



What can I do with a major in... **PASTORAL MINISTRY**

The Pastoral Ministry major prepares students to serve in general pastoral ministry or as a future member of a church planting team. Graduates will understand and experience the basic roles of a pastor/shepherd such as preaching, teaching, leading, pastoral care and church planting. It also lays a foundation for seminary/graduate study.

What types of work are related to this degree?

Campus ministry
Christian education
Evangelism
Missions
Ministry coordination
Pastoral roles, preaching, teaching, discipleship
Para-church ministry
Christian education curriculum development
Humanitarian aid worker
Social/human services worker or case manager
Camp administration and ministry
Fund raising for faith based organizations
Disaster/aid relief worker
Residential counselor
Chaplaincy (with additional training)

Who employs people with this degree?

Christian camps
Christian colleges
Educational programs (non-licensure)
Denominational offices
Government
Local churches
Mission agencies
Para-church organizations
Prisons
Health care organizations
Nursing homes
Seminaries
National/international humanitarian aid organizations
Christian service organizations
Curriculum and publishing companies

General Strategies for Success:

- Many transferable skills such as analyzing and synthesizing data, research, communication skills and critical thinking are associated with this degree.
- Expertise in ministry can be a plus for secular work environments as well as more traditional ones.
- The undergraduate degree prepares students for professional and graduate study in seminary, business, law, medicine, counseling, higher education and other fields. Be sure to check for prerequisite classes needed to enter various graduate programs.
- Pastoral ministry students can often volunteer in shelters, correctional facilities, nursing homes, or healthcare organizations under the supervision of a chaplain. This kind of experience will assist you in discerning career direction.
- Obtaining relevant experience through internships or volunteer experiences is critical to finding employment opportunities. Dual majors or minors can also help open the door in some fields.
- Early in your career you may need to supplement ministry income with other work.

More information online at ONETonline.org

Select Professional Associations:

National Association of Evangelicals
American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC)
American Protestant Correctional Chaplains Association (APCCA)
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE)
Association of Professional Chaplains

International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC)
National Institute of Business and Industrial Chaplaincy (NIBIC)
Evangelical Theological Society
Christian Camp and Conference Association

This information represents possible occupations and strategies for careers with this major. As with any job or career, there may be additional qualifications or experience needed. For more information and options, make an appointment with Career Development or check out our online resources on our website or on the ROCK, Career Development tab.