

An overview of the department and its offerings. For further information, visit the website at [www.moravian.edu/religion](http://www.moravian.edu/religion).

The religious studies program at Moravian focuses on the core themes of intercultural learning, critical thinking and writing, ethical literacy, moral reason, and engagement in big questions within a global context. The religion major is a flexible one, offering students many diverse possibilities according to their own interests and career goals. It also is a major that works well as a “second major” alongside psychology, political science, sociology, and others.

Students develop nimble thinking; the ability to face tough problems creatively, ethically, and compassionately; and cultivate the ability to find happiness from mutual relationship, respect, service in public life, inner serenity, responsible and creative global citizenship, and a commitment to social justice—all of which require a depth of character and spirituality enhanced through the study of religion.

### Strong, Personalized Academic Majors

Moravian’s religion department prepares students to achieve high goals and pursue their dreams through the rigor, creativity, and depth of the program. In the last two years, four religion students received full scholarships to pursue graduate study at prestigious institutions; one won Moravian’s Humanities Prize, the most coveted student prize in the humanities; and others are receiving SOAR grants and completing the Honors program.



*Members of the College community celebrate the Jewish holiday of Sukkot.*

By the time students reach their senior year, having studied a diversity of religious questions, traditions, and issues, they are ready to engage in Religion 385, in which they pursue their own particular question or issue under the guidance of a faculty mentor. Students meet for mutual support and encouragement during the semester and present their research at Moravian College’s Scholarship Day; many also have presented their research at various regional research conferences.

Close relationships with faculty provide many opportunities to encourage students to think about and develop a bridge between their college studies and their future plans. Graduating religion majors have reported that the senior research project was the most meaningful, challenging, and confidence-producing educational project of their Moravian College career. Through this work, our students demonstrate great creativity, intelligence, and diversity in their interests.

Categories of courses allow for a lot of flexibility; students can focus on a particular region of the world or religious tradition. Students have focused on Christian theology and the ethics of war, or on Islamic philosophy and the connections between religion and popular culture, for example. Students are encouraged to study abroad, participate in the Washington Semester or take other trips.

A second major in religion helps students stand



*“O my Lord! Advance me in knowledge. Glory to thee! Of knowledge we have none, save what thou hast taught us: In truth it is thou who art perfect in knowledge and wisdom.”*



out from the crowd and enhances both graduate school and employment applications. It helps build goal-consciousness, sensitivity toward others, multi-cultural awareness, excellent reading, writing, and speaking skills, and develops the virtues of compassion and openness, complementing other programs and disciplines.

The department offers a resume workshop, designed by a religion major, that helps students build a resume using language that describes the skills and capacities of religion majors in a way that is understandable to people in the business and non-profit worlds. Courses are taught by three full-time faculty with very different backgrounds, and additional part-time faculty, providing a comparative religion department with a global perspective.

Our faculty have all published books in the last year and are active national and international scholars. In the last three years, two of our faculty were awarded the College's top commendation for excellent teaching, the Lindback Teaching Award. We teach courses in Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Daoism, Shinto, Confucianism, Native American religions, Christianity, and atheism.

The program also helps students become skilled at studying diverse disciplines that are a part of religious studies, including history, archaeology, women's studies, philosophy, anthropology, cultural studies, and ethics. Many courses in this department are cross-listed with the philosophy, history, women's studies, and environmental studies departments, a strength that contributes to making the religion major a wonderful double major.

### Hands-On Learning

The religion department emphasizes hands-on learning opportunities to enhance classroom study. For example, a summer trip may allow participants to work on an

archeological dig in Israel. A spring break trip gives students studying Christian theology and the border region a chance to investigate immigration issues at the Mexican border. Service learning is incorporated into assignments with non-profit agencies. Students also may take courses that contain an interview component in which their classroom learning is augmented through contact with community leaders. Internship opportunities allow students to develop interpersonal, analytical, and leadership skills; and students also participate in on-campus extra-curricular religious activities, such as the Multifaith Council, Hillel, the Muslim Student Association, and Catacombs, or other student clubs such as Amnesty International or the Sustainability Committee.

### Alumni Careers in Religion

#### *Students who study religion go on to diverse careers*

- Naomi Gonzalez '12 received the Theta Kappa Alpha Award for Excellence in religious studies and the offer of a full scholarship and fellowship to attend Brite Divinity School in Texas.
- Eddie Flaherty '12 was hired as an admissions counselor in Moravian's Admissions Office. He is responsible for recruiting prospective students and guiding them through the application process.
- Mike Accurso '11 majored in sacred music with a religion minor. He received a full scholarship to the University of Notre Dame for a master's degree in sacred music and choral conducting.
- Rachel Kleiner '11 majored in history with a minor in religion with Honors. She is in her second year at Tel Aviv University in Israel, pursuing a master's degree on the archeology and history of the land of the Bible.
- Leon Edelman '09 double-majored in religion and economics and works for Vanguard as a high net-worth client specialist.

Long before 1776,  
Moravian College stood for  
life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.  
As the sixth-oldest college in America,  
we believe everyone is born with an innate love of learning.

*Our mission is to set it free.*

To every student of every circumstance,  
we promise the power of the liberal arts,  
a whole wide world of experience,  
and a deeper enjoyment of life.

*Pursue them all with passion.*