

LIBERAL ARTS OVERVIEW

Many majors, such as Philosophy and Religious Studies, give students experiences they need to succeed in a variety of areas. Religious Studies can prepare students to pursue a career in religion, or give them skills to thrive in other fields. Students from our Religious Studies major have also gone into the fields of human services, business, the arts, and higher education. Their courses, projects, and involvement have given them “transferable skills,” which are skills that can be used for most careers. Some transferable skills learned by Religious Studies majors are communication, problem solving, critical thinking, and empathy. The core of Religious Studies is an education of belief systems. In turn, this helps students feel comfortable working with others who may not have the same point of view, and helps them to appreciate those with differing views. Students in Religious Studies will gain an understanding of themselves and the world around them.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What is Religious Studies?

“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.”

Related Career Titles (Some may require education beyond bachelor’s degree) (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/philoreligion.htm>)

Academic Support Worker	Counselor	Lobbyist
Administrative Assistant	Consultant	Lawyer
Announcer	Credit Analyst	Management Analyst
Arts Consultant	Critic	Management Trainee
Assistant Buyer	Customer Service Representative	Marketing Research Analyst
Associate Pastor	Denominational Executive	Minister/Youth Minister
Author	Diplomat	Minister of Music
Business Administrator	Director of Religious Education	Missionary
Campus Minister	Employment Interviewer	Nursing Home Director
Campus Religious Coordin.	Editorial Assistant	Newswriter
Chaplain	Financial Consultant	Paralegal

Church Building Engineer	Youth Outreach Worker	Pastor
Church Camp Director	Camp Counselor	Priest
Church Secretary	Guidance Counselor	Producer/Director
Claims Adjuster	Hospital Administrator	Professor
Clergy	Insurance Underwriter	Psychologist
Columnist	Journalist	Salvation Army Worker
Dance Instructor	Personnel Coordinator	Volunteer Coordinator
Public Policy Manager	Religious Education Teacher	Seminary Administrator
Public Relations Rep.	Religious Researcher	Social Worker
Public Service Official	Religious Staff Writer	YMCA/YWCA Worker
Rabbi	Religious Educational Admin.	Technical Writer
Religious Bookstore Worker	Sales Representative	Librarian
Crisis Hotline Worker	Human Resources Manager	Higher Education Admin.

How do you get ready?

- Bachelor's degree provides broad background for careers in many fields, including many religious-affiliated organizations, non profits, business, the arts, and government 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. Ph.D., Th.D. or D.Min. required for college/university/seminary teaching, research and administration
- Possess understanding of human spiritual and social needs.
- Obtain part-time, summer, internship, volunteer experience in religious institution, 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.
- 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 (from <http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/philoreligion.htm>)

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	Empathy

What about the future?

“Employment of social and community service managers is projected to grow 10 percent from 2014 to 2024, faster than the average for all occupations.”

For additional job outlook information, refer to www.bls.gov/

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 Experiential Learning and Career Development Center.

Career Planning Links

- Work for Good <https://www.workforgood.org/>
- Youth With A Mission <http://www.ywam.org/>
- World Council of Churches <http://www.oikoumene.org/en>
- 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/>
- The Wabash Center <http://www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/home/default.aspx>
- United Way <http://www.unitedway.org/>
- YMCA <http://www.ymca.net/>
- Red Cross <http://www.redcross.org/>
- Non-Profit List <http://www.nonprofitlist.org/>
- USA Jobs <https://www.usajobs.gov/>
- Summer Camps <http://www.summercamps.com/>
- National Youth Network <http://www.nationalyouth.com/>
- Hospice Foundation of American <http://www.hospicefoundation.org/>
- Amnesty International <http://www.amnestyusa.org/>
- JusticeWorks Family of Services <http://www.justiceworksyouthcare.com/>
- Peace Corps <http://www.peacecorps.gov/>
- AmeriCorps <http://www.americorps.gov/>
- Habitat for Humanity <http://www.habitat.org/>
- Higher Ed Jobs <http://www.higheredjobs.com/>
- National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice <http://www.ncmhjj.com/>
- Healthcare Administration <http://healthcareadministrationjobs.net/>
- Wildlife Conservation Society <http://www.wcs.org/>
- National Wildlife Federation <http://www.nwf.org/>
- World Wildlife Fund <http://worldwildlife.org/>
- Society for Human Resource Management <http://www.shrm.org/Pages/default.aspx>