



*GOD FIRST SINCE 1899*

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# Make an Impact Through **Youth and Family Ministries**

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## Youth and Family Ministries Major

Young people must navigate extremely turbulent waters in today's society, from shifting identity norms to rapidly changing digital culture to surviving broken homes and social pressures. Yet, these same young people are the hope of the future—the innovators, the world changers, the difference makers. Azusa Pacific's **Bachelor of Arts in Youth and Family Ministries** equips you to shape the future by influencing young people inside and outside the church.

As young people explore their identities, dip their toes into adulthood, and find their way through the wilds of adolescence, they need vibrant, compassionate leaders who speak the truth of Jesus into their lives and help them become who God created them to be. This program blends theological and biblical study with courses on youth culture and adolescence, providing the groundwork for a ministry of making a difference in the lives of young people.

*Through this major, I've learned that 'the other' is just as important as the friend that's by my side. I think that's important for ministry, as I'm going to be working with a bunch of different people, with different stories and backgrounds, and they are all my brothers and sisters in Christ.*

– JESSICA  
CARNAHAN '19,  
YOUTH AND FAMILY  
MINISTRIES MAJOR

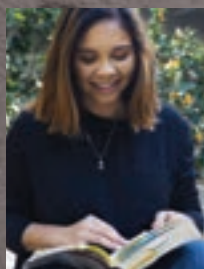


**Watch Jessica's story:**  
[apu.edu/explore/youth-and-family](https://apu.edu/explore/youth-and-family)

### Prepare to Reach Youth and Shape the Future

Serve teens in South America, or reach at-risk youth in the middle of Los Angeles. Impact young people and their families through local church programming or influence teenage athletes at a Christian sports camp. The opportunities for youth ministry are diverse and abundant, and the youth and family ministries program blends a comprehensive curriculum with significant real-world ministry training so you graduate prepared to serve youth in a variety of settings.

During your studies, you'll develop your personal philosophy of youth ministry and have the opportunity to put that philosophy into practice in a two-semester internship. The goal: graduate with a clearly formulated ministry plan and a year of applicable work experience on your résumé.



### In the youth and family ministries major, you will...


- Be inspired by passionate faculty-mentors who draw from years of ministry experience.
- Gain knowledge about the Bible and ministry practices, and develop your capacity for theological reflection.
- Deepen your understanding of adolescent development and youth culture.
- Experience real-world ministry in a two-semester internship during senior year.
- Receive support and guidance from the Center for Vocational Ministry.
- Participate in immersion programs in L.A., the High Sierra, Israel, South Africa, and more.



## Choose a Concentration for Your Unique Calling

Select a concentrated area of study to customize your degree for where you feel called to serve:

- Church and Pastoral Ministry Practices
- Intercultural Christian Ministries
- Ministry in Urban and Social Service Contexts
- Sports Ministry
- Youth Outreach and Discipleship

 **Watch Spencer's story:**  
[apu.edu/explore/youth-and-family](http://apu.edu/explore/youth-and-family)



*One moment for me that really caused a shift in the way I thought was a trip to L.A. called 'Exegeting the City' with Professor Gregg Moder. We went into the city to see the depths of L.A. and the diversity there.*

*We got into some texts that discussed Jesus as the liberator, and that caused me to rethink what it meant to be a Christian, and that influenced the way I look at ministry and where I want to go.*

**– SPENCER WHELAN '17, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES MAJOR**

## Youth and Family Ministry Careers

- Youth Minister
- Urban Ministry Administrator
- Director of a Faith-based Organization
- Missional Community Leader
- Chaplain
- Director of a Youth-focused Nonprofit Organization
- School Athletic Coach
- Pastor
- Counselor
- Camp Director

## Successful Alumni

- Kate Johnson '08, M.Div. '15, Student Ministries Director, RockHarbor Church, Mission Viejo
- Justin Knowles '10, High School Pastor, Christ's Church of the Valley, San Dimas
- Emily Rottier '15, New Vision Soccer, Arusha, Tanzania
- Meghan Easley '14, Praxis, Operations Associate, New York
- Taylor Wright '12, Camp Director, Barefoot Republic Camp, Big Bear; History Teacher, Torres High School, East Los Angeles



## Next Steps

Ready to learn more about the youth and family ministries major, or apply to Azusa Pacific? Get started today!

### Visit Campus

[apu.edu/visitcampus](http://apu.edu/visitcampus)

### Learn More

[apu.edu/explore/youth-and-family](http://apu.edu/explore/youth-and-family)

### Apply

[apu.edu/apply](http://apu.edu/apply)

### Connect with Us

For more information or to learn about other majors and opportunities at Azusa Pacific, contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

[admissions@apu.edu](mailto:admissions@apu.edu)

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