In his speech at the launch of the Office of Faith-Based Community Initiatives on August 7, 2013, the United States Secretary of State, John Kerry, remarked that,

if I went back to college today, I think I would probably major in comparative religion, because that’s how integrated it is in everything that we are working on and deciding and thinking about in life today. . . . What we are doing is guided by the conviction that we have to find ways to translate our faiths into efforts that unify for the greater good.

Secretary Kerry’s comment underlines the increasingly significant role for the study of religion throughout a broad range of public and professional pursuits.

Recognizing this, Department of Theology and Religious Studies degree programs take seriously the charge to engage students in the serious and critical study of religious experience, practice, thought and inquiry, both historically and in the contemporary world, both Christian and non-Christian. Our degree programs also allow enough electives for students who so wish to choose a second major, or earn one or more minors. We strongly encourage students to think about combining studies in our department with other vocational interests and studies.

Department faculty are involved in a number of cross-disciplinary programs and teach classes that fit diverse programs including Africana, Ancient, Asian, Faith Justice, Gender, Latin American, or Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Interdisciplinary Health Care Ethics. We teach Service Learning courses which engage the student in volunteer service and reflection within the context of a course. Department faculty facilitate study tours – to Bolivia, China, Cuba, Greece and Guatemala. Because the department is relatively small, students can develop close relationships with their faculty and enjoy the benefits of faculty advising that takes into account the individual needs and interests of the student.

You might choose a double major in a wide variety of areas, including but not limited to:

- Double major with Politics and become a political advisor or lobbyist.
- Double major with International Relations and go to work for any business.
- Double major with Foreign Languages and become a UN translator or teach English as a second language while living abroad.
- Double major with the Arts – photography, film, music, and become an interpreter of religion for others.
- Double major in English and write for news agencies or magazines.
- Double major with Sociology and become a social worker or public policy analyst.
- Double major with Psychology and become a counselor to those who take religion seriously.

Our recent graduates have gone into education, volunteer programs like Jesuit Volunteer Corps or the Peace Corps, social work, law school, and graduate school in religion. A few are accepting lay leadership roles in parishes where there is a shortage of priests. Our majors are encouraged to seek internships with government agencies, local businesses and non-profits through the Career Development Center. Although these would often not be directly related to class work, and would not substitute for it, they provide valuable job training and opportunity for discernment of personal vocation. Students who are studying Theology and Religious Studies may find that they are able to put their knowledge
and skills to good use working for government agencies, political lobbyists, law firms, social service agencies and public media outlets.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE THEOLOGY and RELIGIOUS STUDIES MAJOR**

- Visit the Theology and Religious Studies Department Website: [www.sju.edu/cas/theology](http://www.sju.edu/cas/theology)
- Visit the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Center, located in Barbelin 122
- Contact the Theology and Religious Studies Department to schedule a meeting with a faculty member by calling 610-660-1850
- Speak with current students in the major
- Schedule an appointment with the Career Development Center by calling 610-660-3100

**WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN THEOLOGY and RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Whatever you put your mind to! Businesses and organizations are looking for students whose resumes stand out from the rest. A degree in Theology or Religious Studies means that you can think more broadly about what people believe, what motivates them, and how they get along with each other. It means you can think more creatively about problem-solving and that your written and spoken communication skills will be clearer and more persuasive. You can learn much more at [www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org). Following are descriptions of just a few of the careers you might pursue:

**Director of Religious Activities and Education**: Directs and coordinates activities of a denominational group to meet religious needs of students. Plans, directs, or coordinates church school programs designed to promote religious education among church membership. May provide counseling and guidance to members.

**Social and Human Service Worker**: Assists professionals from a wide variety of fields, such as psychology, rehabilitation, or social work, to provide client services, as well as support for families. May assist clients in identifying available benefits and social and community services and help clients obtain them. May assist social workers with developing, organizing, and conducting programs relevant to substance abuse, human relationships, rehabilitation, or adult daycare.

**Theology Teacher**: Teaches courses in philosophy, religion, and theology.

**HOW CAN I ENGAGE WITH MY INTEREST IN THEOLOGY and RELIGIOUS STUDIES OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amnesty Club</th>
<th>Hand in Hand</th>
<th>Students for Workers’ Rights</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Campus Ministry</td>
<td>Hawks Against Hunger</td>
<td>Sustainability Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chinese Language Club</td>
<td>Project Appalachia/Project Mexico</td>
<td>Theta Alpha Kappa Honors Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Justice Program</td>
<td>Students for Peace and Justice</td>
<td>Up ‘Til Dawn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**A CLOSER LOOK AT GRADUATES WITH DEGREES IN THEOLOGY and RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

As depicted in the chart below, recent graduates have started their careers in several industries, Human & Community Service being the most popular (Data from Saint Joseph’s University Career Development Center’s Post-Graduation Survey, 2008 – 2012).
Here is a sampling of positions our graduates have accepted:

- Assistant Buyer
- Development & Marketing Director
- Educational Assistant
- Jesuit Volunteer
- Social Worker
- Teacher
- Theology Teacher

Here is a sampling of additional job titles:

- Child Welfare Worker
- Cultural Affairs Officer
- Employee Relations Specialist
- Peace Corps Worker
- Youth Counselor
- Community Affairs Specialist
- Customer Relations Representative
- Foreign Service Officer
- Public Policy Specialist
- Consumer Advocate
- Education Coordinator
- Nonprofit Administrator
- Religious Leader

Some of the organizations that have hired our graduates include:

- Bishop McDevitt High School
- Campaign for US House of Reps. Candidate
- The Connelly Foundation
- Girls, Inc.
- Hallahan High School
- Jesuit Volunteer Corps
- Seton Hall Prep

Sample work settings that hire Theology and Religious Studies majors include:

- Childcare/Adoption Agencies
- Cultural Organizations
- Hospitals
- Churches
- Consumer Companies
- Libraries
- Mental Health Organizations
- Museums, Historical Societies
- Community Organizations
- Educational Institutions
- Media (Magazine, Newspaper, Radio, TV)
- Social Service Agencies

Some of the graduate schools in which our students have continued their education include:

- Boston College
- Fordham University
- University of Notre Dame
FURTHER ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR MAJOR AND CAREER OPTIONS

The Career Development Center can help you with the process of choosing a major and exploring your career options. For assistance, please call 610-660-3100 to schedule an appointment to meet with a Career Counselor.

GETTING THE JOB – SAMPLE THEOLOGY RESUME:

See page below
Theodore A. Religion  
333 Christianity Road · Philadelphia, PA 19131 · theoreligion2013@sju.edu · (215)-610-5555

Education
Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA  
Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Religious Studies, May 2013  
- Minor: Sociology  
- GPA: 3.41  
- Honors: Dean’s List, Presidential Scholarship

Leadership Experience
Sweet Jesus Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA  
Intern, September 2012-present  
- Assist with the church’s youth group in conducting services and facilitating small ministry groups  
- Work with two senior pastors to learn about pastoral ministry and to organize programs

ABC Christian Fellowship, Saint Joseph’s University  
Founder and President, Fall 2010-present  
- Started Saint Joseph’s first Bible Study in two years  
- Organize and lead weekly Bible studies and other related events

Holy Father Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, PA  
Assistant to Youth Pastor, February 2011-May 2012  
- Collaborated with an urban church in West Philadelphia to organize a Friday night youth group  
- Assisted their Youth Pastor with coordinating special events for youth, including a lock-in and teen summit

Winter Immersion Program, Saint Joseph’s University  
Co-Leader, September 2011-January 2012  
- Co-led a group of 15 students to Texas and New Orleans to help with disaster recovery  
- Helped to pick the team, plan the trip, and organize weekly meetings with the team

Faith-Justice Institute, Saint Joseph’s University  
Service Scholar, Fall 2010-May 2011  
- Acted as a teacher’s assistant for two freshman service-learning classes  
- Liaised between the students and the Faith-Justice Institute  
- Led three discussions per class each semester on faith or social justice issues

First Year Leadership Team, Saint Joseph’s University  
Urban Plunge Retreat Leader, August 2010-May 2010  
- Helped lead a freshmen retreat to Camden, NJ

Work Experience
William’s Healthcare Help, Philadelphia, PA  
Driver, May 2011-present  
- Deliver prescriptions to nursing homes and private houses all over Lancaster and York counties  
- Gain experience interacting with diverse cultures and personalities

Rita’s Water Ice, Philadelphia, PA  
Treat Team Member, May 2010-August 2010  
- Worked effectively with customers and co-workers  
- Provided customers with quick and friendly service and handled conflicts effectively