

## MA in Religious Studies and Religion & Aging Concentration 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](http://www.cas.gsu.edu/graduation_requirements.html)>."

In addition, the MA in Religious Studies with the Religion & Aging Concentration catalog copy stipulates that:

"Submit one paper/project representative of high-quality graduate level research and writing. This paper will be received and reviewed by a faculty member in Gerontology, as well as a faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies. Faculty will assess the learning outcomes outlined above when they review the final projects. The final project review is a formal process involving faculty advisors from both units and final approval by the Religious Studies Curriculum Committee and the Director of Graduate Studies. The faculty advisors review the paper and record substantive feedback regarding the quality of its representation of the student's graduate level work in the M.A. and Concentration for the Curriculum Committee. The Committee's members review the comments and paper, and they make a final recommendation to the Director of Graduate Studies. If the Committee approves the project, the Director of Graduate Studies signs the cover sheet that the student submits to Graduate Services."

### 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 "Religion & Aging 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 Gerontology 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.

**MA in Religious Studies and Religion & Aging Concentration  
Graduation Requirement: Research Paper Submission Guidelines**

**Religion & Aging 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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