**Religious Studies and Philosophy (RSAP)**

**Description**: In religion, philosophy, and ethics, people ask questions such as how should we live? On what grounds? What enables us to live that way? These disciplines consider the grounds of beliefs and practices and how beliefs, texts, practices, and ethics relate to each other and to their cultural contexts. In Religious, Philosophical, and Ethical Thought courses, students will: gain knowledge and skills necessary to critically analyze beliefs, and practices and to navigate a world of competing theological, philosophical, and ethical commitments.

**Criteria** Religious Studies and Philosophy courses will:

1. Develop awareness of differing religious, philosophical, or ethical traditions by comparing the beliefs, texts, or practices of least two religious, philosophical, or ethical traditions and/or exploring the relationship between at least two religious, philosophical, or ethical traditions.
2. Encourage students to understand traditions, beliefs, texts, and practices as appropriate objects of academic study by critically analyzing and evaluating religious, philosophical, and/or ethical claims.
3. Enable students to understand the culturally and historically embedded nature of beliefs, practices, texts, and traditions, specifically by addressing how they have affected or been affected by social and cultural contexts, historical or contemporary.
4. Introduce students to how to read in the dominant genre(s) of the discipline.
5. Give students opportunities to use their own language to describe and analyze key concepts or course materials, and write to explore ideas, assimilate new knowledge, and reflect on the purpose of their learning.

**SLOs** Religious Studies and Philosophy students will:

1. Identify the tools or methods used in religion, philosophy, or ethics to analyze enduring and contemporary questions or challenges.
2. Describe appropriate tactics and strategies to comprehend or decode texts or artifacts in the dominant genre of the discipline.