

What can I do with a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies?

A guide compiled by CUE Career Services and the Faculty of Arts

General Skill Sets

A Bachelor of Arts degree is versatile. Graduates are employed in almost every industry and every company in North America. When employers are hiring, they are interested in transferable skills attained through university study. Examples include:

- Commitment to a course of study to attain a degree
- Leadership skills
- Problem solving
- Research skills
- Writing and presentation skills
- Critical thinking
- Ability to analyze information and concepts

University graduates who have been employed for approximately two years tend to make a change. Although factors such as the state of the economy and work performance impact one's career journey, there is greater potential for people who have a bachelor degree to be promoted or to attain leadership positions. As graduates combine their degree with accumulated work experience, they may transition into positions with increased responsibilities and higher salaries with a current employer, or leave the organization to take on new roles elsewhere. As learning is life-long, some careers which are related to an English Degree require additional training. This may involve weekend, evening or part-time courses or fulltime education.

Skills developed in Religious Studies

Major skills include:

- Understanding how religion shapes culture and individuals, and is shaped by them
- Ability to apply issues connected to religion to any setting
- Ability to articulate complex, abstract thinking
- Understanding of ethics and ethical systems
- Ability to persuade
- Sensitivity to the views of others
- Awareness of the relationship of the individual to the group
- Preparing and making presentations
- Ability to evaluate and create systems for evaluation
- Self-discipline and focus
- Critical thought through an understanding of how hidden assumptions, value systems, and world-views affect thought and action

As learning is life-long, some careers which are related to a Religious Studies Degree require additional training. This may involve weekend, evening or part-time courses; further education (some employers provide support by allowing time or offering finances to assist you in your learning); distance studies; or full-time college or university. The Bachelor's Degree is a starting point.

People who have a BA degree in Religious Studies (including Concordia alumni) have pursued careers stated in the following list:

(Note: this list is not comprehensive. There are other options that are not mentioned.)

Politics/Government

- Lobbyist
- Campaign manager
- Consultant for political parties
- Consultant for government
- Speech writer
- Administrator for government
- Lawyer

Non Profit and Community

- Religious minister
- Chaplain
- Missionary
- Volunteer manager
- Frontline outreach worker
- Librarian
- Arts festival manger
- Physician
- Community service worker
- Camp director
- Rehabilitation counsellor
- Marriage/family counsellor
- Fund raiser
- Hospice director
- Manager or executive director of non-profit agency

Museums/History

- Curator
- Archivist
- Genealogical researcher

Communications

- Journalist (paper, radio, television)
- Communications director for religious organization
- Public relations manager
- Researcher
- Public Opinion Analyst
- Critic
- Editor
- Writer

Education

- Teacher
- University or college professor
- Early Childhood Educator
- Religious education director
- Private consultant (developing educational programs)

Business

- Retail store manager
- Collection agent
- Marketing specialist
- Advisor/consultant for global business

REFERENCES

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www.jobfutures.ca

www.ashland.edu/cardev

www.bsu.edu/careers

www.uleth.ca/ross/ces/majors.html

For more information or assistance with career and educational planning, please contact CUE Career Services at +1 780 378 8461 or email us at careerservices@concordia.ab.ca.

