

**Assessment Report**  
**Department of Religious Studies**

**May 31, 2007**

The Department's Assessment Plan continues to function according to the methods and procedures designed by the Department. The major component is REL 498 (Senior Seminar). In this course we require an extensive take-home examination to evaluate our graduates' ability to understand and analyze problems in diverse areas of Religious Studies and to utilize both primary and significant secondary sources to write about these problems and also to advance their own creative solutions to the problems. We also require a major research paper in the student's particular area of interest. The results this year were very gratifying. Eleven students took the course, and eight performed at an outstanding level; and two performed very well. They are able to think critically and perceptively about the material and to write with precision and insight.

Our Department is in the process of re-staffing. All but one and one-half position have retired. A new Chair has been hired and will begin in January, 2008. Any significant changes to our program are on hold until the arrival of the new Chair.