

# SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

## PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW MINOR OR CERTIFICATE

All proposals must be submitted electronically (as attachments in the e-mail) to the chair of EPC by the chair of the department or the program director. The EPC may also request photocopies.

Department or Program(s):	RELS/Religion		
Name of Minor/Certificate:	Muslim-Christian Relations Minor		
Other Participants:	CAST (course inclusion)		
Type of Program	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Does this program correspond to an existing major program?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Name: <a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Delivery Mechanism:	<input type="checkbox"/> On-campus only	<input type="checkbox"/> Multiple delivery mechanisms (describe below)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> On-line only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hybrid (describe below)	The minor, formally speaking, is an on-campus minor. However, since students can take at least two of the minor's core courses and at least one elective as officially approved "WB" courses, students can complete this minor with a blend of on-campus and asynchronous web instruction (i.e., at least 9 credits can be completed via asynchronous web)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site only		
Catalog Description:	This program introduces students to the comparative theological study of Islam and Christianity. Following the spirit of Vatican II's <i>Nostra Aetate</i> , this minor aims to foster critical and constructive dialogue between Islam and Christianity through sustained inquiry of each tradition's sophisticated faith commitments and lived religiosities. Thus, this minor focuses primarily on the theological dimensions of each tradition, their historically shared intellectual and spiritual sources, how they are practiced and embodied in various arenas of human life, and the comparative theological methodologies that foster deeper understanding and appreciation for each tradition's religious and ethical distinctiveness and contributions to public life.		
Rationale:	A curricular strength of Seton Hall University is in the area of interfaith studies, anchored by the pioneering work of the Department of Religion's Jewish-Christian Studies Program (JCST). The graduate program in JCST was founded by Monsignor John Oesterreicher who played a pivotal role in the drafting of Vatican II's <i>Nostra Aetate</i> , which revolutionized the Church's relationship with Judaism. Since then, Seton Hall via JCST (and the Sister Rose Thering Fund) has been nationally and internationally known as the place where church leaders, as well as teachers and		

		<p>community members, come to study to promote interfaith understanding and the common good.</p> <p>While the new curriculum, as an undergraduate minor, in Muslim-Christian relations will be distinct from our JCST graduate program, it is a natural extension of it given <i>Nostra Aetate's</i> concurrent encouragement for the Church to also engage other venerable religious traditions, particularly, Islam. This new minor begins the realization of that work here at Seton Hall, especially given the increasing number of students who identify as Muslim and their expressed interest in and support for such a minor program. (See Appendix A in the attached Initial Concept Form for this minor.) Furthermore, as <i>Nostra Aetate</i> intimates, given the historical intersections/relationships among Christians, Jews, and Muslims (in addition to the intertwining of antisemitism and Islamophobia), Jewish-Christian relations requires the advancement of Muslim-Christian relations.</p> <p>Currently, the Department of Religion offers a number of courses in Muslim theology and spirituality and many courses in Christian theology and ethics. And as the proposed catalog description underscores (see above), this new minor aims to bring these two sides of the curriculum together in dialogue in the spirit of <i>Nostra Aetate</i>. In other words, this minor moves on the premise that engagement and understanding between the two traditions can only be accomplished if each tradition's faith commitments are taken seriously. Thus, this new minor focuses primarily on the theological dimensions of each tradition, their historically shared intellectual and spiritual sources, how they are lived out in various arenas of human life, and critical and constructive comparative theological methodologies that foster deeper understanding and appreciation for each tradition's religious and ethical distinctiveness and contributions to public life.</p> <p>Lastly, it is important to note that while the two more prominent programs in Muslim-Christian relations are at Georgetown and Oxford Universities (see <a href="https://acmcu.georgetown.edu/">https://acmcu.georgetown.edu/</a> and <a href="https://www.cmcsoxford.org.uk/">https://www.cmcsoxford.org.uk/</a>), and while our resources cannot match the kind of programs that GU and OU provide, the courses that the Religion Department offers already, if organized together within a structured degree, can, rather impressively, easily go toe-to-toe with the curriculum offered at an institution such as GU's Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center. And with a growing number of Muslim students on campus, we have a potential solid base of student support for this new minor, and a reason for Muslim students especially in the NYC/Northern NJ area to consider staying closer to home and pursuing studies at Seton Hall. (See, again, Appendix A, as well as Appendix C, of the attached Initial Concept Form for this new minor.)</p>					
Expected Completion Rate:		Approximately 4-5 students per academic year		Click here to enter text.			
<p><b>Approvals:</b> <i>Delegation of authority to a committee must occur by a vote of the full department during the academic year in which the committee is operating.</i></p> <p><i>Departmental vote (how many faculty were eligible to vote (exclude those on leave)? 11 (from RELIGION)</i></p>							
Date:	12/10/2021	FOR:	9	AGAINST:	0	ABSTAIN:	0

Committee vote, if applicable (how many faculty were eligible to vote (exclude those on leave)? 5 (from CAST)							
Date:	Click here to enter a date.	FOR:		AGAINST:		ABSTAIN:	
Cross-listed courses need approval of cross-listed department/program							
Departmental /Program name:		CAST					
Date:	2/22/2021	FOR:	5	AGAINST:	0	ABSTAIN:	0
<b>Additional Information:</b> <i>Is there any additional information the EPC should know about that is not included above?</i>							
<p>Please see the attached Initial Concept Form originally submitted to Dean Frierson and subsequently approved by her on 2/14/22 via email communication from Dr. Jeffrey Togman.</p> <p>Also, please note that the department initially voted in favor of this minor in Feb of 2021, and reaffirmed their vote in December 2021, which is the vote and date transcribed above.</p>							
<b>Required Attachments Checklist:</b>							
1. Initial Concept Form for Proposed Minor. This Initial Concept Form includes: *Letters of student and community support *Proposed course sequence *Note on competitor programs *Demographic data for potential pools of students for the minor							
2. Dean Frierson's Support of Proposal via Email; see below							
<b>Re: Initial Concept Form for New Minor in Muslim-Christian Relations</b>  <a href="#">Jeffrey Togman</a>  <b>Sent:</b> Monday, February 14, 2022 2:06 PM  <b>To:</b> <a href="#">Ki Joo Choi</a> ; <a href="#">Georita Frierson</a>  <b>Cc:</b> <a href="#">Dawn H Apgar</a>  Dear KC,  <p>The Dean asked me to thank you and your colleagues for your work on this proposal. Based on the strength of the proposal, and on the unanimous approval from the Department, Dean Frierson supports and endorses the initial concept for a new minor in Muslim-Christian Relations.</p> <p>If you need anything else, please let me know.</p>							

Regards, Jeff		
<b>List below any additional supporting documents, if applicable :</b>		
<a href="#">Click here to enter text.</a>		