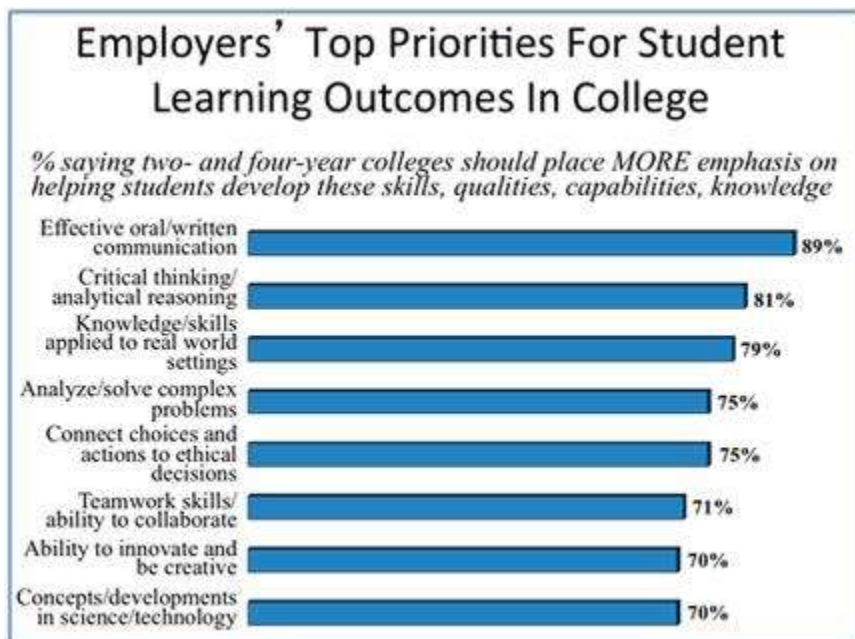


What Is Religious Studies?

The major in religious studies has little to do with preparation for the ministry, although it can be used to enroll in seminary. Rather, our majors explore the myriad ways that religions have shaped human thoughts, actions, histories, and cultures. In so doing majors ponder many different answers to fundamental, universal questions such as, “What is the meaning of life?” or “What is a life well lived?,” and are free to respond as they wish. Throughout human history few things have shaped human lives more than religions and our majors learn with both depth and breadth why and how this is true.

How Can Studying Religion Prepare you for a Career?

Majors in religious studies receive training in how to read and understand difficult texts, how to think about what they have read clearly and critically, and how to express their thoughts in strong and effective language. With ever-changing career realities, these are precisely the skills which are sought by a wide range of quality employers. In addition, majors in religious studies engage with the world and therefore develop cultural knowledge which is coveted in international commerce. Religion majors have become business executives, government leaders, environmental activists, teachers, lawyers, education professionals, leaders in international development, ministers, and many other things.



But a major in religious studies offers even more. As religion students develop the skills which result in successful careers, they also create the inner groundwork for a lifetime of personal fulfillment both within and outside of career settings, so that religion graduates

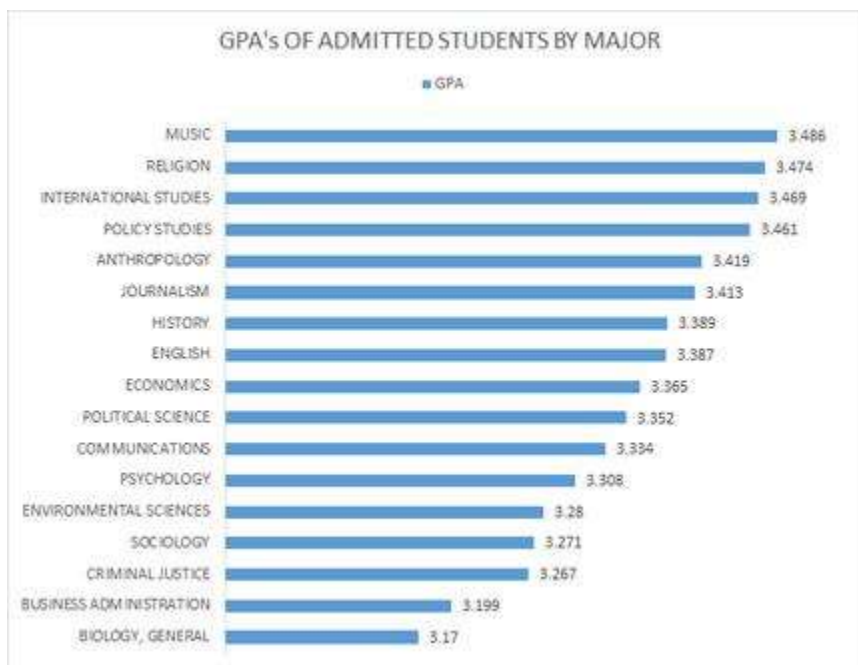
treasure their degree because it prepares them not just to make a living, but also to live a full, meaningful life.

Is A Religious Studies Major Helpful If You Plan To Go To Graduate School?

On the GRE test for graduate school admission, religious studies majors have the third-highest scores of any major on the Verbal section. On the Analytical Writing section of the GRE, scores by philosophy and religion majors rank first and second, respectively.

Religious studies majors on average score higher than business majors on the GMAT, the entrance test for graduate business school, so if business is your path, make religious studies your major!

As for law school, Derek T. Muller, Associate Professor of Law at Pepperdine University School of Law, studied the LSAT scores and undergraduate GPA's of students who entered law school. What he found is that religion majors are near the top of all majors in terms of LSAT scores and especially the grade point averages that law schools like to see:





These figures are from 2013-2014. From the legal website *Excess of Democracy*, by Derek T. Muller, Associate Professor of Law, Pepperdine University School of Law.
<http://excessofdemocracy.com/blog/2014/4/the-best-prospective-law-students-read-homer>