGRADUATE.HTM).

Note: The various footnotes appended to the various new categories may look complex at first. But they all boil down to one simple fact: you may never count the same course twice, to fulfill two different categories.

All requirements pertaining to the Religion **minor** can be found at http://bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/prg/minors/religion_minor.html.

Many students also make use of the information about Religion courses and instructors found in the *SGA Course Review Book* (http://www.uga.edu/irp/the_key/), which is periodically updated by the university's Office of Institutional Research.

6. RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH AND WRITING

For help **writing good papers** for Religion courses, the Department of Religion recommends the following:

1. "The Writing Process as Partnership," and "A Guide to Writing Academic Papers," both posted under "Study Guides" at <http://www.arches.uga.edu/~kirkland>.
2. "Writing the Religion Paper," posted at <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~writing/resources/student/humanities/religion.html>.
3. The UGA Writing Center's "Writing Resources," posted at <http://www.english.uga.edu/writingcenter/writing/index.html>.

As the Writing Center (<http://www.english.uga.edu/writingcenter/about/contact.html>) says:

Please, by all means, feel free to contact us if we can help you in any way. You may have general questions about our services; you may be concerned about the Regents' Essay Exam; you may need help writing in your second language of English; you may even wish to let us know how we may serve the university community better. Whatever your needs, we are eager to help.

If you are on campus, the best way to contact us is simply to drop by. We are in Room 66 of Park Hall (the English building, just up the hill from the Tate Center and down the hill from the library). If you cannot stop by, though, you are welcome to e-mail us or to call us (542.2119).

For guidance in using internet websites, see the instructive guide to "Evaluating Websites" from a committee of the American Library Association posted at <http://www2.kenyon.edu/Depts/Religion/Fac/Adler/EvaluatingWebsites1.htm>.

7. STUDENTS PREPARING TO GRADUATE

Upon reaching senior status, you should arrange for a "grad check" at the Graduation Certification Office at 130 Memorial Hall (askgco@franklin.uga.edu). See the explanation of the process at <http://www.franklin.uga.edu/students/graduation.php>. Once applications for graduation have been generated, you should see the department staff (Peabody Hall 206) to have a "major list" prepared for you to deliver to the Graduation Certification Office.