

**Harvard Divinity School Message Architecture**  
**December 2014**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mission Statement</b></p>	<p>Drawing on its significant resources in global religious studies and historical strength in Christian studies , Harvard Divinity School educates scholars, teachers, ministers, and other professionals for leadership and service both nationally and internationally. To help in building a world in which people can live and work together across religious and cultural divides, we strive to be a primary resource in religious and theological studies for the academy, for religious communities, and in the public sphere.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Our Core Strengths</b></p>	<p><b>Illuminate:</b></p> <p><b>THE HDS FACULTY INCLUDES SOME OF THE WORLD'S TOP SCHOLARS</b> of Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism. We study religion critically and rigorously to illuminate the beliefs and practices that lie at the foundation of societies.</p>	<p><b>Engage:</b></p> <p><b>HDS DRIVES PUBLIC CONVERSATIONS ON ALL MAJOR FAITHS</b> through interdisciplinary centers and programs that explore religion's influence on individuals, organizations, and societies around the world.</p>	<p><b>Serve:</b></p> <p><b>STUDENTS COME TO HDS WITH A GENUINE DESIRE TO MAKE THE WORLD BETTER</b> and a passion for life's biggest questions. They leave with the skills, knowledge and courage to realize their vision.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Talking Points</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We study all religions but are aligned with none</li> <li>• Four flexible degree programs: MDiv, MTS, ThM, PhD</li> <li>• 44 voting faculty</li> <li>• ~100 others offering instruction</li> <li>• HDS faculty also teach undergrad and grad courses throughout Harvard</li> <li>• Research output = ~90 major publications/year</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Center for the Study of World Religions</li> <li>• Women's Studies in Religion Program</li> <li>• Religious Literacy Project</li> <li>• Science, Religion and Culture</li> <li>• Religions and the Practice of Peace</li> <li>• Pluralism Project (associated)</li> <li>• Public Events per year = ~70</li> </ul>	<p>HDS graduates are highly diverse and choose a great variety of professions</p> <p>Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 330 students</li> <li>• 30+ religions represented</li> <li>• 27% students of color</li> <li>• 22% international students (latest class)</li> </ul> <p>Graduates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academics and education = 34%</li> <li>• Ministry/Chaplaincy = 22%</li> <li>• Public policy, NGOs, govt = 18%</li> <li>• Non-profit mgt, consult = 4%</li> <li>• Other = 22%</li> <li>• 100+ Field Education sites</li> </ul>

**Elevator Speech**

**One-minute version**

In today's deeply interconnected, globalized world, religious literacy is critical.

Religion informs the fundamental beliefs of billions across the globe. Its power to shape reality – sometimes in all-too-familiar religious conflict, but also in its capacity to foster compassion, personal growth, and peace and cooperation among societies – makes it one of the most influential forces in the world today.

Knowledge of religion is crucial to such cooperation, creating understanding and respect for the religious traditions that underpin societies. Knowledge of religion also shapes our personal selves – inspiring us with purpose beyond our own interests, and cultivating the reflective, imaginative, and deeply spiritual dimensions of our being.

HDS answers the world's need for religious literacy. HDS creates and communicates religious knowledge, empowering its students to move resourcefully and effectively through a religiously complex landscape. HDS trains scholars, organizational leaders, and skilled counselors who open new horizons of learning, help guide a troubled world, and comfort those in need. HDS offers rich insight into the most fundamental questions of being and belonging that we have.

**Thirty-second version**

HDS creates new knowledge about the world's major religions. It trains practitioners and others who use that knowledge to advance religious literacy, spiritual growth, and understanding between different societies and cultures.

HDS empowers students of all faiths (and none) to move resourcefully and effectively through a religiously complex landscape, in many professions. It answers the human desire to address the most fundamental questions of being and belonging, for both individuals and societies in a complex and deeply interconnected world.

**Five-second version**

HDS pioneers theological study and educates religiously literate, ethical leaders who illuminate knowledge, engage all religious traditions, and serve humanity in a complex, connected world.