

*Graduate Department of Religion*  
Requirements – PhD Degree  
Matriculation year: 2006

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1. Coursework (72 hours total for the PhD)

**Graduate coursework at VU** (excluding reading courses): 24 hours minimum

**Required course:** 3601-01 The Study of Religion (3 hours), Fall 2006

**Transfer credits:**\* 24 hours (8 courses) normally / 36 hours (12 courses) maximum

**PhD Dissertation research (REL 3990):** Students who have completed 24 hours of formal coursework at Vanderbilt (excluding reading courses) and have had transfer hours approved may register for PhD Dissertation Research (REL 3990) each semester to maintain active student status. Students may count a total of 12 dissertation research hours toward the final 72 hours for the degree. Students who reach 72 hours before defending the dissertation should register for REL 3990 (0 hours) each semester to maintain active student status.

**Minor area:**\* 12 hours (4 courses)

The minor can be in another area of the Graduate Department of Religion or in another department of the University, or it can be an interdisciplinary minor defined by a problem or theme proposed by the student. In the Religion and Personality area this requirement is satisfied by two minors.

Incompletes\* are discouraged. Any Incomplete must be completed within twelve (12) months of the end of the semester in which it was taken, or the Incomplete will automatically become permanent. An "I" that is not replaced by a letter grade may be changed, at the discretion of the instructor, to an "F"; otherwise, the "I" will automatically become permanent and will remain on the transcript. When a student enters a semester with two or more Incompletes, he or she will be restricted to a lighter load of courses. The normal load of courses will be reduced by:

- one course for two Incompletes
- two courses for three or four Incompletes.

2. Languages

(Two modern languages of research. See area guidelines for acceptable languages.)

Modern Language 1 (Due: January 2007)

Modern Language 2 (Due: August 2007)

(Students who do not meet this deadline must reduce course load to 9 hours.)

3. Qualifying Examinations\* (Due: Spring 2010)

(In order to take QEs, students must have completed 36 credit hours of graduate work and have met the language requirements.)

4. Dissertation Proposal\*

(See area requirements for details.)

5. Dissertation Defense\*

(Due four years after completion of qualifying examinations.)

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\*Worksheets and Forms:

- Transfer Credit
- Minor Area
- Request for Incomplete
- Qualifying Examinations Worksheet
- Dissertation Proposal Worksheet
- Dissertation Defense Worksheet.