THE PROGRAM
All Gonzaga students—indeed of their majors—take Religious Studies courses as part of the University Core Curriculum. These courses advance the essential values of the Gonzaga mission. The three-course sequence of the Religious Studies Core requirements develops an integration of Biblical Foundations (100-level courses), Christian Thought or History (200-level courses), and, finally, an emphasis on Engagement (300-level courses). Global religious traditions are included in the 300-level. Gonzaga’s Religious Studies major requires 36 credits, including an eight course integrated core (24 credits) and one of two concentrations (either Christian Theology or Religious Pluralism—each 9 credits). Each concentration requires students to complete one course in three of four areas, plus a Senior Seminar. A minor in Religious Studies requires only six courses (18 credits). That means that all students at Gonzaga are halfway to a minor in Religious Studies simply by completing the University’s Core requirements.

Future graduate degree programming is under development. For more information about these forthcoming programs, please contact Program Co-Directors Dr. Anastasia Wendlinder (wendlinder@gonzaga.edu) or Dr. Joseph Mudd (mudd@gonzaga.edu).

THE PASSION
Gonzaga’s Mission and Vision Statements identify the distinguishing characteristics of Gonzaga as Jesuit, Catholic, and humanistic. These pillars of the Jesuit tradition emphasize finding God in all things, caring for the whole person, promoting justice, and being women and men for and with others, especially the poor. The Catholic tradition affirms the centrality of Christ at work in the world, the guidance of scripture, the tradition of faith seeking understanding, the importance of social responsibility, and appreciation of religious difference. The humanistic tradition affirms humanity’s creativity and intelligence reflected in its societies, cultures, and religious traditions.

OUTCOMES
Students and graduates from the Religious Studies Department can be found working in a variety of fields and studying in a wide array of graduate programs.

Religious studies is often good preparation for careers in law, counseling, education, business, health care, journalism, ministry, and the administration of hospitals, schools, and church communities. Recent graduates have joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and the Peace Corps, as well as other social service agencies.

Many students use their Gonzaga undergraduate studies as a springboard to prestigious graduate programs. After receiving their bachelor’s degree, Religious Studies majors have attended graduate schools such as Boston College, the University of Chicago, Marquette University, and the University of Notre Dame.

THE PEOPLE
The Religious Studies Department faculty hold the distinction of being among the most widely published in the University. They have received their doctoral degrees from some of the most prestigious institutions in both the United States and Europe. They are nationally- and internationally-known scholars who are highly sought after for presentations, workshops, conferences, and retreats. They are best known, however, for being mentors, advisors, and friends of Gonzaga students studying in their classes and chatting in their offices. They are a high-caliber, face-to-face faculty known for their work teaching and advising undergraduate students.

SAMPLE FACULTY PUBLICATIONS


Thompson, Virgil. “Reading the Bible with Luther: Joseph and his Brothers.” Connections. 6-8. (May/June 2013).

FACULTY
Fr. Patrick Wanakuta Baraza | Ph.D., Graduate Theological Union (Berkeley) | Islamic studies and African traditional religions | baraza@gonzaga.edu

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Fr. Patrick Hartin | D.Th., University of South Africa | New Testament interpretation, the Letter of James, and the traditions behind the Gospels, particularly the Sayings Gospel Q | hartin@gonzaga.edu

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Scott Starbuck | Ph.D., Princeton Theological Seminary | Hebrew Bible | starbuck@gonzaga.edu

Virgil Thompson | Th.M., Princeton Theological Seminary | New Testament and Lutheran theology | thompsonv@gonzaga.edu

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Anastasia Wendlinger | Ph.D., Notre Dame University | systematic and sacramental theology | wendlinder@gonzaga.edu