WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN … RELIGIOUS STUDIES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
Religious studies examine spiritual beliefs and practices through which groups of people have tried to make sense of their common experiences in the world. Academic courses in religion approach these beliefs and practices from many standpoints: in their common forms and structure; in the contexts of the cultures in which they originate; in their artistic, literary, theological and philosophical expressions; and through the insights provided by the behavioral sciences.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:
Religious Studies is an interdisciplinary and interdepartmental program offering a wide range of approaches to the study of religions. Students enter such a program with a variety of professional and personal goals. “Students major or minor in religious studies in order to pursue careers as scholars of religion, to become clerical or lay ministers in a variety of traditions, to prepare for professional school, and/or to explore their own deepest interests” (from UNM Religious Studies website).

CAREER FIELDS/INDUSTRIES:
Please ask your Career Advisor (CDF) for identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Students often apply their Religious Studies degree in the following diverse areas:

- Law
- Medicine
- Ministry
- Social service
- Teaching
- Archaeology
- Community development
- Program coordination
- Editing
- Publishing
- Museum/archival work
- Public relations
- Library work
- Consulting
- Peace Corps/Americorps
- Foreign Service
- Higher education administration
- Counseling
- Business

EMPLOYERS:
Here is a sample of some employers of Religious Studies majors:

- Advertising agencies
- Consulting firms
- Colleges & universities
- Government
- Political parties
- Hospitals
- Nonprofit organizations
- Media
- State & federal government
- Religious associations
- Publishing companies
- Business/industry
- Newspapers/magazines

GENERAL STRATEGIES:
- Gain related experience in your area of interest through internships, research, part-time jobs, volunteer positions, or campus/community leadership positions.
- Supplement coursework to form a specialty that reflects your interest area (e.g., taking extra business courses if you see yourself entering the business world).
- If you are interested in graduate school, investigate REQUIREMENT of different types of programs (e.g., social work programs will have a different focus on prerequisites that law school).
- Market upon the “transferable skills” your degree taught you: the ability to listen carefully and critically; think clearly; analyze and organize ideas; write; defend one’s position through reasoning; stimulate discussion; and question, confront, support, evaluate, reshape, and understand different points of view.
INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

Why Study Religion?  
http://www.studyreligion.org/why/index.html

Philanthropy Careers  
http://philanthropy.com/jobs/

Church Staffing.com  
http://www.churchstaffing.com/

Christian Career Center.com  
http://www.christiancareercenter.com/

United World Mission  
http://www.uwm.org/

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life  
http://www.hillel.org/index

Islamic Students Association  
http://www.msanational.org/

Buddhist Association of the United States  
http://www.baus.org/

American Academy of Religion  
http://www.aarweb.org/

American Association of Pastoral Counselors  
http://www.aapc.org/

Idealist  
http://www.idealist.org/

OTHER INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

http://online.onetcenter.org

http://www.bls.gov/oco/