



Harvard Divinity School

Website: <http://www.hds.harvard.edu/>

The Harvard Divinity School was founded in 1816 as the first non-denominational school for the study of religion in the United States. The mission of the school is to train and educate future religious leaders, and religion scholars. While the divinity school operates programs of study specifically for their students, their classes are also available to the wider student body at Harvard.

The students and faculty at HDS come from a wide variety of religious backgrounds and persuasions. Most Christian denominations, as well as Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh scholars can be found amongst their faculty. Unlike other schools for religious studies, HDS balances secular and faith-based views of religious studies to give their students a wide range of perspectives and viewpoints.

Harvard Divinity School recognizes and emphasizes the importance of students to direct their own curriculum and course of study. Therefore, students are assured significant latitude in shaping their individual courses of study within a basic framework for the preparation of religious leaders and scholars in the area of religious studies.

A major part of Harvard Divinity School is the Center for the Study of World Religions. The CSWR was founded in 1960 and focuses on the understanding of international religions through research, public discussion, and scholarly publications. The current director of the CSWR is Donald Swearer, a noted scholar of Buddhism.

The Andover-Harvard Theological Library contains a collection of approximately 500,000 resources for divinity school students. In September 2001, the library completed a \$12-million renovation that enhanced its technology facilities and improved its information systems.