

Theology and Religious Studies With the Chaplaincy Ministry Concentration Bachelor of Arts 2025-2026

General Areas of Service:

A degree in Theology and Religious Studies with the Chaplaincy Ministry concentration provides students with a wide range of skills in theology and introduces them specifically to aspects of ministry that focus on chaplaincy as a career option. Most students earning this concentration are interested in pursuing a career in chaplaincy or pastoral ministry. Other students use it as the basis for pursuing more specialized careers in education, advanced graduate work, or even law.

Professional Training:

An undergraduate degree in Theology and Religious Studies with the Chaplaincy Ministry concentration prepares students to pursue an undergraduate internship in chaplaincy more competitively and, upon graduation, to seek a graduate degree in Chaplaincy, or a Master of Divinity with a Chaplaincy Concentration, which is the standard educational pathway for a career in Chaplaincy. Students who are hired following graduation as a chaplaincy intern in a healthcare institution typically spend a year in a Clinical Pastoral Education program, before being sponsored to seminary. Students not receiving a chaplaincy internship are responsible for pursuing their own graduate education.

Job Outlook:

With an increasing number of individuals in the US identifying as "spiritual" rather than "religious," the demand for spiritual care beyond traditional religious institutions is on the rise. Consequently, the outlook for future employment as a chaplain is promising. In North America, chaplaincy stands as the fastest-growing field of specialized ministry. (See www.bls.gov)

Earnings:

The annual wage for chaplains depends on a number of factors, including employer, experience, education and location. According to Payscale.com, the median salary of chaplains as of 2023 was \$54,462.

Note:

Exit Exams: Theology and Religious Studies majors must successfully complete a Senior Comprehensive Examination to graduate.

Minor: Theology and Religious Studies majors are required to take a minor. Students who taking both the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Ministry concentrations are encouraged to select the Biblical Languages minor. This minor gives students the greatest amount of flexibility in arranging their class schedule and thus graduating within four years.

Internship Program: Majors pursuing the Chaplaincy Ministry concentration must complete three quarters of an internship program that is approved by the School of Theology. More details about this program can be found in the School of Theology Handbook.

Endorsement Process: Majors who want to receive a recommendation for denominational hiring need to gain Endorsement by a two-step process described in the School of Theology Handbook, which is described in the School of Theology Handbook.

*The Holy Lands Study Tour takes place during summer quarter; offered in odd years

- Chaplaincy Concentration students must participate in an internship of 60 hours (approved in advance by the School of Theology).
- Chaplaincy Concentration students are required to attend at least 6 Colloquia over their first 2 years, & 6 over the last 2 years.
- Chaplaincy Concentration students are required to attend the Senior Retreat in the Spring Quarter of the year they graduate.
- Students are strongly advised to attend the annual Theology Retreats.

Evaluations & Required

Yearly Appointments:

Freshman: New Student Orientation, Theology Retreat, Diagnostic Exam, Advisor Assignment & Colloquia

Sophomore: Theology Retreat, Pre-Endorsement Check List & Colloquia

Junior: Pastor Mentoring Program, Theology Retreat, Diagnostic Exam, Senior Outline, Endorsement Application (for those desiring denominational employment), & Colloquia

Senior: Employment interviews (for those desiring denominational employment), Theology Retreat, Colloquia, Comprehensive Exam, Senior Retreat & Senior Dedication Service

SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

Admin Building
(509) 527-2194

Websites

[School of Theology](#)
[Walla Walla University](#)
[Academic Bulletin](#)

Faculty

Chair
[Carl P. Cosaert](#)

Advisors

[Tiago Arrais](#)
[Brant Berglin](#)
[Carl P. Cosaert](#)
[Paul Dybdahl](#)
[Mathilde Frey](#)
[Pedrito Maynard-Reid](#)

Suggested Degree Path

TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED: 192 cr GENERAL STUDIES REQUIREMENTS: 77-85 cr. [See the Undergraduate Bulletin for Details](#)

The chart below details one suggested path a student may take to complete a bachelor's degree in Theology and Religious Studies with a Chaplaincy Concentration.

All B.A. degrees require a minor.

Cognates are listed in *italics*.

Freshman Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Intr. to Faith & Ministry (RELP 131)	4
Introduction to Analytical Writing (ENGL 121)	3
General Studies	4
Science Sequence (BIOL 106 + Lab)	4
PE Course	1
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Exploring the New Testament (RELB 231)	4
Math Course (MATH 105)	4
Introduction to Research Writing (ENGL 122)	3
Science Sequence (BIOL 105 + Lab)	4
PE Course	1
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Messages of the Old Testament (RELB 111)	4
Social Science GS	4
Fundamental of Speech (SPCH 101)	4
Electives	4
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Sophomore Year

Fall Courses	Hours
History of Christianity (HIST 254)	4
Research Writing (ENGL 223)	3
Chaplaincy Ministry (RELP 270)	2
Minor Electives	4
Humanities	3
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Minor Electives	8
<i>Biblical Preaching Foundation</i> (RELP 281)	2
Electives	6
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Minor Electives	8
Intr. Cross-Cultural Ministry (RELM 233)	3
<i>Developmental Psychology</i> (PSYC 215)	4
Electives	1
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Junior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Minor Electives	6
Acts & NT Letters (RELB 340)	4
Electives	6
Pastoral Internship (RELP 385)	0
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
Revelation (RELB 313)	4
Pentateuch (RELB 302)	4
Bib. Studies Elective	4
Minor Electives	4
Pastoral Internship (RELP 385)	0
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
World Religions (RELB 303)	4
General Studies	6
Minor Electives	2
Electives	4
Pastoral Internship (RELP 385)	0
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Senior Year

Fall Courses	Hours
Prophetic Inspiration (RELT 417)	3
Pastoral Care (RELP 482)	2
Systematic Theology I (RELT 456)	4
Medieval and Renaissance History (HIST 437)	4
Chaplaincy Elective	3
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Winter Courses	Hours
History of Adventism (RELB 457)	3
Systematic Theology II (RELT 457)	4
Chaplaincy Elective	4
Electives	5
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

Spring Courses	Hours
Seminar in Bible Hermeneutics (RELB 496)	4
Christian Ethics (RELT 348)	4
<i>Tpcts: Grief and Loss</i> (RELP 400)	2
Electives	6
Colloquia (RELT 495)	0
Total	16

+ Offered even years only

- Offered odd years only