

A photograph of a pair of hands clasped in prayer, resting on an open book. The hands are made of a light-colored material, possibly wood or stone, and are positioned in the foreground. The book is open, showing text on its pages, and is placed on a wooden surface. The background is a dark, textured wall.

# SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

[www.sienaheights.edu](http://www.sienaheights.edu)

Siena Heights University • 1247 East Siena Heights Drive • Adrian, MI 49221



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

### Bachelor of Arts Degree In Religious Studies

The Religious Studies Program at Siena Heights University challenges students to engage in the academic study of religion, to construct an ethical world view informed by faith, to strengthen their understanding of God and to hone tools and skills for life-long spiritual development. A degree in Religious Studies prepares a student for a wide variety of post-graduate directions, including graduate studies toward careers in academia, parish work, religious education, journalism and more.

#### Pastoral Studies with an emphasis on ministry

Students selecting this concentration within the major will be encouraged to complement their religious studies education with courses from other disciplines that will help them with careers in parish ministry. In such a professional context, skills related to education, counseling, and group dynamics can be of great help, and students trained in these areas will be better suited for careers in ministry.

#### Religious Studies with an emphasis on world religions and philosophy

Students selecting this concentration within the major will explore the historical development, beliefs and practices associated with some of the major religious traditions, become familiar with both phenomenological and philosophical approaches to the study of religion, and consider the intersection between religious belief and sociopolitical movements on the contemporary stage.

#### Religious Studies with an emphasis on systematic theology, Scripture, and/or theological ethics

The academic course of students choosing this concentration within the major will be directed at a more specifically (though not exclusively) Christian education in religious studies. The goal of such a track will be to encourage in these students theological proficiency concerning such topics as the doctrines of the Christian faith, Holy Scripture, and contemporary issues with which the faith is engaged.

## MISSION

The mission of the Religious Studies Department at Siena Heights University is to introduce students to the academic study of religion. We challenge students to construct an ethical world view which will inform their faith, strengthen their understanding of God, and enable them to hone tools and skills for life long spiritual development.



*"Students who come to Siena develop a love for the school, and they become devoted alumni. I think that's a great testimony to the quality of education that is offered here at Siena."*

*—Joseph Raab, Religious Studies  
Department at Siena Heights University*

# DEGREE OPTIONS

## What You Can Do with a Religious Studies Degree

A degree in Religious Studies prepares students for a wide variety of post-graduate directions. Careers in youth ministry or parish work are only the beginning. Corporations are increasingly relying on employees with a background in religious education as they do business in global markets. Similarly, as religion plays an increased role in politics and international affairs the need for journalists trained in religious studies similarly increases. Below are 10 potential directions for the graduate of the Siena Heights Religious Studies Program.

- Religion Journalist
- Parish Ministry
- Go to Graduate School
- Social Services
- Work for a nonprofit organization
- Enter the religious life
- Religious educator
- Health care
- Religious counselor
- Education



## FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

### Ian Bell

Ph.D. Marquette University  
M.A.T. College of St. Catherine  
B.A. College of St. Scholastica

### Tad Dunne

Ph.D. St. Michael's  
—University of Toronto  
M.A. University of Detroit Mercy  
B.A. Loyola University

### Joe Raab

Ph.D. St. Michael's  
—University of Toronto  
S.T.L. Regis College,  
—University of Toronto  
M.A. University of Dayton  
B.A. University of Dayton

### James Sam

Ph.D. Capella University  
M.A. Oakland University  
M.A. University of Detroit Mercy  
M.S.W. University of Michigan

### Susan Conley Weeks

D.Min Aquinas Institute of Theology  
M.Div. Catholic Theological Union  
B.A. Siena Heights University

# BACHELOR OF ARTS DEGREE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## A. Humanities Division

### Core Requirements..... 12 semester hours

1. HUM 201 Heritage of the Humanities .....3
2. HUM 240 Heritage of the Humanities II .....3
3. \_\_\_\_ Foreign Language .....6

## B. Religious Studies Requirements.... 30 semester hours

1. RST 101 Intro to Religious Studies  
or RST 102 Intro to Theology  
or PHI 201 Introduction to Philosophy .....3
2. RST 302 Introduction to the Hebrew Scriptures .....3
3. RST 303 Introduction to the Christian Scriptures  
or RST 319 Christology .....3
4. RST 305 Theological Ethics .....3  
(Must take RST 101 or PHI 201 before RST 305.)
5. RST 314 World Religions .....3
6. RST 340 Religion and Culture  
or RST 480 Faith in Action .....3
7. RST 495 Senior Seminar .....3
8. \*RST \_\_\_\_ Approved Electives .....9

## C. Total for Major..... 42 semester hours

## D. Liberal Arts..... 32-38 semester hours

## E. General Electives..... 40-46 semester hours

## F. Total for Degree..... 120 semester hours



## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Admissions Office**  
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### Religious Studies Department

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