

Undergraduates

So you've decided to major in religion. That is great. A thousand welcomes! Studying religion affords you the opportunity to range broadly, to read comparatively, to engage in interdisciplinary work, or to focus on a specific interest. Further, a major in religion stands you in good stead in learning how to think alongside social scientists and those in the humanities. You may select your minor(s) with that in mind.

Contrary to public opinion, there are many things one can "do" with a major in religion, though in fact it needs no such justification. Going to seminary or graduate school, choosing a religious vocation of some sort, are only a few options. Increasingly, journalists, social workers, doctors, ethicists, politicians, and those in the business and economic sector recognize the validity of attending to religion as an element of human activity and influence.

The usual advice applies: Make sure your advisor is available to help you and to read your work, especially if you write a senior thesis. Do not neglect the crossdisciplinary resources available to help you in your studies, not least of which may be women's studies. Enjoy your major and give it your own stamp. We all stand to benefit.

Unions

Faculties at many state institutions, and increasingly at some private schools, are developing unions. They can be very useful for dealing with workplace issues, so much so that, if your institution does not have one, be sure you know how such issues are handled. Faculty unions help create equity and fight for benefits like making sure the institution pays for contraceptive coverage in the prescription drug program (see **Institutional analysis**).

Increasingly, graduate students are organizing themselves into graduate student unions. While the particularities of the situation that graduate students face differ in some ways from what clerical or autoworkers face, many issues remain the same.