# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## What can I do with this degree?

### AREAS

**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

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

**HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES**
- Administration
- Social Services
- Residential Living
- Religious Activities Programming
- Chaplaincy
- Counseling: Mental Health or Pastoral

### EMPLOYERS

- Local churches, synagogues and mosques
- Religious organizations
- Denominational boards
- 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
- Hospitals
- Mental health treatment facilities
- Nursing homes
- Retirement homes
- Assisted living homes
- Children/youth homes

### STRATEGIES

**LOCAL MINISTRIES**
- 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**
- 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**
- 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **CLERGY** | 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. |
| Buddhist  
Catholic  
Jewish  
Protestant | **CHAPLAINCY** | Obtain ordination and two years' service in local  
church. After acceptance into branch of service,  
attend chaplaincy school. |
| Military  
Institutional | All branches of military service  
Hospitals, hospices  
Homes for children, youth, senior citizens  
Correctional institutions  
Police and fire departments | **MISSIONS** | 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. |
| 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 | **EDUCATION** | 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 minist-  
erial services as well as administration, teaching,  
coaching, etc.  
Become involved in specific campus ministry organiza-  
tions. Seek leadership positions and internships or  
summer employment opportunities. |
| 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 Monas-  
tery | Teaching  
Research  
Counseling  
Administration/Staff  
Chaplaincy  
Religious Life Programming  
Campus Ministry |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUSINESS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration/Management</td>
<td>Local churches, synagogues and mosques</td>
<td>Double major or minor in Business. Get related experience.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Resources</td>
<td>Religious bookstores</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious publishers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Denominational boards/agencies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seminaries/schools of theology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religiously affiliated schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building Management</td>
<td>Denominational hospitals, homes, schools, boards and agencies</td>
<td>Dual degree in engineering helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COMMUNICATIONS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>Denominational boards/agencies</td>
<td>Consider freelance positions. Permanent positions are limited.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Editing</td>
<td>Interdenominational organizations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing</td>
<td>Local churches, synagogues and mosques</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Television/Film</td>
<td>Denominational publishing houses of books and magazines</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio</td>
<td>Secular publishing houses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Secular radio, television and film industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Art</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES</strong></td>
<td>Denominational groups including: Roman Catholic (Nuns and Monks)</td>
<td>Apply to religious order for admittance. Requires self-discipline. Desire to combine career with life/living arrangements.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.