

Religion

What can I do with this major?

CCUPATIONS	EMPLOYERS	SKILLS TO DEVELOP
<u>LOCAL MINISTRIES</u> 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 Television, Radio and Films Music	Local churches, synagogues and mosques Religious organizations Denominational boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get additional training or double major in specialized areas.• Obtain certification for specialized areas.• Volunteer to help with Chapel and Candlelight Services• Obtain Master's degree in Divinity or counseling.• 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.• 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.
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u> Administration Vocational Training Retail Public Relations Programming Counseling Advocacy Crisis Services (pregnancy, housing, etc.) Financial/Debt Counseling Camp Administration Lobbying	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
<u>HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES</u> Administration Social Services Residential Living Religious Activities Programming Chaplain Counseling: Mental Health or Pastoral	Hospitals Mental health treatment facilities Nursing homes Retirement homes Assisted living homes Children/youth homes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Double major or minor in Business, Social Work, Sociology, Psychology• 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.

OCCUPATIONS**EMPLOYERS****SKILLS TO DEVELOP****EDUCATION**

Teaching
 Research
 Counseling
 Administration/Staff
 Chaplaincy
 Religious Life Programming
 Campus Ministry

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

- Obtain certification/licensure to teach grades K-12.
- 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.
- Volunteer as a tutor.
- Secure strong personal recommendations, particularly from professors.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

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

- Apply to religious order for admittance.
- Requires self-discipline.
- Obtain related experience through internships.
- Desire to combine career with life/living arrangements.

CLERGY

Buddhist
 Catholic
 Jewish
 Protestant

Local churches, synagogues, mosques
 Religious organizations
 Denominational boards and agencies
 Monasteries

- Volunteer to help with Chapel and Candlelight Services
- Work with religious groups on campus.
- 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.

OCCUPATIONS**EMPLOYERS****SKILLS TO DEVELOP****CHAPLAINCY**

Military	All branches of military service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain ordination and two years' service in local church. After acceptance into branch of service, attend chaplaincy school.
Institutional	Hospitals, hospices Homes for children, youth, senior citizens Correctional institutions Police and fire departments	

MISSIONS

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
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COMMUNICATIONS

Writing Editing Publishing Television/Film Radio Advertising Public Relations Sales Commercial Art	Denominational boards/agencies Interdenominational organizations Local churches, synagogues and mosques Denominational publishing houses of books and magazines Secular publishing houses Secular radio, television and film industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider freelance positions. Permanent positions are limited. • Take courses in English, social sciences and journalism. Develop excellent writing skills. • Submit articles for publication for religious and nonreligious papers and journals. • Learn desktop publishing techniques. • Obtain specialized technical training such as a double major or minor in Communication.
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BUSINESS

Human Resources Training and Development Recruiting Management Sales Marketing Public Relations Office Administration Research	Local churches, synagogues and mosques Religious bookstores Religious publishers Denominational boards/agencies Seminaries/schools of theology Religiously affiliated schools Denominational hospitals, homes, schools, boards and agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure leadership roles in campus organizations. • Gain experience as financial officer or treasurer of a campus organization. • Join student professional associations. • Take basic business classes such as accounting and finance. • Gain business experience through part-time jobs, summer work, and internships. • Develop excellent computer skills. Learn to use software applications such as spreadsheets, databases, and word processing. • Join related professional associations.
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Strategies For Placement In Religion

- 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.
- 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.

Internet Resources:

Vault: more information on the every day life of a counselor, writer, business manager, lawyer. This site is accessible through the Career Services Website:
www.capital.edu/careers

Industry Profile -Counseling, Law: www.wetfeet.com/asp/careerlist.asp
Covers Industry Trends & Overview, "Love-Hate" (pros and cons of this field), Major Players and Job Descriptions & Tips.