RELIGION DEPARTMENT

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (NKJV) Proverbs 3:5-6.

Department Location/Contact Information: Lightsey Chapel
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Department Chairperson: Dr. Keith Sharp

Faculty: Dr. Peter Beck, Dr. Michael Bryant, Dr. Bobby Howard, Dr. Aschalew Kebede Dr. Donald L. Martin, Jr., Dr. Keith Sharp, Dr. Tim Tew

Degrees Offered: Bachelor of Arts degrees in Religion and Youth Ministry; minors in Religion and Christian Leadership

Purpose: The Department of Religion plays a pivotal role in the life of Charleston Southern University and seeks to reinforce the mission of the university through the accomplishment of five major goals:

1. To equip students who desire to enter the Christian ministry with a scholarly study of the various aspects of the Christian faith. The curriculum is biblically-based and courses are taught from a distinctively Christian perspective.

2. To provide the necessary preparation for those students who will enter seminary or other graduate programs in Religion. Such preparation should help students to qualify for advanced standing in many graduate degree programs in the seminaries.

3. To offer departmental majors the academic training and practical experience essential for effective ministry in churches and denominational institutions.

4. To provide a thorough training for those who will directly enter the ministry upon graduation, thus ending their formal educational preparation.

5. To give basic Christian instruction to all students in the university through the required survey courses. Careful attention will be given to the biblical perspective of God’s purposes in the world with relation to the nature and destiny of humanity.
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A RELIGION OR YOUTH MINISTRY MAJOR?

While many local churches, denominational organizations, and missionary agencies require a seminary degree beyond the bachelors program in Religion or Youth Ministry for employment, others do not. Our Religion and Youth Ministry programs are designed primarily to provide a foundation for ministry and a stepping stone to specialization at the seminary/graduate level. Many of the areas of service listed below will necessitate ministerial training beyond the college experience, although some may be entered immediately upon graduation from our program. Moreover, having a double major could enhance a student’s knowledge and prepare him or her for a special field of service (for example, a double major in Religion and Business Administration would be beneficial for those desiring to serve as a Church Administrator or wishing to work in the business office of a denominational agency). Students should contact particular agencies, institutions, and churches in order to obtain the specific prerequisites for employment within these organizations. The following lists offer a sampling of possibilities in the area of Christian service, and certainly are not intended to be exhaustive in nature.

Ministry Fields:

- Benevolence Ministry
- Camp/Retreat/Resort Ministry
- Chaplaincy
- Children’s Ministry
- Christian Counseling
- Christian Education
- Church Administration
- Church Planting
- Communication: radio, television, etc.
- Crisis Ministry
- Cross-Cultural Ministry
- General Evangelism
- Journalism
- Missionary service
- Orphanages
- Parachurch organizations
- Pastorate
- Sports Evangelism
- Student Ministry (college campus setting)
- Teaching
- Urban Ministry
- Women’s Ministry
- Youth Ministry (local church setting)

Organizations:

- American Bible Society
- American Center for Law and Justice
- American Family Association (AFA)
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Christian Coalition of America
- Concerned Women of America (CWA)
- Denominational agencies
- Denominational colleges and universities
- Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission
- Focus on the Family
- International Mission Board of the SBC
- InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
- Lifeway
- Local churches
- National Right to Life Committee
- North American Mission Board of the SBC
- Precept Ministries
- Salvation Army
- Samaritan’s Purse
- Serving in Mission (SIM)
- Theological seminaries
- Worldvision
- Wycliffe Bible Translators

If you have any questions regarding career choices or ministerial calling, please contact one of the members of our Religion Department. Contact information can be obtained on the reverse side of this document as well as through the Charleston Southern University website.