

RELIGION AND PRACTICE (PH.D.)

Program Policies Continuous Enrollment

The Ph.D. program in religious education has a continuous enrollment policy. This means that graduate students matriculated in the Ph.D. program must register every fall and spring semester until graduation. Students are considered registered when enrolled for coursework or dissertation mentoring. The only exception to this policy is in the case of an approved leave of absence.

Special Registration

Regularly scheduled GRE courses will constitute the bulk of coursework for doctoral students. Other options for registration include courses offered at other Fordham graduate schools, courses at other schools within the New York Doctoral Consortium, and audits.

Satisfactory Academic Performance and Progress

Academic Performance

Students who do not meet the minimal standards for academic performance are on academic probation. Minimal satisfactory academic performance is defined as having a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.50 (B+ average). Any student receiving any University financial aid must maintain a 3.5 cumulative GPA as a minimal requirement for continuation of the aid. Administrative "Fs" are computed as "Fs" (0.00) for the purpose of determining the grade point average.

Students who are below the required grade point average may not submit qualifying papers without the dean's permission.

Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress is defined as completing at least one of the requirements each semester after the semester in which coursework is completed. Requirements include the qualifying paper, dissertation proposal, chapters of the dissertation, and the dissertation defense.

Unsatisfactory progress may include an excessive number of withdrawals, incompletes, leaves of absence, or other delays in meeting the requirements for the degree.

Students who do not complete one requirement each semester are on academic probation. These students have the next semester to complete the requirement and to file a mandatory timetable for completing all remaining requirements. The timetable must include at least one deadline per semester (e.g., "complete Chapter 1 to 3 of the dissertation in Fall semester"). If the requirement is unmet by the end of the semester, or if the timetable deadlines are missed, the dean, in consultation with the religious education area, will make a decision about whether or not to disenroll the student from the Ph.D. program.

Doctoral students who have not secured approval of their dissertation proposal five semesters before the expiration of their time limit are on academic probation. Such students have one semester to secure approval of the dissertation proposal and a timetable for completion of the dissertation. If they do not secure approval of the proposal and the

timetable, the dean, in consultation with the religious education area, will make a decision about disenrollment from the Ph.D. program.

Please note that an individual student's requirements for academic progress may be affected by the time remaining until the student reaches the time limit for degree completion.

Notwithstanding their academic performance or the time remaining for completion of degree requirements, students who do not make satisfactory progress toward the degree may be disenrolled from the program.

The dean reserves the right to review doctoral students' work and to decide to disenroll those who are not making satisfactory academic progress.

Students who are below the required grade point average may not submit qualifying papers without the dean's permission.

Academic Advisement Procedure and Sequence

Upon acceptance each student is assigned an academic adviser. The adviser is to be consulted at each registration period. Each student is required to take a minimum of six credits per semester.

Requests for independent study courses and substitutions to required courses must be approved by a majority of the religious education faculty and the dean. See Independent Study Courses and Substitutions to Required Courses below for additional information.

Students are required to fulfill coursework requirements prior to taking the Dissertation Mentoring Seminar.

All students who have completed course work are required to enroll in the Dissertation Mentoring Seminar each semester until they defend their dissertation. Credits earned from taking the Dissertation Mentoring Seminar do not count toward the 48 credits needed to complete course work for the Ph.D. degree.

Once the student has chosen a dissertation mentor, academic advising is rendered by the mentor.

Independent Study Courses

Petitions from matriculated Ph.D. students for independent study can be presented in writing to the religious education area when and if they meet the following criteria: (1) a required course is not being offered in the given semester, or (2) the Independent Study will be taken in the last semester of the program of study.

Petitions must be reviewed and approved by a majority of the religious education faculty before they are sent to the dean for final approval.

Substitutions for Required Courses

Petitions from matriculated Ph.D. students for substitutions to required core courses must be presented in writing to the religious education area for review and approval in a timely manner before being sent to the dean for final approval. These requests should be submitted in the semester before the end of coursework, or before the semester in which the substituted course would be taken.

Commencement

Only doctoral students who have passed format review and successfully defended their dissertations may walk in the commencement procession, be seated on the dais, and have their names announced during the University commencement ceremony.

For more information refer to the Policies and Procedures section of the GRE Bulletin.