



THE PATHWAY FROM **EDUCATION TO VOCATION**

Becoming a Difference Maker in
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Why Study Political Science at Azusa Pacific University?

The Political Science major at Azusa Pacific University prepares students to become advocates for truth and justice in their nation and the world. Students gain the knowledge and skills they need to make and recognize good laws, distinguish justice from injustice, and understand the legitimate purposes and necessary limits of political power. The degree provides a solid foundation in American government, politics, history and classical political thought.

APU's Political Science major prepares students for careers in government, law, military, and law enforcement through rigorous training in classical and modern political thought, American politics, and international relations, and through interaction with Christian authors concerned with the relationship between politics and faith. Students majoring in Political Science at Azusa Pacific University can expect to work alongside faculty of faith who interact with local, state, and national political figures and national research and policy organizations. APU Political Science majors have opportunities to participate in internships in the nation's capital, as well as in military, government, and law enforcement agencies closer to home. Options for graduates include highly coveted internships with the California State Assembly and Senate. Department faculty place great emphasis on writing, and APU Political Science majors stand out for their strong professional writing skills. The Azusa Pacific campus is situated in the politically diverse and dynamic San Gabriel Valley, adjacent to urban Los Angeles. APU Political Science majors graduate with a clear sense of their region's role within the American political context.

YOU MIGHT CONSIDER A POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR IF YOU:

- Appreciate clear, cogent argument and persuasive rhetoric
- Think critically, rationally, and creatively
- Possess and develop strong research skills
- Continue to develop your strong writing and verbal communication skills
- Enjoy learning American history and the American legal system
- Enjoy resolving problems in evolving work environments
- Engage in cross-cultural communication
- Plan, organize, and prioritize your work
- Work well with others and work under pressure
- Set and formulate goals and objectives
- Enjoy research on local, state, national, and international political problems



STUART ANDERSON '05

Public Information Officer
Office of the Tulare County District Attorney

Stuart received his M.A. in International Relations at Fresno State while interning for Congressman Devin Nunes. Afterward, he worked as Senior Field Representative for Assemblywoman Connie Conway and is now Public Information Officer for Tulare County District Attorney Tim Ward.

“Love one another, think critically, and live with integrity.”



LAURA HOCK '05

Research FlexTime Attorney
Littler Mendelson

Laura had the opportunity to study for a semester in Washington, D.C. and intern with the Department of Homeland Security. She then went on to receive her J.D. at Pepperdine University.

“Take advantage of opportunities to expand your horizons, even when they are outside your comfort zone.”

POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS ARE PREPARED FOR:

- Working in any and every career
- Acquiring and using knowledge needed by citizens and political leaders
- Writing and speaking well, thinking critically, and judging wisely
- Distinguishing justice from injustice
- Supporting and defending good government and rule of law
- Distinguishing legitimate purposes and necessary limits of government
- Assessing historical perspective in making judgments in the present
- Comprehending human possibilities and limits
- Pursuing careers calling for clear, cogent reasoning
- Assessing and critiquing political ideas from other cultures and times
- Teaching government and social science disciplines
- Promoting and developing intellectual curiosity in themselves and others
- Promoting and developing appreciation for good government, citizenship, and rule of law in their community and nation

GRADUATES IN POLITICAL SCIENCE WORK AS:

- Elected or appointed officials in local, state, or federal government
- Professional researchers and writers for elected officials
- Intelligence Analysts
- Policy Analysts/Technical Writers
- Lawyers/Paralegals
- Military Officers
- Law enforcement officers
- Campaign Managers/Political Consultants
- Journalists/Media Specialists

**Many of these careers may require additional training and/or graduate education*



ROBERT ALT '98

President & CEO
The Buckeye Institute

Before founding The Buckeye Institute, Robert's career path involved clerking for a judge, serving as an embedded war correspondent, teaching law, and working with a U.S. Attorney General. He has also published several articles in influential papers such as *The Wall Street Journal* and *U.S. News & World Report*.

“A Christian-based college education challenges you to consider the moral implications of policies.”

To connect with these and other APU alumni, email clasalumni@apu.edu

STEPS TO TAKE AS A MAJOR IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

OPTIONS TO EXPLORE AROUND APU

BE CALLED.

EXPLORE. DEFINE. RESEARCH. LEARN.

- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (POLI 150)**
Deepen your understanding of the principles and practices of American government on the local, state, and national levels, and how they apply to current political debates.
- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO POLITICS (POLI 160)**
Consider together with faculty and student colleagues the great political questions that connect us over time to the earliest human civilizations.
- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI 180)**
Understand how the world's nations interact with each other through trade, diplomacy, and matters of national security, and how foreign policies are forged in the U.S. and the West, as well as in Latin America, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

- **LEARN HOW TO APPLY YOUR STRENGTHS WITHIN YOUR ACADEMICS, LIFE, AND CAREER**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or Strengths Mentor.
- **CONSIDER CAREER OPTIONS FOR YOUR MAJOR**
Meet with a Career Consultant* or your faculty advisor to explore and discuss requirements for your career options.

BE PREPARED.

IDENTIFY. STRENGTHEN. PRACTICE.

- **DEVELOP YOUR WRITING SKILLS**
Required of all Political Science majors during their Sophomore year, Research and Writing (POLI 300) includes discipline-specific writing components such as resume-writing, formal correspondence, etc.
- **SECURE AN INTERNSHIP**
An internship—Political Science Practicum (POLI 399)—allows the student to make and build relationships with established leaders in such fields as law, government, and law enforcement, as well as to work alongside peers interested in careers in these fields. Students anticipating future employment at the federal level are encouraged to participate in a summer internship in Washington, D.C., or intern during the Best Semester program in the nation's capital city.
- **IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN GRADUATE-LEVEL EDUCATION**
Meet with professors and the Center for Career and Calling to narrow your choices and apply.

- **RECEIVE FEEDBACK ON YOUR INTERVIEWING ABILITIES**
Complete a Mock Interview with a Career Consultant*
- **CREATE A RESUME TO APPLY FOR AN INTERNSHIP**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your resume and cover letter. Run them by your professors, too.
- **GROW YOUR SKILLS IN AN ON CAMPUS JOB OR STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITION**
Talk to Student Employment or Student Life about the available opportunities.
- **VOLUNTEER LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY TO SHAPE YOUR PERSPECTIVE**
Talk to the Center for Student Action about how you can serve.
- **GAIN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT YOUR CAREER OPTIONS**
Do informational interviews or go to a career-related event to learn more about your career, degree, and experience requirements.

BE CONNECTED.

JOIN. NETWORK. BE ACTIVE.

- **ATTEND SPECIAL LECTURES AND OTHER CAREER EVENTS**
The department sponsors several lectures each year; attend and participate.
- **CONNECT WITH PROFESSIONALS**
With faculty advice, intentionally seek out and meet professionals (alumni and others) willing to explain the nature of their work and life experiences.
- **REQUEST AN INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW**
Talk with a professional in the field you're interested in pursuing. Prepare ten questions about the field. Learn about their perspectives on the profession.

- **TALK TO ALUMNI FROM YOUR MAJOR**
Join [APUConnect.com](https://www.apu.edu/apuconnect) and start reaching out. You can also email clasalumni@apu.edu* for help connecting with alumni.
- **GET ACTIVE ON LINKEDIN**
Meet with a Career Consultant* to review your profile and learn how to use LinkedIn.
- **ATTEND CAREER-RELATED EVENTS**
Keep an eye out for career events related to your major or that are happening around campus.
- **HAVE LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION ON HAND**
Request them from professors and advisors at least a month before due.

* Visit [apucareer.youcanbook.me/](https://www.apucareer.youcanbook.me/) to make an appointment with a Career Consultant

* Use subject line: Connect me with APU alumni

APPLYING TO GRADUATE SCHOOL

EXPLORE.



Learn more at
www.apu.edu/career/graduateschool

SELECT.

ONLINE RESOURCES TO HELP IDENTIFY THE BEST PROGRAM FOR YOU

[Peterson's Guide](#)
[GradSchools.com](#)
[The Princeton Review](#)
[National Assoc. of Graduate Professional Students](#)
[The Council of Graduate Schools](#)
[APU Pew Society Graduate Guide](#)

EXAMPLES OF SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY APU POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES:

[Oxford University](#)
[Harvard University](#)
[London School of Economics](#)
[Institute of World Politics](#)
[U.S. Air Force Academy](#)

APPLY.

- APPLICATION FORM AND FEES**
Follow instructions carefully and have one or more people check for errors.
- ENTRANCE ESSAY**
Provide a writing example that shows your personal objectives.
- TRANSCRIPT**
Ask APU to send it directly to the school you are applying to.
- LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**
Schools usually require three letters, so get them early.
- INTERVIEWS**
If your potential school requests an interview, treat it as a job interview.

FINDING YOUR CAREER

IDENTIFY.

- Search online job boards and professional associations in the Political Science field
- Regularly check-in with your organizations of interest and network with those who can inform you of opportunities
- Look on APU Career Network for possible opportunities

POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS:

[American Political Science Association](#)
[Western Political Science Association](#)
[Midwestern Political Science Association](#)
[International Political Science Association](#)
[European Political Science Association](#)
[International Association for Political Science Students](#)
[American Philosophical Association](#)
[American Society for Political and Legal Philosophy](#)
[American Association for Chinese Studies](#)
[Christians in Political Science](#)

PREPARE.

BRAINSTORM YOUR EXPERIENCE

What have you done? What is relevant?



TAILOR YOUR RESUME

What does the job description say?



WRITE GOOD BULLET POINTS

Do you focus on your accomplishments?



FORMAT YOUR RESUME

Is it easy to read and follow?



PRACTICE INTERVIEWING

Know yourself.
Know the position.
Know the organization.

RESEARCH OPTIONS

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK HANDBOOK

www.bls.gov/ooh/

O*NET ONLINE

www.onetonline.org

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REFERENCE

www.weddles.com/associations

NETWORK.

WHO DO YOU KNOW?
WHO DO YOU NEED TO KNOW?



WHY NETWORK?

- Learn about different options in your field
- Research companies and positions of interest
- Find hidden opportunities that are not advertised
- Obtain referrals from those who have influence

EXAMPLES OF COMPANIES THAT HIRE APU POLITICAL SCIENCE GRADUATES:

Department of State, United States
United States Congressional Offices
United States Foreign Service
California State Senate and State Assembly
U.S. Attorney's Office, Los Angeles
American Enterprise Institute
Heritage Foundation
Los Angeles Police Department
Pasadena Police Department
All branches of the US Armed Forces
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency



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