

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A CONCENTRATION IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

To navigate an increasingly interdependent world, it is necessary that more people develop the skills to interpret and adjudicate diverse cultural perspectives, competing ethical concerns, divergent concepts of body, mind, self, and ultimate spiritual goals. Religious Studies provides the foundation. It also supports and enables a wide range of advanced educational and career options:

- Teaching: primary, secondary, college, and university levels,
- Ministry, Psychological Counseling, and Social Work: a background in Religious Studies provides an excellent foundation for these human-service-oriented careers. Many of our students have gone on to Social Work school.
- Legal careers: in addition to the historical and philosophical dimensions encompassed by Religious Studies, the program also includes the study of diverse ethical systems and values in their cultural contexts.
- Medicine: Due to the exposure students gain to cross-cultural bio-ethical philosophies, doctrines, and ethics, a religious studies education is an increasingly useful background to bring to a medical career, as medicine pushes the known boundaries of life and death.
- Government and Politics: In our complex, multi-cultural world, there is a greater need for social policy analysts, government workers and politicians to understand the values, aims, and concerns of people who come from a host of religious backgrounds and cultural contexts.
- Business, especially International Business: Today we face a global economy that requires people of a wide spectrum of worldviews to communicate across cultural differences and cooperate with those who share differing values. Those who are skilled in understanding multiple perspectives can become leaders in business and international commerce
- Journalism: In an era of instant communication across the globe, accurate and deeply informed information is crucial. Misinformation exacerbates fears that can engender prejudice and violence. Conversely, well-informed journalism can help deepen understanding, tolerance, and peaceful social expressions.
- NGO work, Environmentalism, and Social Activism: Combined with the other specialized skills necessary, a Religious Studies background provides a depth of cultural, ethical, and philosophical knowledge about the highest aspirations people have had in the world. This exposure can be deployed across a spectrum of vital, world altering, compassionate pursuits, many of which our students have set off to explore.

Because of its inherent multi-disciplinarity, Religious Studies is able to be combined especially well with other majors, as many RS students have learned, who have held dual, triple, and even quadruple majors with majors such as Anthropology, International Studies, Foreign Languages, English, Political Science, History, Economics, Business, and even Biology and Physics. Religious Studies also offers an appealing minor and numerous opportunities for students to take Honors classes.