

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What can I do with this degree?

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

LOCAL MINISTRIES

Youth Ministries
 Adult Ministries
 Leisure Ministries
 Counseling/Recovery
 Religious Education
 Day Care, Children and Adult
 Missionary Outreach
 Food Bank/Emergency Ministries
 Family Life Center Management
 Journalism
 Public Relations
 Television, Radio and Films
 Publishing
 Music

Local churches, synagogues and mosques
 Religious organizations
 Denominational boards

Get additional training or double major in specialized areas.
 Obtain certification for specialized areas.
 Obtain Master's degree in Divinity or counseling.
 Gain experience by volunteering in local church and campus religious organizations.
 Obtain an internship at denominational headquarters.
 Build relationships with local church and denominational leaders.
 Get experience in communications areas and develop a portfolio.
 Double major in music; take additional courses in religious music. Get performance experience through campus groups.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Administration
 Vocational Training
 Retail
 Public Relations
 Programming
 Counseling
 Advocacy
 Crisis Services (pregnancy, housing, etc.)
 Financial/Debt Counseling
 Camp Administration
 Lobbying

Nonprofit organizations including United Way, Red Cross, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, etc.
 Churches, synagogues and mosques
 Religious hospitals and hospices
 Correctional institutions
 Shelters
 Nursing homes
 Youth organizations and camps including YMCA, YWCA, Young Life, etc.
 Adoption agencies/Foster Care
 Religious political organizations e.g. Moral Majority

Volunteer with local organizations for experience. May need specialized training/certification for some areas.
 Obtain excellent interpersonal and oral and written communication skills.
 Seek summer camp experience and leadership roles, such as director or assistant director.
 Legal experience and law degree may be required.

HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES

Administration
 Social Services
 Residential Living
 Religious Activities Programming
 Chaplaincy
 Counseling: Mental Health or Pastoral

Hospitals
 Mental health treatment facilities
 Nursing homes
 Retirement homes
 Assisted living homes
 Children/youth homes

Double major or minor in Business, Social Work, Human Services or special interest area.
 Take courses related to special populations.
 Volunteer time in related organizations.
 Obtain advanced degrees and certification for counseling and chaplaincy. May need ordination for pastoral counseling.

AREAS	EMPLOYERS	STRATEGIES
<u>CLERGY</u> Buddhist Catholic Jewish Protestant	Local churches, synagogues, mosques Religious organizations Denominational boards and agencies Monasteries	Become involved in related campus activities. Protestant clergy positions require denominational ordination and usually a Master of Divinity. Possess high moral and ethical standards. Develop leadership ability and self discipline. Obtain excellent written and verbal communication skills.
<u>CHAPLAINCY</u> Military Institutional	All branches of military service Hospitals, hospices Homes for children, youth, senior citizens Correctional institutions Police and fire departments	Obtain ordination and two years' service in local church. After acceptance into branch of service, attend chaplaincy school.
<u>MISSIONS</u> Church and Community Development Education Medical Metropolitan Ministries Community Centers Evangelism	Denominational boards or agencies Missions boards Local churches Religious institutions Evangelical organizations e.g. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association	Obtain any needed advanced degrees, certification or licensing for area of interest. Seek related volunteer or work experience. Obtain travel and cultural experience with group of interest. Foreign language skills are a plus. Develop fundraising skills and contacts.
<u>EDUCATION</u> Teaching Research Counseling Administration/Staff Chaplaincy Religious Life Programming Campus Ministry	Religiously affiliated schools Preparatory schools Private, public or religiously affiliated colleges and universities Schools of theology/seminaries Organizations such as Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Campus Crusade for Christ, Muslim Student Association, Hillel Buddhist Monasteries such as Chuang Yen Monastery	May require certification/licensure to teach. Ph.D. usually required for teaching, research and administration in colleges and universities. Complete Master of Divinity plus additional training for campus ministry. Master of Divinity and Ph.D., D.Min. or Th.D. usually required for teaching, research and administration in seminaries and schools of theology. May require multiple skills such as providing ministerial services as well as administration, teaching, coaching, etc. Become involved in specific campus ministry organizations. Seek leadership positions and internships or summer employment opportunities.

AREAS

EMPLOYERS

STRATEGIES

BUSINESS

Administration/Management
Human Resources

Local churches, synagogues and mosques
Religious bookstores
Religious publishers
Denominational boards/agencies
Seminaries/schools of theology
Religiously affiliated schools

Double major or minor in Business.
Get related experience.

Building Management

Denominational hospitals, homes, schools, boards
and agencies

Dual degree in engineering helpful.

Research

Develop research and writing skills.

COMMUNICATIONS

Writing
Editing
Publishing
Television/Film
Radio
Advertising
Public Relations
Sales
Commercial Art

Denominational boards/agencies
Interdenominational organizations
Local churches, synagogues and mosques
Denominational publishing houses of books and
magazines
Secular publishing houses
Secular radio, television and film industry

Consider freelance positions. Permanent positions
are limited.
Take courses in English, social sciences and
journalism. Develop excellent writing skills.
Submit articles for publication for religious and
nonreligious papers and journals.
Learn desktop publishing techniques.
Obtain specialized technical training such as a
double major or minor in Broadcasting.
Develop artistic talent.
Take courses or double major in Graphic Design/
Illustration.
Obtain related experience through internships.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Denominational groups including:
Roman Catholic (Nuns and Monks)
Episcopal, and
Greek Orthodox
Buddhist

Apply to religious order for admittance.
Requires self-discipline.
Desire to combine career with life/living arrangements.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- People interested in religious vs. secular work possess deep faith, want more than filling own personal needs, and want to make a difference.
- Bachelor's degree provides broad background for careers in many fields including many religious-affiliated organizations.
- An undergraduate degree prepares students for professional and graduate study in business, law, medicine, counseling, higher education and other fields.
- Dual majors are required for some specialized areas.
- Master of Divinity required for most clergy positions, plus denominational ordination.
- Obtain general knowledge of practices, procedures, guidelines and doctrine of one's faith.
- Possess understanding of human spiritual and social needs.
- Ph.D., Th.D. or D.Min. required for college/university/seminary teaching, research and administration.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, volunteer experience in religious institution or bookstore, or other related activity in working with and helping people.
- Develop counseling and communication skills due to the nature of the field and working with people.
- May be more opportunities for specific ministries in urban areas and large religious institutions.
- Obtain experience and contacts through extensive involvement in campus organizations. Leadership on the local, state and regional level is crucial.
- Obtain camp experience to improve organization and counseling skills as well as network within the denominational/organizational structure.