

MASTER OF ARTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES: CONTEMPLATIVE RELIGIONS AND INDO-TIBETAN BUDDHISM 2012-13

Overview of Religious Studies Programs

The Religious Studies Department offers three graduate degrees:

MA in Religious Studies

MA in Religious Studies with Language (Sanskrit or Tibetan)

Master of Divinity

The MA in Religious Studies offers two concentrations: Contemplative Religions and Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. The Contemplative Religions concentration is especially designed for the student who wishes to join the study of comparative religions with related contemplative practices and interreligious dialogue. Students develop literacy in the living practice traditions of world religions, with a special emphasis on dialogue skills and an appreciation for religious pluralism. Graduates of this program will be especially suited for higher degree studies in religion, as well as to be teachers within their respective faith communities and secondary school teachers in the humanities, and as adjunct faculty in religious studies at colleges and universities. The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration is an in-depth study of Tibetan Buddhism and its Indian roots, with a balance between study and the practice of meditation. These students seek personal enrichment and career enhancement through systematic study of Buddhism and applied meditation. Completion of this degree provides a foundation for further academic work in Buddhism and in the humanities in general, as well as preparation for careers in nonprofit agencies, dharma centers, secondary school teaching, and social service, and as adjunct faculty in religious studies at colleges and universities.

The MA in Religious Studies with Language is designed for those students who wish to pursue a PhD in Religious Studies or Buddhist Studies with the eventual career goal of college or university teaching, or who wish to become professional translators. Students in these degree programs take an additional four courses of Sanskrit or Tibetan; some students elect to study both languages. Graduates who do well in this program regularly enroll in competitive PhD programs.

The Master of Divinity degree prepares students for professional work in the fields of pastoral care, chaplaincy, service in spiritually based communities, and socially engaged community development. Please see the Master of Divinity fact sheet for a description of this degree program.

Master of Arts in Religious Studies: Contemplative Religions

Students who select this degree integrate academic study and personal investigation through exploring the spiritual and meditative dimensions as well as the teachings, history, and cultural expressions of many traditions. Building on a foundation of methodologies for studying religious traditions, the program explores these religions with faculty members who are both academically trained and spiritually practiced in their respective traditions. In addition, students are trained in interreligious dialogue as an avenue to communicate across religious differences in an environment of global pluralism. The degree is designed to be flexible, incorporating many electives that enable students to select from the departmental course offerings in accordance with their interests.

MA in Religious Studies: Contemplative Religions Requirements *

First year, fall

REL645 Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)

REL779 Interreligious Dialogue (3)

Religious Studies elective (3)

Contemplative Practice elective (3)

SUBTOTAL 12

First year, spring

REL585 Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)

REL651 Contemplative Practice Retreat¹ (noncredit)

Three Religious Studies electives (9)

SUBTOTAL 12

Second year, fall

REL655 Trends in Religious Studies (3)

Contemplative Practice elective (3)

Two Religious Studies electives (6)

SUBTOTAL 12

Second year, spring

REL672 Non-Dualism in Theory and Practice (3)

REL880 Comprehensive Exam (noncredit)

REL885 MA/MDiv Final Project (noncredit)

Contemplative Practice elective (3)

Religious Studies elective (3)

SUBTOTAL 9

TOTAL CREDITS 45

**This fact sheet describes the 2011-12 curriculum for the MA in Religious Studies: Contemplative Religions program. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the School of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

¹It is recommended that students complete the noncredit monthlong Contemplative Practice Retreat requirement (REL 651) no later than the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their second year. This requirement can be done in two-week sections.

Religious Studies Electives

General Electives

REL525 Contemplative Christianity (3)

REL529 Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer, and Acts of Kindness (3)

REL530 Contemplative Hinduism (3)

REL535 Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)

REL545 Contemplative Islam (3)

REL623 Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual, and Community (3)

REL625 Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)

REL634	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL676	Psychodrama: Role Playing the Ancient Torah (3)
REL740	Contemporary American Religion (3)

Buddhism Electives

REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL546	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL611	First Turning of the Wheel: Nature of Mind and Emotions (3)
REL614	Mind and Its World I (3)
REL624	Mind and Its World II (3)
REL661	Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)
REL701	The Middle Way School (3)
REL710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3)
REL751	Buddhism in Tibet (3)
REL760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography, and Ritual (3)

Contemplative Practice Electives

REL504W	The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL554W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL571	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL600	Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)
REL609W	Mindfulness Instructor Training I** (1)
REL620	Meditation Practicum II: Self and No-Self* (3)
REL635	Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training* (3)
REL690W-791W	Shambhala Training Levels I-XII (1)
REL709W	Mindfulness Instructor Training II ** (1)
REL780	Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri and Mandala* (3)
REL809W	Mindfulness Instructor Training III** (1)

*These courses must be taken in sequence.

**These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a monthlong Buddhist meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.

Master of Arts in Religious Studies: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism

The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration spans two years involving the broad, in-depth study of Buddhism as a spiritual, theological, and cultural tradition. Course work emphasizes Indian and Tibetan Buddhism. Selective attention is also given to Buddhism in Southeast and East Asia and the contemporary West. Tibet played a central role in the development of Buddhism in Asia, preserving the scholastic traditions and texts from its Indian progenitors while deepening the meditative practices and insights from the Indian oral traditions. This MA degree surveys Indian and Tibetan Buddhism with emphasis on textual and meditative lineages, integrating study and practice approaches each semester. The faculty includes Western-trained academics and acharyas (master teachers) who are steeped in Indo-Tibetan Buddhist practice as well as English-speaking Tibetan lamas extensively trained in their own traditions. The approach of these programs is nonsectarian, scholarly, and critical, relying on the best of contemporary Western and traditional Buddhist scholarship. At the same time, they are also informed and nourished by students' "hands-on" exploration of the major Buddhist meditative traditions and by contact with the living lineages of Asian and Western teachers. The study of Buddhism is carried out within a context of respect for the tradition and appreciation for its humane values and profound spiritual perspectives.

The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration combines a Western-style History of Religions approach and a classic Tibetan Tradition approach to the study of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism in the first year of study. The History of Religions approach includes cultural, social, artistic, historical, phenomenological, and religious perspectives that have been developed over more than twenty-five years of teaching Buddhism to westerners at Naropa University. The Tibetan Tradition approach presents the in-depth foundational material of the traditional educational system of a Tibetan monastic college (shedra),

based on the Western-style classes and materials developed at Nitartha Institute since 1995, when it was founded by the Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche. (The Tibetan Tradition emphasis fulfills the core and intermediate curriculum of Nitartha Institute.) By the end of their first year, students choose either a History of Religions emphasis or a Tibetan Tradition emphasis for their remaining courses in Buddhism. The curriculum of both emphases is arranged according to the Three Turnings of the Wheel of Dharma.

Additional Courses of the History of Religions and Tibetan Tradition Emphases

All students share the same curriculum in the first year. Following that, students selecting the History of Religions emphasis have a 3-credit course called The Third Turning of the Wheel, based on the History of Religions methodology, plus 9 credits in Religious Studies electives, of which at least 3 credits should be a Buddhism elective. Students selecting the Tibetan Tradition emphasis have 6 credits of courses based on the Tibetan monastic college teachings that include attending a monthlong summer program of Nitartha Institute, with two courses of the Third Turning called The Mind Only School and Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions that together constitute 3 credits; their other 3-credit course is Path to Enlightenment, which is offered at Naropa; there are also 6 credits of Religious Studies electives. For details on individual courses, see www.naropa.edu/religiousstudies.

MA in Religious Studies: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism: History of Religions & Tibetan Tradition Emphases Requirements*

The courses students take vary slightly after the first year depending on whether they choose the History of Religions or the Tibetan Tradition emphasis.

First year, fall

REL600	Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)
REL611	First Turning of the Wheel: The Nature of Mind and Emotions (3)
REL614	Mind and Its World I (3)
REL645	Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)
SUBTOTAL	12

First year, spring

REL620	Meditation Practicum II: Self and No-Self (3)
REL624	Mind and Its World II (3)
REL650	Dathün: Monthlong Meditation Intensive† (noncredit)
REL661	Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)
SUBTOTAL	9

First year, summer

Tibetan Tradition emphasis students only will attend Nitartha Institute.‡	
REL705	The Mind Only School (1.5) Tibetan Tradition students only
REL720	Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions (1.5) Tibetan Tradition students only
SUBTOTAL	3 (Tibetan Tradition emphasis)

Second year, fall

REL635	Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training (3)
REL701	The Middle Way School (3)
Religious Studies electives (6)	
SUBTOTAL	12

Second year, spring

REL710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3)
REL751	Buddhism in Tibet (3) or
REL760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography, and Ritual (3)
REL780	Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri and Mandala (3)
REL880	Comprehensive Exam (noncredit)
REL885	Master's Paper/Project (noncredit)
Religious Studies elective (3) History of Religions students only	
SUBTOTAL	9 (12 for History of Religions emphasis)

TOTAL CREDITS 45

**This fact sheet describes the 2011–12 curriculum for the MA in Religious Studies: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the School of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

†It is recommended that History of Religions emphasis students complete the noncredit monthlong dathün requirement (REL650) by the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their first year, or at the latest during the summer following their first year. Tibetan Tradition emphasis students are only required to attend two weeks of dathün.

‡Tibetan Tradition emphasis students are required to attend a monthlong Nitartha Institute program in the summer following their first year. This is integral to the sequence of the curriculum.

Religious Studies Electives

At least one of the two electives of the History of Religions emphasis must be a Buddhism elective. The other elective of both emphases can be a Buddhism elective, general elective, or contemplative practice elective.

Buddhism Electives

REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL546	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL751	Buddhism in Tibet (3)
REL760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography, and Ritual* (3)

General Electives

REL525	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL529	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer, and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL530	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL535	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL545	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL585	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL623	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual, and Community (3)
REL625	Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)
REL634	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL655	Trends in Religious Studies (3)
REL672	Non-Dualism in Theory and Practice (3)
REL676	Psychodrama: Role Playing the Ancient Torah (3)
REL749	Contemporary American Religion (3)
REL779	Interreligious Dialogue (3)

Contemplative Practice Electives

REL504W	The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL554W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL571	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL609W	Mindfulness Instructor Training I* (1)
REL690W-795W	Shambhala Training I-XII (1)
REL709W	Mindfulness Instructor Training II* (1)
REL809W	Mindfulness Instructor Training III* (1)

**These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a monthlong Buddhist meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.*

Master of Arts in Religious Studies with Language

The MA in Religious Studies with Language is designed for those students who wish to pursue a PhD in Religious Studies or Buddhist Studies, with the eventual career goal of college or university teaching, or who wish to become professional translators. Students in these degree programs take an additional four courses of Sanskrit or Tibetan; some students elect to study both languages. Graduates who do well in this program regularly enroll in competitive PhD programs.

The MA in Religious Studies with Language degree offers two concentrations: Contemplative Religions and Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. This 61-credit MA degree includes all the course work of either the Contemplative Religions or the Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentrations described above, plus training in either Sanskrit or Tibetan through two years (16 credits) of language course work. Some students elect to do additional course work to study both languages.

Sanskrit

The lingua franca of Buddhism, Sanskrit stood close to the spoken tongue of the Buddha himself; it was the idiom of Indian Buddhist texts, and it functioned as the common language of Buddhism throughout Asia. The Sanskrit language option provides students with a knowledge of Sanskrit grammar and vocabulary, as well as initial reading knowledge, providing access to the world of Buddhist texts.

Tibetan

Study of the Tibetan language provides access to the rich and diverse world of Tibetan Buddhist literature, to the oral teachings of contemporary Tibetan masters, and to a great body of Indian texts that survive only in Tibetan translation. The Tibetan language option provides training in both classical Tibetan and the spoken language. Study of classical Tibetan involves learning the grammar and vocabulary of the classical language and the reading of texts. Modern Tibetan is learned through the study of the contemporary idiom, with practice in hearing and speaking Tibetan.

MA in Religious Studies with Language: Contemplative Religions Requirements*

Please note that many students choose to complete the program in three rather than two years. For a complete three-year plan, please see your academic advisor.

First year, fall

REL503	Tibetan I (4) or
REL507	Sanskrit I (4)
REL645	Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)
REL779	Interreligious Dialogue (3)
	Religious Studies elective (3)
	Contemplative Practice elective (3)
SUBTOTAL	16

First year, spring

REL533	Tibetan II (4) or
REL537	Sanskrit II (4)
REL585	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL651	Contemplative Practice Retreat† (noncredit)
	Three Religious Studies electives (9)
SUBTOTAL	16

Second year, fall

REL553	Tibetan III (4) or
REL557	Sanskrit III (4)
REL655	Trends in Religious Studies (3)
	Contemplative Practice elective (3)
	Two Religious Studies electives (6)
SUBTOTAL	16

Second year, spring

REL583	Tibetan IV (4) or
REL587	Sanskrit IV (4)
REL672	Non-Dualism in Theory and Practice (3)
REL880	Comprehensive Exam (noncredit)
REL885	MA/MDiv Final Project (noncredit)
	Contemplative Practice elective (3)
	Religious Studies elective (3)
SUBTOTAL	13

TOTAL CREDITS 61

**This fact sheet describes the 2011–12 curriculum for the MA Religious Studies with Language: Contemplative Religions. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the School of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

†It is recommended that students complete the noncredit monthlong Contemplative Practice Retreat requirement (REL 651) no later than the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their second year. This requirement can be done in two-week sections.

Religious Studies Electives

Buddhism Electives

REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL546	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL611	First Turning of the Wheel: Nature of Mind and Emotions (3)
REL614	Mind and Its World I (3)
REL624	Mind and Its World II (3)
REL661	Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)
REL701	The Middle Way School (3)
REL710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3)
REL750	Path to Enlightenment (3)
REL751	Buddhism in Tibet (3)
REL760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography, and Ritual* (3)

General Electives

REL525	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL529	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer, and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL530	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL535	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)
REL545	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL623	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual, and Community (3)
REL625	Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)
REL634	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL676	Psychodrama: Role Playing the Ancient Torah (3)
REL740	Contemporary American Religion (3)

Contemplative Practice Electives

REL504W	The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL554W	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL571	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL600	Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)
REL609W	Mindfulness Instructor Training I** (1)
REL620	Meditation Practicum II: Self and No-Self* (3)
REL635	Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training* (3)
REL690W-791W	Shambhala Training Levels I-XII (1)
REL709W	Mindfulness Instructor Training II** (1)
REL780	Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri and Mandala* (3)
REL809W	Mindfulness Instructor Training III** (1)

*These courses must be taken in sequence.

**These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a monthlong Buddhist meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.

MA in Religious Studies with Language: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism

The Indo-Tibetan Buddhism concentration spans two years involving the broad, in-depth study of Buddhism as a spiritual, theological, and cultural tradition. Course work emphasizes Indian and Tibetan Buddhism. Selective attention is also given to Buddhism in Southeast and East Asia and the contemporary West. Tibet played a central role in the development of

Buddhism in Asia, preserving the scholastic traditions and texts from its Indian progenitors while deepening the meditative practices and insights from the Indian oral traditions. This MA degree surveys Indian and Tibetan Buddhism with emphasis on textual and meditative lineages, integrating study and practice approaches each semester. Faculty include Western-trained academics and acharyas (master teachers) who are steeped in Tibetan Buddhist practice as well as English-speaking Tibetan lamas extensively trained in their own traditions.

The approach of these programs is nonsectarian, scholarly, and critical, relying on the best of contemporary Western and traditional Buddhist scholarship. At the same time, they are also informed and nourished by students' "hands-on" exploration of the major Buddhist meditative traditions and by contact with the living lineages of Asian and Western teachers. The study of Buddhism is carried out within a context of respect for the tradition and appreciation for its humane values and profound spiritual perspectives. In addition to Sanskrit and/or Tibetan language study, the MA in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism with Language combines a Western-style History of Religions approach and a classic Tibetan Tradition approach to the study of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism in the first year of study. The History of Religions approach includes cultural, social, artistic, historical, phenomenological, and religious perspectives that have been developed over more than twenty-five years of teaching Buddhism to westerners at Naropa University. The Tibetan Tradition approach presents the in-depth foundational material of the traditional educational system of a Tibetan monastic college (shedra), based on the Western-style classes and materials developed at Nitartha Institute since 1995, when it was founded by the Dzogchen Ponlop Rinpoche. (The Tibetan Tradition emphasis fulfills the core and intermediate curriculum of Nitartha Institute.) By the end of their first year, students choose either a History of Religions emphasis or a Tibetan Tradition emphasis for their remaining courses in Buddhism. The curriculum of both emphases is arranged according to the Three Turnings of the Wheel of Dharma.

Additional Courses of the History of Religions and Tibetan Tradition Emphases

All students share the same curriculum in the first year. Following that, students selecting the History of Religions emphasis have a 3-credit course called The Third Turning of the Wheel, based on the History of Religions methodology, plus 9 credits in Religious Studies electives, of which at least 3 should be a Buddhism elective. Students selecting the Tibetan Tradition emphasis have 6 credits of courses based on the Tibetan monastic college teachings that include attending a monthlong summer program of Nitartha Institute, with two courses of the Third Turning called The Mind Only School and Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions that together constitute 3 credits; their other 3-credit course is called Path to Enlightenment, which is offered at Naropa; there are also 6 credits of Religious Studies electives.

MA in Religious Studies with Language: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism: History of Religions and Tibetan Tradition Emphases Requirements *

The courses students take vary slightly after the first year depending on whether they choose the History of Religions or the Tibetan Tradition emphasis, as noted below. For details on individual courses, see www.naropa.edu/religiousstudies. (Please note that many students complete the program in three rather than two years. For a complete three-year plan, please see your academic advisor).

First year, fall

REL503	Tibetan I (4) or
REL507	Sanskrit I (4)
REL600	Meditation Practicum I: Seeds of Peace (3)
REL611	First Turning of the Wheel: Nature of Mind and Emotions (3)
REL614	Mind and Its World I (3)
SUBTOTAL	13

First year, spring

REL533	Tibetan II (4) or
REL537	Sanskrit II (4)
REL620	Meditation Practicum II: Self and No-Self (3)
REL624	Mind and Its World II (3)
REL650	Dathün: Monthlong Meditation Intensive [†] (noncredit)
REL661	Second Turning of the Wheel: The Bodhisattva Path (3)
Religious Studies elective (3)	
SUBTOTAL	16

First year, summer

Tibetan Tradition emphasis students only will attend Nitartha Institute.[‡]

REL705	The Mind Only School (1.5) Tibetan Tradition students only
REL720	Buddha Nature and Shentong Traditions (1.5) Tibetan Tradition students only
SUBTOTAL	3 (Tibetan Tradition emphasis)

Second year, fall

REL553	Tibetan III (4) or
REL557	Sanskrit III (4)
REL635	Meditation Practicum III: Mind-Training (3)
REL645	Methods and Issues in the Study of Religion (3)
REL701	The Middle Way School (3)
Religious Studies elective (3)	
SUBTOTAL	16

Second year, spring

REL583	Tibetan IV (4) or
REL587	Sanskrit IV (4)
REL710	Third Turning of the Wheel (3)
REL751	Buddhism in Tibet (3) or
REL760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography, and Ritual (3)
REL780	Meditation Practicum IV: Maitri and Mandala (3)
REL880	Comprehensive Exam (noncredit)
REL885	MA/MDiv Final Project (noncredit)
Religious Studies elective (3) History of Religions students only	
SUBTOTAL	13 (16 for History of Religions emphasis)

TOTAL CREDITS 61

**This fact sheet describes the 2011–12 curriculum for the MA in Religious Studies with Language: Indo-Tibetan Buddhism. Naropa University faculty and staff are committed to regular review and revision of the curriculum, to reflect new findings and understandings in the field, feedback from alumni and the professional community, and faculty expertise. Please inquire with the Office of Admissions and/or the Department of Religious Studies for any curricular changes that are being considered for future academic years.*

[†]*It is highly recommended that students complete the noncredit monthlong dathün requirement (REL 650) by the winter break between the fall and spring semesters of their first year, or at the latest during the summer following their first year.*

[‡]*Students are required to attend a monthlong Nitartha Institute program in the summer following their first year. This is integral to the sequence of the curriculum.*

Religious Studies Electives

Buddhism Electives

REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL546	Buddhism in America: Dharma Comes West (3)
REL751	Buddhism in Tibet (3)
REL760	Vajrayana: Symbol, Iconography, and Ritual (3)

General Electives

REL525	Contemplative Christianity (3)
REL529	Foundations of Judaism: Torah, Prayer, and Acts of Kindness (3)
REL530	Contemplative Hinduism (3)
REL535	Introduction to Jewish Mysticism (3)

REL545	Contemplative Islam (3)
REL585	Spiritual Models of Social Action (3)
REL623	Religious Experience in Africa: Sacred Cosmos, Ritual, and Community (3)
REL625	Prayer and Prophecy: Biblical Literatures (3)
REL634	Hindu Yoga-Tantra (3)
REL655	Trends in Religious Studies (3)
REL676	Psychodrama: Role Playing the Ancient Torah (3)
REL672	Non-Dualism in Theory and Practice (3)
REL749	Contemporary American Religion (3)
REL779	Interreligious Dialogue (3)

Contemplative Practice Electives

REL504W	The Breeze of Simplicity: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL540	Zen Buddhism (3)
REL554	Opening the Heart: Buddhist Meditation Weekend (1)
REL571	Centering Prayer as Christian Contemplation (3)
REL609W	Mindfulness Instructor Training I * (1)
REL690W-795W	Shambhala Training I-XII (1)
REL709W	Mindfulness Instructor Training II * (1)
REL809W	Mindfulness Instructor Training III * (1)

**These courses must be taken in sequence. The prerequisites for REL 609W are Meditation Practicum I and II as well as a monthlong Buddhist meditation intensive, two weeks of which must be completed before the class begins.*

Note on Fees: There are several expenses associated with noncredit requirements in the Religious Studies Department programs. These do not involve any Naropa tuition cost but do involve costs paid to the organizations offering these programs.

The dathün—a monthlong contemplative practice retreat—is approximately \$1,300. Tibetan Tradition emphasis students register for a 3-credit Nitartha Institute program through Naropa that will cover the tuition cost, but not the expenses for room and board, text, etc., of the Nitartha program, which are approximately \$700. The prices listed here are estimates based on current costs. These costs are determined by outside organizations and are subject to change. There are also occasionally smaller course fees associated with individual classes, which are subject to change. Naropa University works to provide partial scholarships for these additional costs. Scholarships are also offered through the Fredrick P. Lenz Foundation, the Nitartha Institute, retreat centers, and other donors to help pay for a portion of these programs.

Careers of Program Graduates

Students have taken their understanding of Buddhism, as well as the heightened sense of clarity, insight, and warmth that the program seeks to develop, into a wide variety of postgraduate career directions. Some students apply the theoretical, ethical, and practical knowledge learned in the program in the concrete contexts of service projects and organizations. Some students also move on to further involvement with one or the other of the Buddhist traditions studied in the program as practitioners, translators, or teachers. Most of our students find the time they have spent studying Buddhism an ongoing source of inspiration, knowledge, and practical wisdom in the contemporary world. A small but steady number of our students do go on to further graduate study of Buddhism or religious studies at the PhD level with long-range objectives of university teaching, research, writing, or translation. Some also choose the goal of becoming independent translators. Others seek further professional training or move directly into the workforce. Below are some specific careers found by recent graduates of the Religious Studies degree programs.

- Accepted into PhD program, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- Case manager, Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, Boulder, CO
- Professor, University of Colorado, Religious Studies Dept., Boulder, CO
- Accepted into PhD program, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom

- Independent Tibetan translator, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church, Laramie and Cheyenne, WY
- Accepted into PhD program, University of Santa Barbara, CA
- Translator to the Ven. Khenpo Tsultrim Gyamtso, Rinpoche
- Minister, Tri State Buddhist Temple, Denver, CO
- Accepted into PhD program, University of Virginia
- Member of Nalanda Translation Committee, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
- Accepted into PhD program, University of the West, Rosemead, CA
- Professor, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA
- Accepted into PhD program, California Institute of Integral Studies, San Francisco, CA

Religious Studies Ranked Faculty

Roger Dorris, PhD

AAS, BA, Metropolitan State College of Denver; MA, The Naropa Institute; PhD, Union Institute.

Roger Dorris recently completed doctoral work with a focus on community-building and large-group transformation. He has worked extensively with marginalized populations including the homeless, the incarcerated, and those suffering from addiction. He's been a practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism since the mid-'70s and was ordained as a Buddhist minister in 1999. He has been ranked faculty at Naropa University since 1995 and helped establish the Master of Divinity program.

Lama Sarah Harding

BA, Naropa University.

Sarah Harding is a lama in the Shangpa Kagyü tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, completing the first three-year retreat for westerners in 1980 under H.E. Kalu Rinpoche. She works as a teacher, oral interpreter, and translator. She has published many of her translations, including *Creation and Completion* and *Machik's Complete Explanation*. She has been an instructor in the Religious Studies Department since 1992 and also received a BA in Religious Studies from Naropa University. She is currently working on translations as a fellow of the Tsadra Foundation and continues to run her Tibetan Language Correspondence Course.

Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen

Ka-Rabajampa, Nalanda Institute.

Acharya Lama Tenpa Gyaltzen excelled in his studies at Karma Shri Nalanda Institute of Rumtek Monastery in Sikkim under some of the greatest living masters in the Kagyü lineage. He then completed the traditional three-year retreat. Acharya Tenpa served for several years as the resident teacher of Thegsum Tashi Chöling in Hamburg, Germany. He is a senior teacher of the Nitartha Institute, which presents the teachings of the Tibetan monastic educational tradition to westerners.

Donald Matthews, PhD

BS, Northwestern University; MA, Northwestern University Graduate School; MDiv, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley; PhD, The Divinity School, The University of Chicago

Donald Matthews received his PhD in Religion and Human Sciences with concentrations in The Sociology and Psychology of Religion; and Theological Ethics. He has taught at numerous universities and seminaries in the areas of Religion and Society, African American Studies, Sociology, and Anthropology. His clinical training includes certification in Clinical Pastoral Education and as a licensed Speech and Language Pathologist. His current research interests are in the abuse of power, social oppression; and ministry to the homeless. Dr. Matthews has published in the fields of pastoral care, African American religion and social ethics. He was ordained by the United Methodist Church.

Acharya Judith Simmer-Brown, PhD

BA, Cornell College; MA, Florida State University; PhD, Walden University; PhD (cand.), Columbia University.

Judith Simmer-Brown became a Zen student of Shunryu Suzuki Roshi in 1971 and a student of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche in 1974. She has been a

ranked faculty member in Religious Studies at the university since 1978. She lectures and writes on Tibetan Buddhism, women and Buddhism, Buddhist-Christian dialogue, and American Buddhism, and is an acharya (senior dharma teacher) in the Shambhala Buddhist tradition. She is on the board of the Society of Buddhist-Christian Studies and a member of the Lilly Buddhist-Christian Theological Encounter. Her books are *Dakini's Warm Breath: The Feminine Principle in Tibetan Buddhism* (Shambhala, 2001), and with Brother David Steindl-Rast, et al., *Benedict's Dharma: Buddhists Comment on the Rule of St. Benedict* (Riverhead, 2001).

Phillip Stanley, PhD

BA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; MBA, University of Michigan; MA, University of Virginia; PhD, University of Virginia.

Phillip Stanley is chair of the Religious Studies Department. He is dean of academic affairs for Nitartha Institute, a member of the Executive Council of the International Association of Buddhist Universities, and co-director of the Tibetan Buddhist Canonical Collections Cataloging Project of the Tibetan Himalayan Library that launched an online catalog of multiple editions of the Tibetan Kangyur and Tengyur collections with links to scans of all 5,000-plus texts in the summer of 2009. He has been selected to lead the Union Catalog of Buddhist Texts project that will launch a prototype online catalog of all the major Buddhist canonical collections by 2011. He received a Fulbright-Hays Fellowship for doctoral research on the nine-vehicle texts of the Nyingma school of Tibet. A member of the Nalanda Translation Committee, he has been a student of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche since 1974 and has taught Buddhism and Shambhala Training since 1981. He is writing a book on the canons of Buddhism and the history of the Tibetan Buddhist canon. He developed the first-year primer of literary Tibetan used at Naropa.

Rabbi Zvi Ish-Shalom

BA, McGill University; MA, Brandeis University; PhD (cand.), Brandeis University.

Rabbi Zvi Ish-Shalom descends from a long lineage of rabbis in the mystical tradition of Hasidism. He trained in rabbinical schools in New York and Israel and was ordained as a rabbi in both the Orthodox and neo-Hasidic traditions. Before coming to Naropa University, he served for four and a half years as the rabbi for Congregation Har Shalom in Fort Collins, CO. His current areas of academic interest include comparative mysticism, Kabbalah, Hasidism, East-West studies, psychology of religion, somatic spirituality, and contemplative ecumenism, among others. Rabbi Zvi is also a Certified Rolfer® and has a contemplative bodywork practice in Boulder.

Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, PhD, Professor Emeritus
PhD, Hebrew Union College.

Rabbi Schachter-Shalomi has held the World Wisdom Seat at Naropa University and is Professor Emeritus at Temple Institute. He is a major figure in the Jewish spiritual renewal movement, presenting the central teachings of Hasidism and Kabbalah in a contemporary and heartfelt manner. He was ordained in 1947 and received a PhD in 1968 from Hebrew Union College. He has published more than 150 articles and monographs on the Jewish spiritual life and has translated many Hasidic and Kabbalistic texts. In 1989 Rabbi Schachter-Shalomi founded the Spiritual Eldering Institute to meet the needs of the current generation of elders.

Guest Faculty

Ven. Khenpo Anyen Rinpoche

Ven. Khenpo Anyen Rinpoche is a tulku from Amdo, Tibet, and is an esteemed scholar as well as the heart son of his root Lama, Tsara Dharmakirti Rinpoche. He is the fifth in an unbroken lineage of heart sons who received their uncommon lineage of the Longchen Nyingthig and introduction to the Dzogchen teachings directly from the renowned Dzogchen master Patrul Rinpoche. Anyen Rinpoche's training included more than fourteen years of intensive study combined with solitary retreat before he obtained the degree of khenpo and became the head scholar of his root Lama's monastic university in Kham, Tibet.

Ranked Faculty from Other Departments

Acharya Dale Asrael (Transpersonal Counseling Psychology), Jane Carpenter (Contemplative Psychology), Acharya Gaylon Ferguson (Interdisciplinary Studies), Fr. Alan Hartway (Interdisciplinary Studies), Andrew Schelling (Writing & Poetics), Robert Spellman (Visual Arts), Candace Walworth (Peace Studies)

Adjunct Faculty

Patsy Barnes, Sreedevi Bringi, Patrick D'Silva, David Frenette, Stephen Hatch, Rabbi Howard Hoffman, Giovannina Jobson, Jeremy Lowry, Rev. Penny Rather, Nora Smith, L. S. Summer, Stephanie Yuhas

Religious Studies Master of Arts Programs

Admission Requirements

Campus Tours

You are strongly encouraged to visit Naropa University. Events for prospective students are scheduled every fall and spring. See www.naropa.edu/admissions/grad_events.cfm for more information. The visitation coordinator will be happy to arrange for you to meet with an admissions counselor or a member of our faculty, visit a class, or take a campus tour. Arapahoe Campus tours are offered Monday through Friday at 2 p.m. in the main lobby of the Administration Building. The visitation coordinator can be contacted at 303-546-3548 or 1-800-772-6951 (within North America) or by email at admissionevents@naropa.edu. You can also use the online Visitation Request form or you may view our campus from the online tour. If you decide you would like to apply for admission, we prefer that you do so electronically via www.naropa.edu/apply.

Priority Deadline

Naropa University uses a rolling admission policy. Applicants may apply as early as September for summer and fall admission. Applications received between September 1 and the priority deadline will be given equal consideration. Applications received after the priority deadline will be reviewed on a space-available basis.

January 15 for fall semester admission

Graduate Admission Requirements

A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution is required for admission to all graduate programs.

A completed graduate application for one of the Master of Arts degree programs in the Religious Studies Department consists of the following:

1. Completed application form.
2. \$60 nonrefundable application fee in the form of a check or money order, payable to "Naropa University." Applicant's name must be clearly indicated on the check.
3. Three-to-five-page typed, double-spaced statement of interest.
4. Resumé.
5. Two letters of recommendation from academic or professional sources (both must be on or attached to the forms provided).
6. Official transcripts of all previous college-level study that reflect the completion of a bachelor's degree, sent directly to Naropa's Admissions Office from the registrar of previous institutions or in a sealed envelope with the application.
7. Telephone or in-person interview.
8. Applicant must demonstrate personal maturity and strong academic skills.
9. Applicant must have an interest in studying Buddhist principles and mindfulness meditation practices in a nonsectarian context.