



Essay Forum on the Religious Engagements of American Undergraduates

Recent studies of college students' attitudes toward religion suggest that the academy is no longer the bastion of secularism it was once assumed to be. And these studies further reveal that the spiritual landscape on today's college campuses is virtually unrecognizable from what we've seen in the past. Evangelicalism--often in the form of extra-denominational or parachurch campus groups--has eclipsed mainstream Protestantism. Catholicism and Judaism, too, are thriving, as are other faiths.

To help make sense of these changes, the SSRC commissioned the following series of essays from leading authorities in the field of religion and higher education.

See also: A related [online guide](#), intended as an overview for college faculty and administrators.

Introduction

PDF Document, 217KB

By Damon Mayrl, *University of California, Berkeley*

On campuses across the country, faculty and administrators are increasingly noticing the religious beliefs and practices of their students...

Religion and Spirituality: History, Discourse, Measurement

PDF Document, 145KB

By Courtney Bender, *Columbia University*

The recent spate of attention that funders, administrators and researchers have given to undergraduates' religious and spiritual lives has led to new questions and ideas about the ways that religious identities and understandings influence campus life...

Fostering Religious and Spiritual Development of Students during College

PDF Document, 138KB

By Larry A. Braskamp, *Loyola University, Chicago*

Colleges and universities have always been interested in the development of the whole student, though during the past few decades, higher education has become more focused on preparing students for a career and thus has given less attention to preparing them for life...

A Portrait of Evangelical Christian Students in College

 PDF Document, 126KB

By Alyssa N. Bryant, *North Carolina State University*

Evangelical movements on college campuses today are visible manifestations of students' internalized faith and sense of spiritual purpose...

Abandoned, Pursued, or Safely Stowed?

 PDF Document, 134KB

By Tim Clydesdale, *The College of New Jersey*

There is certainly no shortage of passionate opinions about what happens to the religious commitments of college students...

The Right Time and Place for Big Questions

 PDF Document, 92KB

By W. Robert Connor, *The Teagle Foundation*

In April a national poll conducted by Harvard University found that seven out of 10 college students consider religion to be important in their lives...

Religion and Spirituality among University Scientists

 PDF Document, 141KB

By Elaine Howard Ecklund, *University at Buffalo, State University of New York*

Religion occupies a controversial place in university settings...

How Religious Are America's College and University Professors?

 PDF Document, 185KB

By Neil Gross, *Harvard University*; Solon Simmons, *George Mason University*

At a moment when sociologists of religion are busy reassessing secularization theory in general . . . it is worth reconsidering as well the secularization of American higher education...

Asian Americans for Jesus: Changing the Face of Campus Evangelicalism

 PDF Document, 129KB

By Rebecca Y. Kim, *Pepperdine University*

One out of four Evangelical college students at New York City colleges and universities are Asian American. ...

Hindu Student Organizations

 PDF Document, 131KB

By Prema Kurien, *Syracuse University*

"When we came in as freshmen in 1997, the university gave us a form to fill which asked about our religious background and Hinduism did not figure on that list. ...

How Muslim Students Negotiate their Religious Identity and Practices in an Undergraduate Setting

 PDF Document, 165KB

By Hadia Mubarak, *Georgetown University's Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding*

Muslim student life did not gain an organized presence in the U.S. until the creation of the first national Muslim student organization in 1963, the Muslim Students Association of the U.S. and Canada ...

Evangelicals on Campus

 PDF Document, 148KB

By Evelyn M. Perry, *Indiana University*; Elizabeth A. Armstrong, *Indiana University*
Thirteen women—11 evangelical Christians and two sociologists—gathered in a dorm room on a large Midwestern university to eat pizza and discuss college life one spring evening a year or so ago...

How Corrosive Is College to Religious Faith and Practice?

 PDF Document, 111KB

By Mark D. Regnerus, *University of Texas at Austin*; Jeremy E. Uecker, *University of Texas at Austin*

While Americans remain among the most religious in the industrialized world, it is widely observed that many of them exhibit cycles of religiosity, the most evident of which occurs in early adulthood...

Campus Ministry: A Statistical Portrait

 PDF Document, 183KB

By John Schmalzbauer, *Missouri State University*

What role does organized religion play in the life of the American campus?...

Religion and Higher Education: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

 PDF Document, 127KB

By Darren E. Sherkat, *Southern Illinois University*

Religion is a hot button topic in higher education, as it is in many areas of the provision of public goods...

Secularity, Spirituality, and Liberal Arts Education

 PDF Document, 161KB

By Sam Speers, *Vassar College*

As director of a Religious and Spiritual Life Office at a leading secular liberal arts college, I've come to see the question of secularity in campus life as a critical lens for understanding how higher education shapes student belief and practice...

iFaith in the Amen Corner: How Gen Y is Rethinking Religion on Campus

 PDF Document, 124KB

By Diane Winston, *University of Southern California*

I had to ask. If you saw one student, then another and another wearing an "I Am A Whore" tee shirt around campus, wouldn't you want to ask?...

The Evangelical Mind Revisited



PDF Document, 120KB

By Alan Wolfe, *Boston College*

On May 21, 2005, President George W. Bush delivered the commencement address at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan...

Can Faith Be More Than a Side Show in the Contemporary Academy?



PDF Document, 162KB

By Robert Wuthnow, *Princeton University*

I am a sociologist by training and a dyed-in-the-wool empiricist by temperament, but the role of religion in the academy is not one that can be addressed from a firm empirical base...