

## *Career Paths for Lay Students in Theology/Religious Studies*

<b>AREAS</b>	<b>EMPLOYERS</b>	<b>STRATEGIES</b>
<u>LOCAL MINISTRIES</u>		
Youth Ministries Adult Ministries Leisure Ministries Counseling/Recovery Religious Education Day Care, Children & Adult Missionary Outreach Food Bank/Emergency Ministries Family Life Center Management Journalism Public Relations Television, Radio and Film Publishing Music	Local churches, synagogues and mosques Religious organizations Denominational boards	Get additional training or take courses in specialized areas. Obtain certification for specialized areas. Obtain Master's degree in counseling. Gain experience by volunteering or working in local church and religious organizations. Obtain an internship at denominational headquarters. Build relationships with local church and denominational leaders. Get experience in communications areas and develop a portfolio. Take additional courses in music or religious music. Get performance experience through DSPT or Tri-School events.
<u>SOCIAL SERVICES</u>		
Administration Vocational Training Retail Public Relations Programming Counseling Advocacy Crisis Services (pregnancy, housing, etc.) Financial/Debt Counseling Camp Administration Lobbying	Non-profit organizations Churches, synagogues and mosques Religious hospitals and hospices Correctional institutions Shelters Youth organizations and camps Nursing homes Adoption agencies/Foster Care Religious political organizations	Volunteer or work at local organizations for experience. May need specialized training/certification for some areas. Obtain excellent interpersonal and oral/written communication skills. Seek summer camp experience and leadership roles. Legal experience and a law degree may be required.

**AREAS****EMPLOYERS****STRATEGIES**HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTRIES

Administration	Hospitals	Take additional courses in Business, Social Work, etc.
Social Services	Mental health treatment facilities	Take courses related to special populations.
Residential Living	Nursing homes	Volunteer time in related organizations.
Religious Activities Programming	Retirement homes	Obtain advanced degrees and certification for counseling and chaplaincy.
Chaplaincy	Assisted living homes	
Counseling: Mental Health or Pastoral	Children/youth homes	

MISSIONS

Church and Community Development	Denominational boards or agencies	Obtain any needed advanced degrees, certification, or licensing for area of interest.
Education	Missions boards	Seek related volunteer or work experience.
Medical	Local churches	Obtain travel and cultural experience with group of interest. Foreign language skills are a plus.
Metropolitan Ministries	Religious institutions	Develop fundraising skills and contacts.
Community Centers		
Evangelism		

EDUCATION

Teaching	Religiously affiliated schools	May require certification/licensure to teach.
Research	Preparatory schools	
Counseling	Private, public or religiously affiliated colleges and universities	Ph.D. usually required for teaching, research and administration in colleges, universities, and seminaries. Adjunct positions may be available with a Master's degree.
Administration/Staff		
Chaplaincy		May require multiple skills such as providing ministerial services as well as administration, teaching, coaching, etc.
Religious Life Programming	Schools of theology/seminaries	
Campus Ministry	Affiliated campus ministry organizations	Volunteer or work at related organizations.

**AREAS****EMPLOYERS****STRATEGIES**BUSINESS

Administration/Management  
 Human Resources  
 Building Management  
 Research

Local churches, synagogues  
 and mosques  
 Religious bookstores  
 Religious publishers  
 Denominational  
 boards/agencies  
  
 Seminaries/schools of theology  
 Religiously affiliated schools  
  
 Denominational hospitals,  
 homes, schools, boards and  
 agencies

Take additional courses in  
 Business.  
 Get related experience.  
  
 Develop research and writing  
 skills.

COMMUNICATIONS

Writing  
 Editing  
 Publishing  
 Television/Film  
 Radio  
 Advertising  
 Public Relations  
 Sales  
 Commercial Art

Denominational  
 boards/agencies  
 Interdenominational  
 organizations  
 Local churches, synagogues  
 and mosques  
  
 Denominational publishing  
 houses of books and magazines  
 Secular publishing houses  
 Secular radio, television and  
 film industry

Consider freelance positions.  
 Permanent positions are  
 limited.  
 Take additional courses in  
 Journalism. Develop excellent  
 writing skills.  
 Submit articles for publication  
 in religious and nonreligious  
 papers and journals.  
 Learn desktop publishing  
 techniques.  
 Obtain specialized technical  
 training (such as in  
 Broadcasting).  
 Develop artistic talent.  
 Take additional courses in  
 Graphic Design/Illustration.  
 Obtain related experience  
 through internships.

RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

Apply to religious order for  
 admittance.  
 Requires self-discipline.

Desire to combine career with  
 life/living arrangements.