

So What Are You Going to Do with a Religion Degree?

Whether you've already declared a major or minor in religion, or you're just considering taking some more religion courses, it's very likely that you've wondered what you might do with a religion degree. In conversations with family and friends it's almost guaranteed that someone has asked you about your decision to study religion. "What kinds of things do you talk about?" "Isn't that just advanced Sunday School?" or "Doesn't that challenge your faith?" Maybe you've heard some questionable statements in the media about Islam or you've had a discussion with someone about the Bible. And surely someone has asked you, "So what are you going to do with that?"

That is *the* question for students of religion, isn't it? So what are you going to do with that? The American Academy of Religion, the professional academic society for scholars of religion, recently completed a nationwide survey of recent religion graduates and the results might surprise you. Religion students are thriving in all sorts of careers, and most of them specifically single out their religion courses as an important part of their preparation for success. Religion students go on to graduate and professional school in a number of fields, they work for non-profits and government agencies, they become journalists and educators and writers and managers and entrepreneurs and ministers and healthcare workers. In fact, two-thirds of religion majors embark on careers not traditionally associated with religion. But no matter what career path they choose, religion majors appreciate the complexity and the diversity of the world all around them, and they thank their study of religion for giving them the skills and the perspectives needed to succeed in their careers and to make a difference in the world.

If you would like to read a brief summary of the AAR survey, you can do so here: <http://rsn.aarweb.org/articles/what-are-you-going-do-with-that>. And if you are considering adding a major or minor in religion to your studies at Butler, please stop by the department to chat or email a religion professor to learn more about our program. Professors Bauman, Hege, McGrath, and Valliere are always happy to meet with students!