

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**What is Religious Studies?** (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/philoreligion.htm>)

“Religious studies examines spiritual belief, practices and worship activities. Undergraduate courses in philosophy and religion are geared toward the preparation for life rather than a specific type of work, and provide an excellent background for a variety of careers. A background in philosophy and religion can help develop character and personal skills that are extremely important in most job situations. They include the abilities to listen carefully and critically; think clearly; analyze and organize ideas; write; defend one’s position rationally; stimulate discussion; and question, confront, support, evaluate, reshape and understand different points of view.”

**What is this career like?** (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/oco20052.htm>)

“Clergy conduct religious worship and perform other spiritual functions associated with beliefs and practices of religious faith or denomination, and provide spiritual and moral guidance and assistance to members.

Directors of religious activities and education direct and coordinate activities of a denominational group to meet religious needs of students; plan, direct, or coordinate church school programs designed to promote religious education among church membership; and may provide counseling and guidance relative to marital, health, financial or religious problems.”

**What are the career opportunities for a religious studies concentrator?**

**Related Career Titles** (Some may require education beyond bachelor’s degree)

Administrative Assistant	Consultant	Lawyer
Announcer	Counselor	Lobbyist
Arts Consultant	Credit Analyst	Management Analyst
Assistant Buyer	Critic	Management Trainee
Associate Pastor	Customer Service Rep	Marketing Research Analyst
Author	Denominational Executive	Minister/Youth Minister
Business Administrator	Diplomat	Minister of Music
Campus Religious Coordin.	Director of Religious Education	Missionary
Campus Minister	Editorial Assistant	Newswriter
Chaplain	Employment Interviewer	Nursing Home Director
Church Building Engineer	Financial Consultant	Paralegal
Church Camp Director	Fund-raiser	Pastor
Church Secretary	Guidance Counselor	Priest
Claims Adjuster	Hospital Administrator	Producer/Director
Clergy	Insurance Underwriter	Professor
Columnist	Journalist	Psychologist
Public Policy Manager	Religious Education Teacher	Salvation Army Worker

Public Relations Rep.	Religious Researcher	Seminary Administrator
Public Service Official	Religious Staff Writer	Social Worker
Rabbi	Religious Educational Admin.	YMCA/YWCA Worker
Religious Bookstore Worker	Sales Representative	Technical Writer

### How do you get ready?

- 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, and network within the denominational/organizational structure.

### Related Major Skills

Communicating in logical manner	Interest in pursuing, exploring and explaining intangible ideas
Debating skills	Self-discipline
Theory development	Curiosity
Open-mindedness	Close, extensive reading
Objectivity	Work independently
Oratory skills	Problem solving
Deductive reasoning	

### What about the future? (from <http://www.bls.gov/oco>.)

Employment of Clergy and Directors of Religious Activities or Education is expected to increase faster than the average occupation from 2006 – 2016.

For additional job outlook information, refer to [www.bls.gov/oco](http://www.bls.gov/oco).

## Available at Albright College Career Development Center's Resource Library

- Careers for Caring People and Other Sensitive Types, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Careers for Courageous People and Other Adventurous Types, by Jan Goldberg
- Careers for Good Samaritans and Other Humanitarian Types, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Careers for Newagers and Other Cosmic Types, by Blythe Camenson
- Careers for Talkative Types and Others with the Gift of Gab, by Marjorie Eberts and Margaret Gisler
- Opportunities in Counseling and Development Careers, by Neale Baxter and Philip A. Perry
- Opportunities in Library and Information Science Careers, by Kathleen de la Pena McCook
- Opportunities in Nonprofit Organization Careers, by Adrian A. Paradis
- Opportunities in Overseas Careers, by Blythe Camenson
- Opportunities in Religious Service Careers, by John Oliver Nelson
- Opportunities in Social Work Careers, by Renee Wittenberg

### Disclaimer

Links to Internet sites are provided for your convenience and do not constitute an endorsement by Albright College or the Career Development Center.

Links found at <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/index.htm>

### Career Planning Links

- Idealist - The Non-Profit Career Center <http://www.idealists.org/career.html>
- Non-profit Jobs <http://www.opportunityknocks.org>
- Youth With A Mission <http://www.ywam.org/Default.asp?bhcp=1>
- Church and Ecumenical Resources <http://wcc-coe.org>
- Why Study Religion? <http://www.studyreligion.org/>
- Church Jobs <http://www.churchstaffing.com/>
- Christian Career Center <http://www.christiancareercenter.com/>
- United World Mission <http://www.uwm.org/>
- Hillel <http://www.hillel.org/index>
- Muslim Student Association <http://www.msanational.org/>
- Buddhist Association of the United States <http://www.baus.org/>
- American Academy of Religion <http://www.aarweb.org/>
- American Association of Pastoral Counselors <http://www.aapc.org/>
- Ministry Jobs <http://www.ministryjobs.com>
- Ministry Jobs <http://www.ministrysearch.com>