

MA in Religious Studies and Nonprofit Management Certificate Graduation Requirement: Research Paper Submission Guidelines

I. Rationale

The College of Arts & Sciences articulates the CIT research paper requirement in the Graduate Handbook <<http://www2.gsu.edu/~catalogs/2011-2012/graduate/>>:

“A non-thesis option is available in some departments. In lieu of the thesis, research competence must be demonstrated on the basis of a research paper or a creative project. A committee of at least three members of the faculty, of which the student's adviser will serve as chair, will pass on the acceptability of the paper or project. Two-thirds of the committee must indicate approval. This approval must be submitted in writing to the Office of Graduate Services by the appropriate deadline <www.cas.gsu.edu/graduation_requirements.html>.”

In addition, the MA in Religious Studies with NPM Certificate catalog copy stipulates that:

“Submit one paper representative of high quality graduate level research and writing. This paper will normally be written as the final paper for the elective taken to fulfill requirement “6.c” [the electives requirement] above. This paper will be received and reviewed by the Faculty Advisor for the Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management and Social Enterprise as well as a faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies. This paper must articulate the relevance of the graduate-level Religious Studies course to the management of nonprofit organizations. This provides assurance that the student is integrating the knowledge gained in Religious Studies with the training in nonprofit management and vice versa.”

II. Selecting a research paper

Your paper should be an excellent reflection of the research and writing skills you have acquired and refined during your degree program. To successfully complete the MA in Religious Studies, students must maintain a 3.2 GPA, and the quality of the paper you submit should meet or exceed this minimum standard. If you have questions about whether a paper meets or exceeds the Department's standard, please consult the instructor to whom you previously submitted the paper or the Director of Graduate Studies.

III. The submission process

To meet this requirement of the Masters in Religious Studies with the Certificate in NPM:

1. Download and fill out the “NPM Research Paper” form and print a clean hard copy of the paper you wish to submit as your writing example.
2. Give the form and the paper to the instructor for whose course you wrote the paper AND to an instructor in the NPM Certificate program. Ask the instructors to review the paper and forms and make a recommendation to the faculty committee regarding the paper's representation of graduate research and writing.
3. The instructors should submit their forms, recommendations, and a copy of the paper to the Graduate Director in Religious Studies by week 10 in the semester.
4. The Graduate Director will circulate the recommendations to the review committee.
5. The review committee will take the instructor's recommendation under advisement and make a recommendation regarding the student's preparedness for graduation.
6. The Director of Graduate Studies will contact the student regarding the committee's recommendation. The paper and form will be kept on (private) record in the student's departmental file.

NPM Research Paper: Religious Studies faculty review

Student's name: _____ Panther ID: _____

Date of entry into program: _____ Anticipated graduation date: _____

GPA: _____

Paper title: _____

Course number & date: _____ Instructor: _____

100 word abstract:

Why does this paper best represent your graduate research and writing? (100-175 words)

How does this paper "articulate the relevance of the graduate-level Religious Studies course to the management of nonprofit organizations?" (100-175 words)

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Religious Studies instructor's recommendation regarding the paper's reflection of graduate research & writing (100-175 words)

Instructor's signature: _____ Date: _____

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