WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... RELIGIOUS STUDIES

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:
The UNM Religious Studies program (2013) states that it “trains undergraduate students in the academic study of religion, with a particular emphasis on religion in a rapidly globalizing world, in American life, and in the rich diversity of New Mexico.” The UNM Religious Studies program highlights that its students develop an understanding of major world traditions and the impact of these traditions on human culture. The program approaches religion “as a lens through which the human condition, intellectual and social history, and contemporary human societies can be viewed.” The UNM Religious Studies program also highlights that Religious Studies students develop excellent critical reading and thinking skills which serve as a great foundation for graduate studies.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENT:
A bachelor's degree is the minimum formal education required and is excellent preparation for occupations in law, education, medicine, counseling, social work, or the ministry. Some industries, such as counseling or social work, require a graduate degree for entry into the profession. Consult O*Net for more information on the specific KSAs (Knowledge, Skill, Ability) that are required for careers in this field.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:
The UNM Religious Studies Program offers a Bachelor’s of Arts in Religious Studies as well as an Undergraduate Minor. You can find further information on the UNM Religious Studies' website.

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:
A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s Lobo Career Connection for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the UNM Office of Career Services for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Government
- Public affairs, cultural affairs, Foreign Service officer, community development, AmeriCorps or Peace Corps volunteer

Education/Student Affairs
- K-12 teaching/administration, college preparation, counseling/advising, adult/GED education, missionary, University/college teaching/administration, research, advising/counseling, multicultural affairs, residence life, Greek affairs, religious life programming, student activities, campus ministry, librarian, archivist, curator

Human Services
- Public relations, human resources, case worker, social worker, counselor, mental health services, medicine, ministry, fundraising, grant writing, crisis services, community development, community organizing

Law/Politics
- Law, lobbying, government relations, public policy, research, immigration services, Campaign management, elected/appointed civil servants

Communications
- Public opinion analyst, research/technical advisor, public relations, editor, publishing, writing, journalism, television, film, radio, advertising

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES
- Consider enhancing your degree with a double major, minor, or concentration in another area.
- Gain professional experience in your area of interest through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Shadow professionals in fields of interest to gain a better understanding of their occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
- Attend career-related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
• Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
• Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
• Job leads can be found on your department’s website, list-serv, newsletters, and social media sites.

INFORMATIONAL WEBSITES:

American Academy of Religion  http://www.aarweb.org/
American Association of Pastoral Counselors  http://www.aapc.org/
Religious Research Association  http://rra.hartsem.edu/
Religion News writers Association  http://www.rna.org/
Religious Education Association  http://www.religiouseducation.net/
Why Study Religion?  http://www.studyreligion.org
The Religious Studies Project  http://www.religiousstudiesproject.com

REFERENCES