

Master of Religious Law, Minor in Law and Policy

HBI University

Course Duration: 2 years

Credit Hours: 69 (including minor)



Program Description

The Master of Religious Law with a Minor in Law and Policy is designed for individuals seeking expertise in the intersection of legal studies, theology, and public policy. This program provides students with an in-depth understanding of religious law, governance in faith-based institutions, constitutional protections, and public policy frameworks affecting religious organizations.

Students will explore the legal foundations of religious liberty, church-state relations, nonprofit legal structures, and ethical concerns in faith-based governance. The minor in law and policy equips students with specialized knowledge of government regulations, legal advocacy, and policymaking that impact religious institutions, ministries, and faith-based initiatives.

Graduates will be prepared to work in legal consultancy, faith-based public policy advocacy, nonprofit governance, and government advisory roles, ensuring religious organizations operate within the legal and ethical framework while upholding religious freedoms and faith-based governance.

Admissions Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in law, theology, public administration, or a related field
- Minimum GPA of 3.0
- Two letters of recommendation from legal or religious leaders
- Statement of purpose outlining career goals in religious law and policy
- Interview with faculty admissions committee

Practicum Requirement

Students must complete a 300-hour supervised practicum in a religious legal consultancy, nonprofit legal department, or policy-making organization focused on faith-based governance. This hands-on experience provides practical application of religious law and public policy in real-world contexts.

Master's Thesis

A master's thesis is required, focusing on legal issues related to religious freedom, governance in faith-based organizations, or the impact of public policy on religious institutions. The thesis should be between 60-100 pages, follow APA or legal citation formatting, and propose policy recommendations or legal interpretations relevant to religious law.

Program Outcomes

- Develop expertise in religious law, constitutional rights, and faith-based governance.
- Analyze legal frameworks surrounding religious organizations and nonprofit institutions.
- Engage in legal advocacy and policy development that protects religious freedoms.
- Ensure faith-based organizations comply with government policies and ethical standards.
- Prepare for leadership roles in legal consultancy, nonprofit governance, and faith-based public policy development.

Foundational Courses (30 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
MRL 6001	Foundations of Religious Law and Governance	3
MRL 6002	Constitutional Law and Religious Liberties	3
MRL 6003	Ethical and Legal Considerations in Religious Organizations	3
MRL 6004	Tax-Exempt Status and Nonprofit Compliance	3
MRL 6005	Contract Law and Liability in Faith-Based Institutions	3
MRL 6006	Employment Law in Religious Organizations	3
MRL 6007	Intellectual Property and Media Law in Ministry	3
MRL 6008	Conflict Resolution and Mediation in Religious Law	3
MRL 6009	Research Methods in Religious and Public Policy Law	3
MRL 6010	International Law and Religious Freedom	3

Core Courses (24 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
MRL 6101	Church-State Relations and Legal Frameworks	3

MRL 6102	Public Policy and Religious Nonprofits	3
MRL 6103	Legal Foundations of Faith-Based Social Programs	3
MRL 6104	Government Grants and Legal Compliance for Ministries	3
MRL 6105	Human Rights, Law, and Religious Ethics	3
MRL 6106	Legal Advocacy for Religious Freedom	3
MRL 6107	Supervised Practicum in Religious Law and Public Policy	3
MRL 6108	Capstone Project in Religious Law and Policy	3

Law and Policy Minor (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
LPM 6201	Policy Analysis and Development in Religious Law	3
LPM 6202	Nonprofit Law and Governance for Ministries	3
LPM 6203	Legal Protections for Religious Organizations	3
LPM 6204	Public Policy Reform and Religious Advocacy	3
LPM 6205	Ethical Considerations in Faith-Based Legal Policy	3

Career Outcomes and Potential Salary

- Legal Consultant for Religious Institutions – \$80,000-\$150,000
- Faith-Based Policy Analyst and Lobbyist – \$75,000-\$140,000
- Director of Legal Affairs for Ministries and Churches – \$85,000-\$160,000
- Government Advisor on Religious and Nonprofit Law – \$90,000-\$170,000

Advocacy and Professional Development

Students are encouraged to engage with legal and religious policy organizations such as the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty and the Religious Freedom Institute (RFI) for continued professional development and networking opportunities.

Additional Electives (9 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Title	Credit Hours
ELE 901	Comparative Religious Legal Systems	3
ELE 902	Ethics and Morality in Religious Law	3
ELE 903	Legal Frameworks for Faith-Based Organizations	3
ELE 904	Church-State Relations in Legal Context	3

ELE 905	International Religious Law and Human Rights	3
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