

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What can I do with this degree?

## AREAS

## EMPLOYERS

## STRATEGIES

### LOCAL CHURCH MINISTRIES

Youth Ministries  
Adult Ministries  
Leisure Ministries  
Counseling  
Religious Education  
Day Care, Children and Adult  
Journalism  
Public Relations  
Television, Radio and Films  
Publishing  
Missionary Outreach  
Music

Local churches  
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.

Get experience in communications areas and develop a portfolio.

Double major in music; take additional courses in church music.

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Administration  
Vocational Training  
Industrial  
Retail  
Public Relations  
Programming  
Counseling  
Advocacy  
Camp Administration

National and local nonprofit organizations including United Way, Goodwill Industries, Salvation Army, sheltered industries, etc.  
Churches and religious organizations  
Correctional institutions  
Shelters  
Nursing homes  
  
Youth organizations and camps including YMCA, YWCA, Young Life, etc.

Volunteer with local organizations for experience.  
May need specialized training/certification for some areas.  
Obtain excellent interpersonal and oral and written communication skills.

### HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES

Administration  
Social Services  
Residential Living  
Religious Activities Programming  
Chaplaincy  
Counseling

Hospitals  
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 (children, youth, aging).  
Volunteer time in related organizations.  
Obtain advanced degrees for counseling and chaplaincy.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

CLERGY

Local churches  
Religious organizations  
Denominational boards and agencies

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.

CHAPLAINCY

Military

All branches of military service

Obtain ordination and two years' service in local church; after acceptance into branch of service, required to attend chaplaincy school.

Institutional

Hospitals  
Homes for children, youth, senior citizens  
Correctional institutions  
Police and fire departments

MISSIONS

Church and Community Development  
Education  
Medical  
Metropolitan Ministries  
Community Centers

Denominational boards or agencies  
Missions boards  
Local churches  
Religious institutions

Obtain any needed advanced degrees, certification or licensing for area of interest.  
Seek related volunteer or work experience.

EDUCATION

Teaching  
Research  
Counseling  
Administration/Staff  
Chaplaincy  
Religious Life Programming  
Campus Ministry

Religious-affiliated schools  
Preparatory schools  
Private, public or religious affiliated colleges and universities

Schools of theology

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.  
Requires a Master of Divinity and Ph.D. or Ph.D. in area of specialization.

**AREAS**

**EMPLOYERS**

**STRATEGIES**

BUSINESS

Administration/Management  
Human Resources

Local churches  
Religious bookstores  
Religious publishers  
Denominational boards/agencies  
Seminaries  
Religious affiliated schools  
Denominational hospitals, homes, schools, boards  
and agencies

Double major or minor in Business.  
Get related experience.

Building Management

Dual degree in engineering helpful.

Research

Develop research and writing skills.

JOURNALISM

Writing  
Editing  
Public Relations

Denominational boards/agencies  
Interdenominational organizations  
Local churches

May be freelance positions.  
Take courses in English, social sciences and  
journalism.  
Obtain related experience.  
Submit articles for publication for religious and  
nonreligious papers.

PUBLISHING

Writing  
Editing  
Public Relations  
Advertising  
Sales  
Administration  
Commercial Art

Denominational publishing houses of books and  
magazines  
Secular publishing houses  
Denominational area and regional offices

Take courses to develop excellent writing and  
editing skills.  
Learn desktop publishing techniques.

Develop artistic talent.  
Take courses or double major in Graphic Design/  
Illustration.

TELEVISION/RADIO/FILM

Local churches  
Denominational boards/agencies  
Secular radio, television and film industry

Positions limited within churches.  
Obtain specialized technical training, double major  
or minor in Broadcasting.  
Get related work experience.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Denominational groups including:  
Roman Catholic  
Episcopal, and  
Greek Orthodox

Apply to religious order for admittance.  
Requires self-discipline.

### **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 for professional and graduate study in business, law, medicine, counseling, higher education and other fields.
- Dual majors 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. required for college/university/seminary teaching, research and administration.
- Participation in local church activities helpful, Bible study, etc.
- 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.