

## What Can I do With a Major in Religion?

Of course the study of religion provides many occasions for personal and intellectual growth, but the Department of Religion at Boston University is also committed to transmitting a variety of practical skills to its students:

- Religion courses give students a fundamental cultural literacy that is especially important today given the growing diversity of the United States as well as increasing globalization.
- Students are trained in important research skills including data gathering and direct observation.
- Religion students are also asked to interpret and express positions on challenging and perplexing material, exercising both analytical skills and originality.
- Courses in religion constantly test and develop students' critical intelligence; they also teach students to empathize with fellow human beings in order to understand varying perspectives.

Contemporary American society thrives on information. In today's multicultural workplace and global economy, basic knowledge about other cultures and religious perspectives is indispensable. In addition, good interpreters of information are in high demand. Gathering data, organizing it, understanding it, and presenting it—both orally and in writing—are vital skills in the study of religion, and in most professions, these skills are absolutely required.

But success in a chosen career is not just about interpreting information: it also depends on making connections with people. Studying religion is about people and their many perspectives. In jobs that require relating to others, reaching out to them, building bridges, or acknowledging and incorporating many perspectives at once, a religion major will provide an excellent foundation.

Using and building on the skills that they learn while earning their Bachelor's degrees, Religion majors have successfully gone on to graduate professional training in:

- Business (particularly international business)
- Counseling and Social Work
- Education
- Journalism
- Law
- Medicine

Others have moved directly into the job market, taking up positions in:

- Event planning, hospitality, or the service industry
- The government, foreign service, or the Peace Corps
- Marketing and management
- Museums and the arts
- Non-profit or non-governmental organizations
- Publishing

The cultural literacy, analytical and research skills, and ability to engage a variety of perspectives that Religion majors bring to these fields of study make them highly competitive when seeking admissions to graduate programs or applying for jobs. These skills also help them to succeed and indeed thrive, whatever path they choose.

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