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 and 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Support Worker</th>
<th>Counselor</th>
<th>Lobbyist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
<td>Lawyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Announcer</td>
<td>Credit Analyst</td>
<td>Management Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts Consultant</td>
<td>Critic</td>
<td>Management Trainee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Buyer</td>
<td>Customer Service Representative</td>
<td>Marketing Research Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate Pastor</td>
<td>Denominational Executive</td>
<td>Minister/Youth Minister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Diplomat</td>
<td>Minister of Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administrator</td>
<td>Director of Religious Education</td>
<td>Missionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Minister</td>
<td>Employment Interviewer</td>
<td>Nursing Home Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campus Religious Coordin.</td>
<td>Editorial Assistant</td>
<td>Newswriter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaplain</td>
<td>Financial Consultant</td>
<td>Paralegal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Building Engineer</td>
<td>Youth Outreach Worker</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Camp Director</td>
<td>Camp Counselor</td>
<td>Priest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Secretary</td>
<td>Guidance Counselor</td>
<td>Producer/Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claims Adjuster</td>
<td>Hospital Administrator</td>
<td>Professor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clergy</td>
<td>Insurance Underwriter</td>
<td>Psychologist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columnist</td>
<td>Journalist</td>
<td>Salvation Army Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dance Instructor</td>
<td>Personnel Coordinator</td>
<td>Seminary Administrator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Policy Manager</td>
<td>Religious Education Teacher</td>
<td>Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations Rep.</td>
<td>Religious Researcher</td>
<td>YMCA/YWCA Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Service Official</td>
<td>Religious Staff Writer</td>
<td>Technical Writer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rabbi</td>
<td>Religious Educational Admin.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious Bookstore Worker</td>
<td>Sales Representative</td>
<td>Librarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crisis Hotline Worker</td>
<td>Human Resources Manager</td>
<td>Higher Education Admin.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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](http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/Majors/philoreligion.htm))

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Communicating in logical manner</th>
<th>Interest in pursuing, exploring and explaining intangible ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debating skills</td>
<td>Self-discipline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theory development</td>
<td>Curiosity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 21 percent from 2012 to 2022, faster than the average for all occupations.”

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

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

- Idealist http://www.idealist.org
- Non-profit Jobs http://www.opportunityknocks.org
- Youth With A Mission http://www.ywam.org/
- World Council of Churches http://www.oikoumene.org/en
- 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.summrcamps.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