

What can I do with a major in...

Religion

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The word "religion" may come either from roots meaning "to bind back" or "to be careful." Either way, the academic study of religion seeks to understand different ways in which human beings as caring creatures have sought to live with their loves and fears and to bind themselves--or to find themselves bound--to some source of meaning, hope, power, nourishment. Thus, religion is intimately related to art, philosophy, history, psychology, literature and more. Religion is a center from which to explore one's cultural inheritance and the visions, which have animated--and continue to animate and sustain--human life.

What about "careers" related to a major in religion? Much more significant than what one studies in the religion major is often the way one learns to deal with diversity, to enter imaginatively into perspectives on a world very different from one's own, and to engage these perspectives in dialogue with insight and respect. So a student in religion should think about careers in terms of skills acquired--dealing with persons of different backgrounds, communicating effectively, mediating, encouraging and understanding.

The job titles and hiring institutions which follow are meant to give you an idea of the careers available to religion majors, however many other possibilities also exist. You are encouraged to explore all career paths that interest you.

POTENTIAL JOB TITLES

Administrative officer (federal, state, county, municipal)	Missionary worker
Archaeological assistant	Museum guide or technician
Archivist	Music minister
Business/management trainee	Musician
Campus religious coordinator	News editor (radio, T.V.)
Clergy member	Peace Corps volunteer
College/university official	Personnel manager
Consultant	Professor
Counselor	Program development
Critic (art, books, drama, films)	Psychologist
Editor/journalist	Public relations
Family/marriage counselor	Public survey interviewer
Foreign correspondent	Religious bookstore manager
Foreign service officer	Research assistant (documents and records)
Fund raiser	School guidance counselor
Insurance agent/broker	Social/welfare worker
Lawyer	Teacher
Legal assistant	Travel consultant
Librarian	Writer/author, free-lance
	Youth counselor

REPRESENTATIVE HIRING INSTITUTIONS

Archives	Magazines, newspapers, and periodicals
Bookstores	Museums
Business corporations and industries	Public relations firms
Churches and religious organizations	Publishing companies
Colleges, schools, and educational institutions	Radio/T.V. industry
Foundations and nonprofit organizations	Research institutes
Government agencies, incl. armed services	School institutions
Insurance companies	Social services agencies
Libraries	Travel agencies

WHERE DO UMW RELIGION MAJORS GO?

EMPLOYERS/INTERNSHIP SITES

- Peace Corps
- Genocide Watch
- Hope House
- Mary Washington Hospice
- Stafford County Department of Social Services
- The Young Priests Initiative/Diocese of Virginia

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

1. American Academy of Religion: www.aarweb.org
2. American Academy of Ministry: www.preaching.com/ministry
3. Hartford Institute for Religion Research Hartford Seminary: hrr.hartsem.edu

**The Office of Career Services also maintains a resource library with a variety of books and other printed material where students can access additional information about their major or field of interest. Visit us in Lee Hall, Room 308 to learn more.*