

What Can I Do With a Major in Religion?

A major in Religion offers intellectual excitement. It also offers broad access to many career options. Indeed, the study of religion has broad value because it has an international component, deals with values, and speaks to contemporary issues. All these make it very meaningful as preparation for a variety of vocational and professional opportunities.

Students choose to major in Religion for many different reasons. Most do not intend to pursue a professional career in ministry or in the academic study of religion.

A recent survey of graduates who have majored in Religion shows that they have pursued diverse careers. This underscores the fact that a Religion major is valuable in its own right but can also function as excellent preparation for a variety of occupations.

- x 35% are professionals of various kinds -- city managers, bankers, engineers, journalists, etc.
- x 19% are in a variety of ministerial professions -- clergy, directors of religious education, etc.
- x 14% are educators -- teachers, college professors
- x 8% are in legal professions -- attorneys, judges
- x 18% are medical professionals -- doctors, dentists, or other health professionals
- x 6% are in other fields

About two-thirds of the majors graduating in 2007 were planning to attend graduate or professional school; and nearly half of the majors were headed to medical school.



The Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS) is a membership organization of more than 260 graduate schools that conduct postgraduate professional and academic degree programs to educate persons for the practice of ministry and for teaching and research in the theological disciplines. The Commission on Accrediting of ATS accredits the schools and approves the degree programs they offer.