

Careers for Religious Studies Majors

A Bachelors degree in Religious Studies provides a broad education that enables students to pursue careers in many different directions. While some people may use it as a path for a career in ministry, more will take it as preparation for a professional degree. Others will use it to launch themselves into a career in business or medicine. Many Religious Studies majors go on to post-graduate education. A Religious Studies degree works like other liberal arts degrees, such as history or literature, where talents of the mind are honed and sharpened for future use in a variety of careers.

Job areas available to Religious Studies Majors

- Publishing and Writing: book author, editor, magazine writer or editor, technical writer.
- Journalism: reporter, writer, or columnist for print or internet; broadcaster.
- News staffer, public relations official, government liaison.
- Government (local and national), non-profit organizations, and public relations.
- Ministerial: Religious education; campus or youth ministry; pastor, rabbi, or priest; chaplain in military, hospitals, and prisons.
- Business: sales, purchasing, management, human resources, office manager, administrative assistant.
- Teaching: primary and secondary schools; junior college, college, and university.
- Financial: banking, investing, fundraising, insurance.
- International: Foreign service, international correspondent, Peace Corps, international business, non-governmental organizations.
- Legal: Lawyer, legal assistant, court official.
- Curators in museums or art galleries; librarians in libraries or archives.
- Ski bum ;-)

Post-Graduate Education

Religious Studies degrees often form the first step towards a career that requires or is enhanced by further education. Many Religious Studies majors are Pre-Law, Pre-Med, Pre-Dent, or Pre-MBA. Other Religious Studies majors go on into academic fields; in addition to Religious Studies itself, some majors pursue a masters degree or even a doctorate in: archaeology, anthropology, education, international studies, literature, language, linguistics, ministry, political science.

The Skill Set of Religious Studies Majors

The above suggestions are just the beginning. Religious Studies majors develop a broad range of intellectual skills that provide flexibility for students to carve out their own career path. Skills include:

- Critical thinking and problem-solving
- Communication skills, particularly writing and speaking
- Ability to understand and apply complex ideas and theories
- Skills in understanding information and determining relevancy
- Ability to read and understand complex and dense writing
- Knowledge of different cultures, beliefs and practices
- Comfortableness with learning different world views and ways of life
- Open-mindedness and objective thinking