



PHD IN RELIGION ROADMAP

The PhD Roadmap serves as a guide to the Department of Religion's requirements for the PhD. Students are encouraged to visit the [Department of Religion](#) website for more detailed program and specialty requirements.

YEAR 1: THE MA DEGREE

MA Degree Requirements/Policies

- Completion of two residence units
- Completion of at least 30 points at the 4000-level or higher, with the exception of courses taken at Union Theological Seminary (UTS). As UTS is a graduate school with an independent course numbering convention, any course taken at UTS may count toward the degree. At least 24 of the 30 points must be completed with a grade of B or better.
- Students must maintain a GPA of at least 3.0 (B) to remain in good standing in the program.
- Courses graded Pass/Fail or taken for R credit cannot be counted toward the degree.

Fall of Year 1

- Advisor Selection
 - Students are appointed an advisor in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies based on their research interests
- 1 Resident Unit
- RELI GR6101 Theory & Method (4 points)
- Elective Coursework (typically 11+ points)

Spring of Year 1

- 1 Resident Unit
- Elective Coursework (typically 15+ points)
- Completion of 30+ total points by end of semester
- MA Qualifying Examination
 - An oral examination by a two-member faculty committee based on two research papers written for courses with different instructors.
- MPhil Preliminary Examinations
 - Written Examinations: Theory & Method Exam and Zone Exam (taken on same day).
 - Oral Examination: defense of Theory & Method Exam and Zone Exam (one, two-hour oral exam administered by two faculty members).

YEARS 2 – 3: THE MPhil DEGREE

MPhil Degree Requirements

- Completion of six residence units
 - Register for one resident unit each semester of Years 1– 3
- Completion of teaching requirement
 - Serve as a Teaching Fellow for at least two semesters before the MPhil is conferred
 - Serve as a Teaching Fellow for one undergraduate course each semester of Years 2 – 4
- Language Requirement
 - Reading knowledge of one foreign language appropriate for research, other than English and one's mother tongue.

- Proficiency is measured by examination or one year's course work beyond the elementary level in a language relevant to the student's field of research to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

Spring of Year 3

- MPhil Qualifying Examination
 - Written and oral examinations based on a reading list developed in conjunction with advisor.
 - Written Examination(s): structure varies by subfield, but generally entails one to three written components over a specified timeframe.
 - Oral Examination: two-hour defense of written component(s) before a committee of four members completed within one week of written examination(s).
- Dissertation Prospectus
 - Written Component: the dissertation prospectus serves as a guide for the dissertation and should generally include a description of the topic, research questions, provisional argument, provisional chapter outline and bibliography.
 - Oral Defense: two-hour defense of dissertation prospectus before a committee of three to four faculty members.
 - The dissertation prospectus defense should occur on or before May 31st of Year 3.

YEAR 4 – ONWARD: THE PHD

- Serve as a Teaching Fellow for one undergraduate course each semester of Year 4
- Dissertation progress meetings: beginning in the semester following the defense of their prospectus, students are expected to meet once each semester with their sponsor and at least one other faculty member, in order to receive timely feedback on their dissertation work and regular support throughout the dissertation-writing process.
- Dissertation research and writing.
- Dissertation distribution and defense: within two months of distributing their final dissertation, students will defend their work before a committee of five faculty members.
- Post-defense: at the defense, the committee may offer recommendations for the student to revise their dissertation. Students are given a maximum of six months to complete the revisions and deposit the final dissertation.