

Graduate Department of Religion | Vanderbilt University
Ph.D. Degree Plan – Matriculation year: 2020

1. Coursework

Total hours: 72 (24 courses); at least 24 hours formal work at VU

Required course: 8900-01 The Study of Religion (Fall 2020)

Semester completed:

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

PhD Research Courses: 12 hours maximum

Students who have completed 24 hours of formal coursework at Vanderbilt and have had transfer hours approved may register for Non-Candidate Research (REL 8999) prior to qualifying examinations or PhD Dissertation Research (REL 9999) after qualifying examinations each semester to maintain active student status. Students who reach 72 earned hours before defending the dissertation should register for REL 9999 (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, Psychology and Culture area this requirement is satisfied by two minors)

Incompletes* are discouraged. Any Incompletes 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 three or four courses will be reduced by:

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

2. Languages

(One modern language, a second language as designated and approved by the Area and the GDR, and additional languages as specified by the Area. If a student has an existing second-language ability not developed through coursework (for example, a student whose native language is not English, bilingual students, or heritage speakers) s/he may, with the approval from their advisor, petition the department to accept their native language as satisfying one modern language requirement. Final approval from the DGS is required.)

Language 1 (Due: January 2021)

Language:	Date:	Method of completion (exam or course with exam)

Language 2 (Due: August 2021)

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

Language:	Date:	Method of completion (exam or course with exam)

3. Qualifying Examinations* (Deadline: Spring 2024)

In order to sit for QEs, students must have completed 36 credit hours of graduate work (48 hours in Hebrew Bible area) and have met the language requirements.

Date of completion:

4. Dissertation Proposal* (Must be approved by student's dissertation committee by March 15, 2024 to be eligible for fifth year of funding)

(See area requirements for details.)

Date of completion:

5. Dissertation Defense*

(Due **four years** after completion of qualifying examinations.)

Date of completion:

*Worksheets and Forms:

- Transfer Credit Checklist
- Permission to Audit
- Permission to Receive Graduate Credit for an Undergraduate Level Course
- Request for Independent Study/Directed Readings Course
- Minor Area Worksheet
- Request for Incomplete
- Qualifying Examinations Worksheet
- Dissertation Proposal Approval Worksheet
- Intent to Graduate Form

Most forms are linked from the GDR student portal, others can be picked up from the GDR office. Student portal: <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/gradschool/religion/php/>

