

Thomas Pitney

– 2024 | Political Science, French & Francophone Studies –

Global Impacts Pathway

Why I Joined the Global Impacts Pathway

- Passions for political science, public policy, and local government
- Interest in expanding knowledge of how policies are implemented around the world
- Broaden my perspective and explore the world outside of the United States

Correct and Incorrect Assumptions

- I explored many “local” issues, including housing, water access, and education, through the Pathways coursework
- The Pathway ignited a previously unexplored interest in global engagement
- The Pathway provided me more opportunities to apply my education to real-world scenarios than I had previously expected

My Experiential Learning Opportunities & What I Gained

New Student Orientation Leader, Dean of Students, 2 weeks

As a New Student Orientation leader, I mentored a group of 30 incoming students, each of whom came from a different background. As a result, I gained improved leadership and interpersonal skills.

Head International Student Orientation Leader, International Student Services, 7 months

In this role, I was responsible for guiding International Student Orientation leaders. Interacting with the orientation leaders, I learned about other cultures and communicating in ways sensitive to others’ experiences.

Study Abroad, School for International Training, 5 months

I studied in Geneva, Switzerland during the Spring 2023 semester. From this experience, I learned how to adapt to a host family with a culture different than my own. I also improved my French speaking skills.



My Pathway Courses & How They’ve Impacted my Global Impacts Journey

ENVS-29903: Urban Environments in Comparative Context

This class explored challenges facing local communities around the world, such as transportation, education, and water access. These lessons reinforced my passion for development.

FREN-33500: West Africa & France

The course examined the relationship between Francophone West Africa and France. I learned to employ many different disciplines, such as history, political science, and art history, to better understand these complex issues.

URBN-10200: World Cities

This class discusses the urban development of cities in Asia, Europe, and Africa. I came to appreciate that many challenges in development are structural and that without acknowledging them, building an equitable and sustainable world is impossible.



Final Thoughts:

How My Pathway Has Shaped My Career Path

The Global Impacts Pathway allowed me to understand how my experiences in Political Science and French & Francophone Studies intersect. The Pathway’s coursework, Experiential Learning, and discussions often raised more questions than provided answers. As a result, I learned about the complexity of the world and the importance of using an interdisciplinary approach to better understand it.

My experiences in the Pathway sparked my interest in pursuing a career in international service. After Wooster, I hope to gain international real-world experience. Therefore, I am currently applying for the Peace Corps and the Teaching Assistant Program in France (TAPIF). In these programs, I will explore many of the same interests I developed from the Pathway: intercultural exchange, community development, and language learning.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank Dr. Harry Gamble for serving as a mentor and guiding me through the Pathway.

Thank you also to Candace Chenoweth, who encouraged me to use the Pathway as a way to explore my interests in community development.

Finally, thank you to Dr. Kent Kille, who has provided tremendous academic and career advice throughout my time at Wooster.