

The Religion Major with a Concentration in Christian Education

Do you want to lead educational programs in the Church and encourage spiritual growth in others? The religion and philosophy department at PC offers a major in religion with a concentration in Christian education. This degree prepares you for various types of ministry – from leading Bible classes and youth groups, to serving as a missionary. Whatever your faith tradition – Protestant, Catholic or Orthodox – PC welcomes you.

Your professors bring a breadth of experience, with specialties in Bible and philosophy, social activism, and ethics and theology. Outside the classroom, experiences like studying abroad, researching in the field and volunteering in the community expand your learning opportunities.

What You'll Study

If you have a desire to serve in the Church, especially in teaching or administrative roles, the Christian education degree is for you. You'll gain a solid foundation of theology, ethics and basic philosophy, along with administrative skills needed for leadership.

With 42 hours of coursework, Christian education is the most rigorous major in PC's religion and philosophy department. The curriculum is based on the graduate model from Presbyterian School of Christian Education. During your first two years you'll take Intro to Christian Education and Christian Doctrine. Upper-level courses like Bible, Theology and Theory will come during your final two years. Your coursework is customizable through 12 hours of electives and a choice of courses in Old and New Testament. Electives offered include Counseling and Art for the Child. 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.

With its strong network of churches in the region, the department can also connect you to ministry and internship opportunities.

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 focused on Christian ministry. 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 Christian education 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.
- **Residential community.** The Nest is not just a residence hall – it's a living community that roots its identity in the Christian faith.

Fast Facts

1. The Department of Religion and Philosophy at PC welcomes students of all faiths and beliefs.
2. Joan Gray '73 served as moderator of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2006 and subsequently as the denomination's ambassador-at-large.
3. Department professors represent respected seminaries like Princeton and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, and the nonprofit Jerusalem Center for Biblical Studies.
4. Alumnus Amos Disasa '01 now pastors at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas – one of the country's largest Presbyterian churches.

Career Outcomes

With a bachelor's in Christian education, you can work as a church teacher, administrator or program director. You can minister as a camp director or youth pastor. In addition to a strong foundation in theology, you take away valuable skills in verbal and written communication. The major also prepares you for graduate school, as many senior pastor and clergy positions require an advanced divinity degree.

According to [PayScale](#), those with a bachelor's in Christian education earned an average salary of \$48,023, as of December 2019.

Graduates from PC's religion and philosophy department are found in church leadership around the world. Sarah Oba '85 serves as a missionary in Japan. Amos Disasa '01 pastors at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas, one of the country's largest Presbyterian churches. And Joan Gray '73 led the entire denomination as moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2006. Many alumni go on to earn advanced degrees from some of the country's finest seminaries, 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 Christian education major at Presbyterian College equips you for ministry with administrative skills and a solid biblical foundation.