



# THE PATHWAY FROM EDUCATION TO VOCATION

*Becoming a Difference Maker in*  
**LIBERAL STUDIES/K-8  
EDUCATION**

## Why Study **Liberal Studies** at Azusa Pacific University?

As technology, outsourcing, and intertwined national economies make our world smaller, the education of our youth in the United States has become an important issue. It is critical that American children gain the foundational education they need to compete for jobs and resources in a global marketplace. Public and private elementary and middle school teachers play a critical role in the education of our future professionals. Teachers with a Christian worldview also have the opportunity to help students develop personal character and ethical standards. An APU Liberal Studies major is uniquely prepared to meet this need, developing their students for future success.

Azusa Pacific University's Liberal Studies/K-8 Education program equips future teachers and other professionals by integrating Common Core-aligned subject matter and service learning experiences with the application of a Christian worldview, exploring life vocation, promoting awareness of cultural diversity issues, and studying multiple curricula with emphasis in specific subject areas while fostering a holistic understanding of knowledge. Students in this program participate in approximately 75 hours of teacher-oriented service learning field experience in differing districts, allowing students to gain experience in meeting the needs of diverse populations. Liberal Studies majors leave APU prepared to make a difference in students' lives and equip future leaders.

## YOU MIGHT CONSIDER A LIBERAL STUDIES MAJOR IF YOU:

- Enjoy working with children and young adults
- Are creative and tend to think outside of the box
- Enjoy inspiring a love of learning
- Are invested in the welfare of future generations
- Enjoy explaining ideas and concepts to others
- Are planning to go on to a teacher-credentialing program or other education related professions



**DAVID MIRELES '13**  
6th Grade Teacher

After graduation, David went on to complete the Multiple Subject Credential program as well as earn his Master's in Digital Learning and Teaching. He now teaches sixth grade at a public charter school in Chino, CA.

*"Don't be afraid to try new things! Remember: every student and teacher is unique and gifted, so what may work for one class may totally bomb in another class."*



**TIFFANY MOORE '06**  
Founding Principal  
KIPP Scholar Academy

After finishing with Teach for America, Tiffany joined KIPP LA Schools and founded KIPP Scholar Academy - a music school serving nearly 400 scholars in South Los Angeles.

*"Take advantage of every moment you have at APU. When you teach, the more leadership and life experience you have, the better for your kids."*

## LIBERAL STUDIES MAJORS ARE PREPARED FOR:

- Serving and working with student populations
- Developing personal and philosophical perspectives in education
- Applying classroom theory and lesson planning strategies
- Appreciating strengths and assets of a multicultural environment
- Understanding factors that contribute to academic achievement
- Engaging in various cultural communities
- Affirming the worth and value of all people

## GRADUATES IN LIBERAL STUDIES WORK AS:

- Teachers or teacher's aides in public and private schools locally, nationally, and internationally
- Administrators in school districts
- School counselors and psychologists
- Reading specialists
- Coaches
- Speech and language pathologists
- Staff in children's ministries
- Other client-based service professions

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



**CHRISTA BIXBY '09**  
English Language Fellow  
funded by the US Department of State

Christa went on to earn her MA in TESOL and became an English Language Fellow. She is currently placed in Malaysia as an adjunct professor and conducts teacher training throughout the country in hopes to make sustainable changes to the TESOL field.

*"Don't settle for adequacy, don't settle for easy answers, don't settle for developing personally and not professionally, simply, don't settle."*

To connect with these and other APU alumni, email [clasalumni@apu.edu](mailto:clasalumni@apu.edu)

## STEPS TO TAKE AS A MAJOR IN LIBERAL STUDIES

## OPTIONS TO EXPLORE AROUND APU

### BE CALLED.

EXPLORE. DEFINE. RESEARCH. LEARN.

- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO TEACHING AS A PROFESSION (EDLS 200)**  
Explore the vocation of teaching by becoming familiar with state standards, lesson planning, classroom management, and assessment.
- **TAKE DIVERSITY IN THE CLASSROOM (EDLS 405)**  
Explore the significance of cultural backgrounds, and the strengths that diversity of each individual brings.
- **TAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION CAPSTONE (EDLS 495)**  
Develop application of knowledge cross-disciplinarily and philosophy of education.

- **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.

- **GET HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE**  
Utilize the methods learned in courses throughout service learning opportunities in the elementary school classroom.
- **LOCAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
Serve the local community through established partnerships.
- **ENGAGE IN OTHER CULTURES**  
Take the opportunity to study abroad in programs, like Oxford or South Africa, that allow students to engage in a new environment.
- **PREPARE FOR THE JOB HUNTING PROCESS IN EDLS 495**  
Learn job searching skills as it applies to teaching, participate in a mock interview, and create a resume that incorporates relevant experience to the vocation.
- **PREPARE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
Gain understanding of credential programs, Master's Degrees, and other higher-education related requirements. Some California credential program requirements may be fulfilled as an undergraduate student.

- **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 CREDENTIAL PROGRAM INFORMATION MEETINGS OFFERED ON CAMPUS EACH SEMESTER**
- **ATTEND PATHWAY TO VOCATION MEETING OFFERED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR**
- **FOLLOW [AZUSA PACIFIC LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM](#) ON FACEBOOK**
- **FOLLOW [@APU\\_LIBSTUDIES](#) ON TWITTER TO STAY CONNECTED**

- **TALK TO ALUMNI FROM YOUR MAJOR**  
Join [APUConnect.com](#) and start reaching out. You can also email [clasalumni@apu.edu](mailto: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/](http://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](http://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 LIBERAL STUDIES GRADUATES:

[Azusa Pacific University](#)  
[Claremont Graduate University](#)  
[University of California, Los Angeles](#)  
[University of Southern California](#)  
[Loyola Marymount University](#)

## 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 Liberal Studies 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

LIBERAL STUDIES ASSOCIATIONS:

[Christian Educators Association International](#)  
[International Christian Community for Teacher Education](#)  
[Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society](#)  
[National Society of Leadership and Success](#)  
[Alpha Chi National College Honor Society](#)  
[Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges](#)

## 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/](http://www.bls.gov/ooh/)

O\*NET ONLINE  
[www.onetonline.org](http://www.onetonline.org)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION REFERENCE  
[www.weddles.com/associations](http://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 LIBERAL STUDIES GRADUATES:

Azusa Pacific University  
Teach for America  
Local school districts  
Private schools  
Churches