This program prepares students for diverse leadership roles working with and in Muslim communities. 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 Islamic tradition. These core courses focus on foundational sources, disciplines, practices, diversity, and contextual realities of the Islamic tradition and Muslim Practice. Required courses include: The Qur’an: Engaging a Sacred Text; Islamic Religious Thought and Practice; Islamic History; Islam and Religious Diversity; and Women, Islam and Interpretation. 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 Islam & Interreligious Engagement program intentionally engages 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, and compassion. Students also benefit from attendance at Union’s Muslim public events, organized through Union’s ISJIE center. Previous speakers have included Dr. Simran Jeet Singh and Dr. Su’ad Abdul Kabeer.

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