



Low resolution pictures

[theeffectofcollegeonreligion.wordpress.com](http://theeffectofcollegeonreligion.wordpress.com)



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# 1. 2016

## 1.1 April

### **Does taking college courses affect a student's religion? (2016-04-08 16:08)**

Many changes occur in college when you go to college. Once you are a college student, you are given new freedom and hold more responsibility over your life than you have had before. Going away to college may change your religious views in many ways. Your surroundings have a great impact on who you are as a person, but how does your actual participation in college courses affect your religion?

College is all about learning and being exposed to new opinions and different perspectives. Each course taken at can college expand your horizon to new concepts, cultures, religions, etc. What you learn affects your thinking and ultimately leads you to new perspectives on issues. The more you know about the world the more you change, and specifically the more your beliefs change. When you change your beliefs you may become more or less religious and may even change your religion.

The article "Your Choice of College Major May Affect Your Religious Views" mentions a study done by the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. The study measured students' religiosity by religious attendance and its personal importance. The study stated that students who were studying towards an education degree became more religious during their studies. It also stated that overall no major change was seen for physical science majors, but these students showed an increase in religious attendance but a decrease in the sense of religious importance. Social science and humanities majors had a negative correlation in both religious attendance and its personal importance. Different fields of study can open you up to new perspectives you've never even thought of before. They can question your faith and even open you up to new beliefs.

<http://arstechnica.com/science/2009/08/effects-of-college-major-on-personal-religious-views/>

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### **Does being away at college affect one's religious practices? (2016-04-12 18:56)**

Now that we know the effect of a student's studies on their religion. We can expand our research to include how being at college can affect a student's religion. It is one thing to change religions or beliefs and practices because of new knowledge. It is another to have a change in faith or practice because of the college environment.

Going off to college is a new found freedom for many people. You now have the option to sleep in whenever you want, you can skip class, go out, do drugs, eat dessert for dinner, do anything you want to without being reprimanded for your actions. You don't have a parent constantly down your throat telling you what to do and how to live your life. With this new freedom comes new responsibility. No one is waking you up on Sunday morning to

attend mass. Are you going to do it yourself or are you going to sleep in and go to the pool instead? Going to college allows you to make your own choices and most of these choices are going to stem from your own priorities. If religion was always a priority of your parents but not your own then it probably won't be as important to you to practice when you go to college. Aside from making your own choices from your beliefs and priorities, you are affected by your environment. If you meet a bunch of friends who practice the same religion as you and go to church together then you may be more prone to practice your religion.

The article "How Corrosive Is College to Religious Faith and Practice?" states that data from a General Social Survey suggests that the age of 22 is when levels of church attendance are at their lowest. This age is usually a student's senior year of college. Coincidence? Maybe, but let's think about this. A student is getting ready to graduate. They may have an internship, being applying for jobs, and trying to figure out what they are doing and where they are moving after they graduate. They may be stressed and overwhelmed and may not have time to attend church regularly or practice their religious faith as much.

[http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/Regnerus\\_Uecker.pdf](http://religion.ssrc.org/reforum/Regnerus_Uecker.pdf)

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### **College Campuses and their Religious/Spiritual Organizations (2016-04-14 13:46)**

While most studies show that overall college, or at least the age a person is usually in college, has a negative correlation with religious involvement and practice, some suggest that college has a positive impact on students' religious activity. Many college campuses offer a vast variety of different religious and spiritual organizations. These organizations are great for many reasons. Students who already practice a certain religion can continue their practices through these organizations. Coming to college can be nerve-racking and finding a new church, temple, etc. to practice your faith at can be challenging. These religious organizations are there to help with this process.

Aside from continuing a current faith, some students might be interested in exploring new faiths. These organizations are also great for those students as well! There are so many different religious and spiritual organizations offered on campuses. At Florida State alone we have 52 organizations! Taking a look at one in particular, I have researched the Adventist Campus Ministry on our campus. This is a Christian organization that is devoted to learning more about Jesus Christ on a personal level. They show their love of God and Jesus Christ by participating in community projects, Bible study, and different recreational events on our campus. If a student wanted to learn more about this organization they would simply show up to one of their meetings. That's what is great about these organizations: they are welcoming to any and all students. This opens up the opportunity to promote religious attendance and participation on campuses.

[https://nolecentral.dsa.fsu.edu/organizations?SearchValue=Religious %2FSpiritual &SearchType=Category &CurrentPage=1 &SelectedCategoryId=1487](https://nolecentral.dsa.fsu.edu/organizations?SearchValue=Religious%2FSpiritual&SearchType=Category&CurrentPage=1&SelectedCategoryId=1487)

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### **What do College Students Believe? (2016-04-16 03:06)**

Many students in college change their religions or even stop practicing them. These changes can be the result of their beliefs. As college progresses, students are exposed to a wide variety of things. They are taught new concepts and exposed new events. These teachings and experiences can lead them to question and even change their beliefs. Their surrounding and friends can also have a big impact on what they do and how they perceive the world.

As a result of this, the real question is what do students believe? They can be any religion or non-denominational but what do they truly believe in, regardless of these factors. In the article "What do Students Believe? A Religious Profile of the American Collegiate Student Body" a national survey was done by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) and a study of 28 universities was done by the National Longitudinal Survey of Freshmen (NLSF). The finding from the survey done by HERI showed that 83 % of students are associated with a religion or some kind of denomination. The NLSF showed 88 % of students have a nominal religious association. These numbers really surprised me. They also could be from religious universities, because the article did not state the universities studied. Aside from an affiliation with a religion or denomination, the HERI study found that 79 % of students say they believe in God and 40 % said it was important to follow religious teachings in everyday life. Regardless of practicing religion, students still clearly show that they believe in God.

<http://religion.ssrc.org/reguide/index2.html>

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### **Religion at Religious Universities (2016-04-22 22:19)**

As the past posts have shown, studies have reported a mixture of different findings on whether or not religion is practiced in college, and if so, whether or not there is an increase or decrease in this religious attendance and practice. The studies listed in the previous posts were all different and studied different universities. The names universities studied were not included. I am curious if these were religious universities or whether they were colleges that were not affiliated with a religion. The article "College Students Are Abandoning Religion In Record Numbers" first stated that as reported by "The American Freshmen" study, 28 percent of freshmen that are graduating in the Class of 2018 don't identify with any particular faith. This is the lowest percentage reported for college freshmen in the past 40 years. The study reported responses from 153,000 freshmen at 227 colleges nationwide. That is an outstanding number who aren't associated with a religion. I am surprised. In addition to this astonishing data, the article also stated that religious universities are included in this decreased trend. Ten years ago 10.6 percent of freshmen at Catholic colleges didn't identify with a religion, now that number has raised to 15 percent. Also, in the past decade, the number of students from other religious universities who have no religious preference has doubled. The number has gone from 9.3 percent to 17.4 percent, in just ten years. This data really is quite surprising. One might think that attending a religious university would make a student become more religious and practice their faith more. Most religious universities require students to take religious courses and I feel that if a student was learning about religion it could stimulate their interest in the matter. It could also lead them to questioning more about their faith and possibly lead them to want to practice a different religion. Apparently, from looking at the data, it is shown that it has caused them to not

want to be associated with a religion at all. Maybe being that students are required to attend these religious courses they feel that they have practiced their faith enough and do not want to be affiliated with a religion on their own time.

<http://www.vocativ.com/culture/religion/college-students-zero-religion/>

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