



THE PATHWAY FROM  
**EDUCATION TO  
VOCATION**

*Becoming a Difference Maker in*  
**SOCIAL SCIENCE**

## Why Study **Social Science** at Azusa Pacific University?

The social science major primarily prepares students to teach history, political science, geography, economics, sociology, and psychology at the high school or junior high school level. This major provides future teachers with an integrated study of these social sciences, which helps develop analytical skills, comparative perspectives, critical judgement, and a knowledge base about the world around them. Additionally, the major introduces students to teaching methodologies. This major is a subject-matter program in social science approved by the California Department of Education, allowing students to bypass the CSET exam otherwise required by the state of California.

## YOU MIGHT CONSIDER A SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJOR IF YOU:

- Want to teach
- Desire to understand the human experience
- Enjoy problem solving
- Want to understand your heritage and identity
- Are concerned with being a good citizen, or with citizenship, moral understanding, and justice
- Want to understand a changing world



**BETHANIE LAFOND '07**

Teacher  
Western Christian High School

Bethanie earned her M.Ed. at APU and is now in her 8th year of teaching in both public and private schools. She currently teaches AP U.S. History, World History, and Psychology.

*“Being an APU grad gave me a foot up in the education world. APU's programs are well respected and the caliber of teachers it produces has a reputation for being high.”*



**BRANDON FRANCE '12**

Social Studies Teacher  
Bellarmine-Jefferson High School

After graduating from APU, Brandon received his Master's Degree in Educational Technology from National University. He started his career as a substitute teacher before receiving a full time position in 2014. He also coaches football and track and field at the Varsity Level.

*“Learn all you can from your professors because they have a wealth of knowledge that will help you succeed in life.”*

## SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJORS ARE PREPARED FOR:

- Communicating ideas and concepts to others
- Prudent decision making based on evidence
- Careful analysis of evidence
- Evaluating conflicting interpretations
- Intellectual flexibility
- Understanding the past in order to have a better perspective to understand change in the present

## GRADUATES IN SOCIAL SCIENCE WORK AS:

- High school history or civics instructors
- High school principals
- School superintendents
- Public school administrators
- Politicians
- Editors/authors
- Historians
- College professors

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



**ORLANDO ACEVEDO '02**

Economic Development Manager  
Town of Apple Valley, CA

While studying at APU, Orlando was inspired to enter local government administration so he interned for two cities before receiving a full time position in Apple Valley. He loves his job as it allows him to make a direct impact on the community. He is currently earning his M.B.A. from University of La Verne.

*“We are funnels, not buckets, of God's grace and provision.”*

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

## STEPS TO TAKE AS A MAJOR IN SOCIAL SCIENCE

## OPTIONS TO EXPLORE AROUND APU

### BE CALLED.

EXPLORE. DEFINE. RESEARCH. LEARN.

- **TAKE INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (POLI 150)**  
Gain an understanding of the principles and practices of American government on the local, state, and national levels.
- **TAKE WORLD CIVILIZATIONS (HIST 120/121) AND UNITED STATES HISTORY (HIST 151/152)**  
Gain an understanding of the trajectories of the human experience from the ancient to the contemporary world.
- **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 Social Science majors, Introduction to Historical Studies (HIST 300) will include discipline-specific writing such as how to form an argument, analysis of sources, and evaluating conflicting points of view.
- **CRAFT A PROGRAM TO MEET YOUR VOCATIONAL NEEDS**  
Utilize course faculty to supervise integrative learning experiences: Social science majors interact with their Azusa Pacific professors to design their own lesson plans and course materials.
- **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.

- **TAKE A COURSE ON TEACHING AS A PROFESSION (EDLS 300, EDLS 302)**  
Students work in the classroom under the mentorship of an experienced teacher.
- **ATTEND ALUMNI PANELS AND EVENTS**  
Students have the opportunity to engage with panelists from a variety of industry-related fields.
- **JOIN APU CONNECT**  
Use the exclusive online networking portal to connect with other alumni.
- **TALK TO ALUMNI FROM YOUR MAJOR**  
Join APUCoconnect.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 SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES:

[London School of Economics](#)  
[California State University at Northridge](#)  
[University of California at Irvine](#)  
[University of La Verne](#)  
[Azusa Pacific 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 Social 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

### SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATIONS:

[National Social Science Association](#)  
[Western Social Science Association](#)  
[Southwestern Social Science Association](#)  
[Social Science History Association](#)  
[American Association of Behavioral and Social Sciences](#)

## 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 SOCIAL SCIENCE GRADUATES:

Schools throughout the U.S.  
OnCourse Learning  
4Media Solutions  
Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP  
HUB International  
Si-Ware Systems  
Methodist Hospital  
Chicago White Sox  
Red Gate Software  
ACES Community Services  
One Mission Society  
Lewis Companies