## RELIGIOUS STUDIES
### What can I do with this degree?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **LOCAL MINISTRIES** | 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. |
| 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** | 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. |
| Administration  
Vocational Training  
Retail  
Public Relations  
Programming  
Counseling  
Advocacy  
Crisis Services (pregnancy, housing, etc.)  
Financial/Debt Counseling  
Camp Administration  
Lobbying | **HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES** | 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. |
| Administration  
Social Services  
Residential Living  
Religious Activities Programming  
Chaplaincy  
Counseling: Mental Health or Pastoral | | |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS</th>
<th>EMPLOYERS</th>
<th>STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLERGY</td>
<td>Local churches, synagogues, mosques, Religious organizations, Denominational boards and agencies, Monasteries</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPLAINCY</td>
<td>All branches of military service, Hospitals, hospices, Homes for children, youth, senior citizens, Correctional institutions, Police and fire departments</td>
<td>Obtain ordination and two years' service in local church. After acceptance into branch of service, attend chaplaincy school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MISSIONS</td>
<td>Denominational boards or agencies, Missions boards, Local churches, Religious institutions, Evangelical organizations e.g. Billy Graham Evangelistic Association</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>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</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### AREAS

#### BUSINESS
- Administration/Management
  - Local churches, synagogues and mosques
  - Religious bookstores
  - Religious publishers
  - Denominational boards/agencies
  - Seminaries/schools of theology
  - Religiously affiliated schools
- Human Resources
  - Denominational hospitals, homes, schools, boards and agencies
- Building Management
- Research

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

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

### EMPLOYERS

#### BUSINESS
- Double major or minor in Business.
- Get related experience.

#### COMMUNICATIONS
- Consider freelance positions. Permanent positions are limited.
- Take courses in English, social sciences and journalism.
- Develop excellent writing skills.
- Submit articles for publication.
- Learn desktop publishing techniques.
- Obtain specialized technical training.
- Develop artistic talent.
- Take courses or double major in Graphic Design/Illustration.
- Obtain related experience through internships.

### STRATEGIES

- Double major or minor in Business.
- Get related experience.
- Dual degree in engineering helpful.
- Develop research and writing skills.

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

- 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.