

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What can I do with this degree?

| AREAS | EMPLOYERS | STRATEGIES |
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| <p><u>LOCAL MINISTRIES</u> 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</p> | <p>Local churches, synagogues and mosques Religious organizations Denominational boards</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
| <p><u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u> Administration Vocational Training Retail Public Relations Programming Counseling Advocacy Crisis Services (pregnancy, housing, etc.) Financial/Debt Counseling Camp Administration Lobbying</p> | <p>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</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |

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| <u>HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES</u> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
| <u>COMMUNICATIONS</u> 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
| <u>BUSINESS</u> Administration/Management Human Resources Building Management Research | Local churches, synagogues and mosques Religious bookstores Religious publishers Denominational boards/agencies Seminaries/schools of theology Religiously affiliated schools Denominational hospitals, homes, schools, boards and agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double major or minor in Business.• Get related experience.• Dual degree in engineering helpful.• Develop research and writing 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain ordination and two years' service in local church. After acceptance into branch of service, attend chaplaincy school. |

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| <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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
| <u>CLERGY</u> Buddhist Catholic Islamic Jewish Protestant | Local churches, synagogues, mosques Religious organizations Denominational boards and agencies Monasteries | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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>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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |

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| <p><u>GENERAL INFORMATION</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. | | |