

Religion

In this section, we will provide an overview of Religion departments. First we will examine the total number of faculty and students. Then we will examine faculty hiring and recruiting and tenure decisions.

The 544 departments that award a degree in Religion employ about 5,010 faculty members as shown in Table REL1. The smallest departments are those housed at parent institutions classified as primarily bachelors-granting. Departments that offer a doctorate as the highest degree are, on average, almost three times larger than those granting a bachelors as the highest degree. Even though about half of the departments are housed in primarily bachelors-granting institutions, about three-fourths offer a bachelors as the highest degree.

Table REL1: Faculty Members by Carnegie Classification and Highest Degree Offered¹⁷

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Faculty Members	Number of Departments	Total Number of Faculty Members
Baccalaureate College	6.7	270	1,820
Masters University	10.6	162	1,710
Doctoral University	13.2	112	1,480
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Faculty Members	Number of Departments	Total Number of Faculty Members
Bachelors	7.6	412	3,140
Masters	11.2	82	920
Doctorate	19.0	50	950
Total	9.2	544	5,010

Table REL2 provides information about the distribution of faculty members by tenure status, and Table REL3 presents a view of employment status and the number of faculty members who are men and women. Overall, about 70% of the faculty members in departments that offer degrees in Religion are men, almost three-fourths are employed in a full-time position, and 64% are either tenured or in a tenure-track position.

¹⁷ Totals given throughout this report are estimates of the population total.

Table REL2: Faculty Members by Tenure Status

Carnegie Classification	Tenured	Tenure-Track	Full-Time, Non-Tenure-Track	Part Time, Non-Tenure-Track
Baccalaureate College	860	350	260	350
Masters University	640	260	140	670
Doctoral University	800	310	120	250
Highest Degree Offered	Tenured	Tenure-Track	Full-Time, Non-Tenure-Track	Part-Time, Non-Tenure-Track
Bachelors	1,320	560	350	910
Masters	430	160	80	250
Doctorate	550	200	90	110
Total	2,300	920	520	1,270

Table REL3: Faculty Members by Employment Status & Gender

Carnegie Classification	Full-Time	Part-Time	Men	Women
Baccalaureate College	1,450	370	1,240	580
Masters University	990	720	1,230	480
Doctoral University	1,190	290	1,050	430
Highest Degree Offered	Full-Time	Part-Time	Men	Women
Bachelors	2,180	960	2,190	950
Masters	640	280	670	250
Doctorate	810	140	660	290
Total	3,630	1,380	3,520	1,490

Table REL4 depicts the distribution of departments based upon both the Carnegie classification of the parent institution and the highest degree offered. In about sixty percent of the cases, the highest degree awarded is consistent with the Carnegie classification, and the highest degree awarded in most of the remaining departments is lower than the Carnegie classification of the parent institution. There are only thirty departments (or less than 6% of the total number of departments) where the highest degree offered exceeds the Carnegie classification of the parent institution.

Table REL4: Estimated Number of Departments by Carnegie Classification and Highest Degree Awarded

Carnegie Classification	Highest Degree Offered			Total
	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate	
Baccalaureate College	240	24	6	270
Masters University	130	32	-	162
Doctoral University	42	26	44	112
Total	412	82	50	544

Students are the lifeblood of any program; without students, it would difficult to justify a department. Certainly some of the courses in Religion are offered to non-majors, but the number of majors is an important indicator of the vitality of the department. Table REL5 presents the number of bachelors degrees completed in 2006-07 and Table REL6 shows the number of juniors and seniors who had declared a major as of the beginning of the Fall 2007 term. Almost two-thirds of the students earning a bachelors degree in Religion are in departments that offer a bachelors as the highest degree.

Table REL5: Bachelors Degrees Completed in Religion in the 2006-07 Academic Year

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded	Number of Departments	Total Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded
Baccalaureate College	8.9	270	2,390
Masters University	8.0	162	1,300
Doctoral University	13.1	112	1,470
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded	Number of Departments	Total Number of Bachelors Degrees Awarded
Bachelors	8.2	412	3,390
Masters	11.6	82	950
Doctorate	16.4	50	820
Total	9.5	544	5,160

Table REL6: Number of Juniors and Seniors with Declared Major in Religion as of the Beginning of the Fall 2007 Term

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major	Number of Departments	Total Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major
Baccalaureate College	20.2	270	5,460
Masters University	24.8	162	4,010
Doctoral University	38.8	112	4,350
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major	Number of Departments	Total Number of Juniors & Seniors with Declared Major
Bachelors	21.0	412	8,670
Masters	39.0	82	3,200
Doctorate	39.0	50	1,950
Total	25.4	544	13,820

Some of these juniors and seniors will change majors prior to completing a degree and others will not complete a degree at all. However, considering the data presented in Tables REL5 and REL6, it appears that the number of students completing bachelor's degrees in departments that offer a degree in Religion will remain stable or show a slight increase for the next two years. Table REL7 shows the number of students completing a minor in Religion during the 2006-07 Academic Year. Departments which offer a doctorate average over twenty students minoring in Religion.

Table REL7: Number of Students Completing a Minor in Religion during the 2006-07 Academic Year

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Students Completing a Minor	Number of Departments	Total Number of Students Completing a Minor
Baccalaureate College	5.1	270	1,390
Masters University	7.2	162	1,160
Doctoral University	17.2	112	1,930
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Students Completing a Minor	Number of Departments	Total Number of Students Completing a Minor
Bachelors	6.2	412	2,570
Masters	10.4	82	850
Doctorate	21.2	50	1,060
Total	8.2	544	4,480

We also asked respondents about the number of graduate students in their department or program. Table REL8 provides a summary of their answers. Since the term “graduate student” was not defined in the questionnaire, it is possible that these numbers include undergraduates enrolled in dual-degree programs, post-baccalaureate students who are not necessarily seeking a degree, and students working toward a masters or doctorate. It is surprising that there are graduate students in departments or programs with a bachelors degree as the highest degree awarded. In addition to dual-degree programs and non-degree seeking students who have already earned a bachelors, it is possible that a few of these students are completing programs that have since been eliminated. Furthermore, it is possible that departments which award a bachelors degree as the highest degree offer graduate courses that support graduate programs in other departments.

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Table REL8: Number of Graduate Students During the Fall 2007 Term

Carnegie Classification	Average Number of Graduate Students	Number of Departments	Total Number of Graduate Students
Baccalaureate College	1.6	270	420
Masters University	9.1	162	1,480
Doctoral University	31.3	112	3,500
Highest Degree Offered	Average Number of Graduate Students	Number of Departments	Total Number of Graduate Students
Bachelors	*	412	20
Masters	29.5	82	2,420
Doctorate	59.2	50	2,960
Total	9.9	544	5,400

Tables REL9, REL10, and REL11 present data about who is teaching upper division undergraduate classes, graduate classes, and graduate-level independent study in Religion departments. The data are presented by Carnegie classification and the highest degree the department offers. The total number of upper division sections does not necessarily equal the sum of the sections taught by various faculty members. If the total of the sections taught by various faculty members exceeds the total number of sections offered, it is possible that more than one faculty member taught the same section; if the total is less, then it is possible that the other courses were taught by instructors not falling into one of the faculty classifications included on the survey form.

Table REL9: Upper Division Course Sections in Religion Departments, Fall 2007

By Carnegie Classification				
	Baccalaureate College	Masters University	Doctoral University	Total
Total Number of Upper Division Sections	1,350	1,480	1,370	4,200
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	1,030	1,010	750	2,790
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	410	160	170	740
Taught by Part-time Faculty	130	330	120	580
Taught by Graduate Students	-	*	40	40
Number of Students Enrolled	23,040	28,380	28,350	79,770
Average Students per Section	17.1	19.2	20.7	19.0
By Highest Degree Offered				
	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Total Number of Upper Division Sections	2,590	1,180	430	4,200
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	1,750	690	350	2,790
Taught by Full-time, Non-Tenure Track Faculty	520	110	110	740
Taught by Part-time Faculty	390	130	60	580
Taught by Graduate Students	*	10	30	40
Number of Students Enrolled	46,560	18,870	14,340	79,770
Average Students per Section	18.0	16.0	33.3	19.0

About two-thirds of the upper division courses in Religion are taught by tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members, and about 18% of these courses are staffed by full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members. One in fourteen upper division courses is taught by a part-time faculty member, and only departments which offer a graduate degree have graduate students teaching upper division courses. The number of students enrolled in upper division courses in Religion is fairly consistent regardless of the Carnegie classification of the parent institution.

Table REL10: Graduate Level Course Sections in Religion Departments, Fall 2007

By Carnegie Classification				
	Baccalaureate College	Masters University	Doctoral University	Total
Total Number of Graduate Level Sections	810	1,020	1,100	2,930
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	270	920	930	2,120
Taught by Full-time, Non- Tenure Track Faculty	410	-	110	520
Taught by Part-time Faculty	140	160	110	410
Number of Students Enrolled	3,040	6,060	6,550	15,650
Average Students per Section	3.8	5.9	6.0	5.3
By Highest Degree Offered				
	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Total Number of Graduate Level Sections	50	2,090	790	2,930
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	50	1,430	640	2,120
Taught by Full-time, Non- Tenure Track Faculty	-	480	40	520
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	300	110	410
Number of Students Enrolled	330	10,950	4,370	15,650
Average Students per Section	6.6	5.2	5.5	5.3

Over seventy percent of the graduate courses in Religion departments are taught by tenured or tenure-track, full-time faculty members, and about 18% of these courses are staffed by full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members.

Table REL11: Graduate Level Independent Study in Religion Departments, Fall 2007

By Carnegie Classification				
	Baccalaureate College	Masters University	Doctoral University	Total
Total Number of Students Enrolled in Graduate Level Independent Study	90	790	1,920	2,800
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	180	830	1,610	2,620
Taught by Full-time, Non- Tenure Track Faculty	-	-	80	80
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	70	310	380
Average Number of Students per Department	0.3	4.9	17.1	5.1
By Highest Degree Offered				
	Bachelors	Masters	Doctorate	Total
Total Number of Students Enrolled in Graduate Level Independent Study	170	970	1,660	2,800
Taught by Full-time, Tenured or Tenure Track Faculty	180	1,060	1,380	2,620
Taught by Full-time, Non- Tenure Track Faculty	-	30	50	80
Taught by Part-time Faculty	-	70	310	380
Average Number of Students per Department	0.4	11.8	33.2	5.1

Almost all of the students enrolled in graduate level independent study are in departments that offer a masters or doctorate in Religion. The students enrolled in graduate level independent study in departments which offer a bachelors degree as their highest degree could be completing requirements established when the department offered a graduate degree or could be seeking a graduate degree outside the department. This accounts for about 6% of the 2,800 students enrolled in graduate level independent study in Religion departments.

Some data on recruiting, hiring and tenure has already been presented for all disciplines included in this report. (See pages 4 and 5.) We will now focus on recruiting, hiring, and tenure of faculty members for programs and departments that offer degrees in Religion.

In summary, departments or programs that award degrees in Religion employ about 3,630 faculty members in full-time positions and 1,380 faculty members in part-time positions. There are approximately 2,300 tenured faculty members and 920 tenure-track faculty members. As summarized in Table REL12, Religion departments and programs recruited about 290 tenured, tenure-track, or permanent faculty members for 2008-09 and had hired about 340 for 2007-08. This represents about 8 – 9% of the full-time faculty workforce. The 110 faculty members who were granted tenure comprise about one-eighth of the tenure-track faculty corps. An additional

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6% of those in tenure-track positions were either denied tenure or left before the tenure decision was made.

Table REL12: Faculty Tenure Decisions and Recruiting

Faculty Status	Number	Relative to ...
Tenured Faculty Members	2,300	46% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members (not yet tenured)	920	18% of total faculty members
Tenure-Track Faculty Members Granted Tenure	110 per year	12% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Faculty Members Denied Tenure or Leaving Prior to Tenure Decision	55 per year	6% of tenure-track, not yet tenured faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Recruited for 2008-09	290	8% of full-time faculty
Tenured, Tenure-Track and Permanent Faculty Members Hired for 2007-08	340	9% of full-time faculty