

# 3

## Buddhism & Interreligious Engagement

This program prepares students for diverse leadership roles working with and in Buddhist communities, as well as bringing Buddhist practices and principles to communities that may not identify as Buddhist. These roles include religious and spiritual leadership; chaplaincy\* at universities, hospitals, or prisons; professional counseling; teaching; and careers in interreligious/interfaith cooperation, policy-making, and social justice advocacy.

Students take at least 27 credits to form a solid foundation in Buddhist tradition. These core courses focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Buddhist tradition. Required courses include: Buddhist Religious Thought and Practice; Introduction to Buddhist Meditation Practices; Socially Engaged Buddhism; and further courses that focus on specific Buddhist texts. The program also provides sustained exposure to other religious traditions, and instruction on how to promote constructive and healthy interreligious engagement.



In keeping with Union's broader curricula, the Buddhism & Interreligious Engagement program intentionally interrogates social disparities based on gender, race, class, sexuality and other marginalizing forces. Integrated throughout many courses, the goal is to cultivate an ability to respond to these disparities with analytic rigor, historical consciousness, sensitivity to tradition, equanimity and compassion. Students also benefit from attendance at Union's Buddhist conferences and public events.

\*Note: Board certification as a chaplain generally requires an M.Div., four units of CPE, and endorsement from a national organizations (such as the Buddhist Churches of America).

