

The Religion & Philosophy Major

Religion and philosophy address the deep questions of human existence and how our beliefs shape the world around us. At PC, faith and reason are interdependent and necessary. The religion and philosophy major challenges you to examine your own beliefs along with the world's other wisdom traditions. You develop an understanding of philosophy and skills in critical thinking and argumentative writing. The degree opens paths into graduate school and career fields like human services, education and law.

PC's caring professors inspire you to be generous in your thinking and in interacting with others in the world. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad, researching in the field and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

What You'll Study

The religion and philosophy major exposes you to the big ideas that have influenced mankind throughout history. Because many beliefs are associated with particular countries and world regions, the major also challenges you to think globally. And you come away with real world skills – like written and verbal communication and analyzing and synthesizing data.

With only two required courses, religion and philosophy is one of the most customizable majors. In addition to taking Approaches to the Study of Religion your first year, you'll choose 27 hours of electives in religion and philosophy. Your professors bring a breadth of experience, with specialties in Bible and philosophy, social activism, and ethics and theology. As a senior, you'll demonstrate your skills in research, writing and presentation through a capstone project. If eligible, you may also conduct an honors project, which earns you marks of distinction on your transcript and diploma.

The department also offers concentrations in philosophy, religious studies, Christian studies and Christian education.

Student Experiences

At PC, learning isn't confined to classrooms. No matter your major, you'll have opportunities to learn outside the classroom and away from campus.

- **Studying abroad.** PC offers programs through which you may study abroad for a summer, semester or an entire year. Immersive trips to places like Turkey, Nepal, China, Ireland, Egypt, Israel and Spain connect you to ancient cultures and belief traditions.
- **Summer Fellows Program.** You can work together with your professors on a summer project and receive a stipend for participating in the program.
- **Independent research.** You can conduct independent research during the regular academic year on a topic of your choice.
- **Internships.** An internship provides you with hands-on experience in a position where religion and/or philosophy are the focus. It can serve as a means to fulfill general education credit and/or as a means to explore career options.

In addition to these campuswide opportunities, other extracurricular activities are available to you as a religion and philosophy student.

- **Religious groups.** You can explore your faith and meet kindred spirits in campus religious life groups like Catholic Student Association, FCA, and Ukirk.
- **Volunteering.** Student Volunteer Services provides opportunities for you to help those in need in the community.

Fast Facts

1. The Department of Religion and Philosophy at PC accepts students from all faith traditions.
2. PC has hosted the Special Olympics for almost 50 years.
3. The religion and philosophy major requires only two particular courses – you get to choose 27 hours of remaining elective courses!
4. You may pursue the basic major, or choose to concentrate in religious studies, philosophy, Christian studies or Christian education.

Career Outcomes

If you're wondering if there are enough jobs for religion and philosophy majors, there's no need to worry. The skills you acquire in completing your degree translate well into multiple fields. Religion and philosophy graduates find entry-level positions in business, nonprofit organizations and government. They may also work as public administrators and counselors.

According to [PayScale](#), those with a bachelor's in religion and philosophy earned an average salary of \$59,549 in November 2019. And the [Center on Education and the Workforce](#) estimates a median income of \$68,000 with a graduate degree.

Recent graduates from PC's religion and philosophy department have pursued careers in law and medicine. Alumni also serve as social workers and ministers. Many earn advanced degrees from some of the country's finest universities, including Princeton and Emory. No matter your major, PC's liberal arts education prepares you with problem-solving, critical thinking and other soft skills employers look for.

Meta Page Description

The religion and philosophy major at Presbyterian College explores life's deepest questions and equips you with soft skills like critical thinking.