Western Michigan University’s Comparative Religion (M.A.) is designed to provide students with a strong foundational knowledge of religious traditions, the principal classical works in the field of Comparative Religion, and the central issues of theory and method that underlie the religious studies discipline.

Successful M.A. graduates go on to Ph.D. programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Many pursue careers in higher education, secondary education, and in non-profits.

Our graduate certificate in Spirituality, Culture, and Health equips those working in the fields of health and human services and other caregivers with practical tools for providing care in culturally, spiritually, and religiously diverse environments.

The graduate certificate is one of the first credentials of its kind in the country. The program is additionally unique because faculty with expertise in comparative religion, holistic health, and sociology, will assist students in gaining an in-depth knowledge of cultural and spiritual understandings of the body, illness, and health.

The faculty in the Department of Comparative Religion are among the best in country. They maintain a strong record of publication in their areas of expertise and are active in national and international conferences and organizations.
Comparative Religion (M.A., Certificate)

Teaching, Research, and Program Focus Areas
Our faculty have expertise in the following areas: Religions of Japan, China, the United States, Scandinavia, Medieval Christianity, Islam, and Religions and Health.

Admissions
The deadline to apply for the program is February 15th if students wish to apply for a graduate assistantship, otherwise it is July 1st. GRE scores are required, as well as an academic writing sample (10-15 pages), two letters of reference, a statement explaining reasons for wishing to undertake this program, the religions of interest, and the preferred language. For additional details see: wmich.edu/religion/academics/graduate

Graduate Assistantships/Associateships
The Department of Comparative Religion regularly provides full or partial funding through Graduate Assistantships. The Department strives to make teaching opportunities available to graduate students to prepare them for future careers in academia.

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Western Michigan University
One of the top-100 public universities in the United States, Western Michigan University offers many nationally known graduate programs, including 29 doctoral and 64 master’s degrees. More than 20 percent of its 25,000 students are enrolled in graduate course work.

Kalamazoo
With a population of more than 325,000, Kalamazoo is the sixth largest metropolitan area in Michigan and among the 150 largest in the country. Kalamazoo is rated one of the 25 best cities in the country for young college graduates, and is located midway between Chicago and Detroit.