

## Interview with UCI Police Dept.

# Officer Chris Patton



Chris Patton  
Officer, UC Irvine Police

### Why did you choose law enforcement as a career?

Law enforcement was not actual Chris' first career. He graduated from Cal State Long Beach and at the time planned to be a science teacher. After graduating he ended up working for corporate America for 14 years. During this time he did everything from being the head of sales to being an account rep. After his 14 years he decided to go through the reserve programs for the Sheriff's department. Through this program he was just a volunteer but still put his life on the line every day. During his time in the reserve he felt as if he was truly giving back to his community. After volunteering through the reserve program he decided that being a police officer is what he wanted to do full time.

### How long have you worked in law enforcement and how long have you worked for UCI specifically?

Officer Patton started the reserve program in 2010 and started working for UCI about 3 years ago. UCI PD

was actually the only department that he ended up applying for. After working for the Sheriff's department through the reserve program he knew that he wanted to make the change from Sheriff to Police Department. He also chose UCI because he liked the idea of working in a Higher education community. He felt in this position he was able to do more teaching than just enforcing which stood out to him. He wanted to have the opportunity to show students how their decisions can affect their future and hopefully keep them on a good path.

### What is your favorite sports team?

There is no one sports team that Officer Patton truly calls himself a fan of. He enjoys watching football and many other sports though. He did mention that he would much rather be out playing or participating in the sport than just watching. Chris does have a couple favorite sports players though and they are Kobe Bryant and Andrew Luck.

### What is your favorite food?

One of Chris' favorite foods is sushi! Whenever he goes out for sushi he loves eating sashimi. Officer Patton said if we asked his wife this question she would definitely say his favorite food is candy because he eats too much of it. He likes Werther's Original Candy and Fun Dip.

### Where do you want to travel to next?

The next place that Officer Patton wants to visit is Belize. He said he would love to travel there because it is very green and exotic and would love to see the nature there. He also mentioned that it is on his wish list because it is a family friendly area and that is important to him.

### What is your favorite hobby?

Chris Patton's favorite hobby at the moment is going to watch his children play sports. His son plays soccer and his daughter is a dancer. Family time is very important to him and he enjoys all of these moments with them. He also enjoys playing poker from time to time, and he emphasized playing since he does not always win!

### What is your most memorable moment as an Officer?

In general the most memorable moments he has had as a police officer are the occasions where he comes across people that may be having suicidal thoughts and he gets the opportunity to just talk with them. He says having the ability to give them resources and being someone that they can talk to is something he will never take for granted.

### What is your advice for students at UCI?

Officer Patton's biggest advice to students is to enjoy yourself, but be safe. For a lot of students college is a completely new experience in which they are on their own for their first time and he wants them to think about every decision they make. He also wants them to know that you cannot always control your stress. He wants students to know there are resources on this campus and he wants them to use all of them. Lastly, he would like to encourage every student to come up and talk to the officers! He says that all the officers are friendly and enjoy getting to know the students so when you see them go up and say hello!

### Do you have any secret talents?

Chris says that he does not really have any special talents but that he used to play the trumpet. He hasn't played in years but back in the day he used to be fairly good. Another secret talent of his is that he is the master of the grilled cheese sandwich!

### What is one thing you want the campus to know about why you come to work every day?

He wants the students to know that for him this is not a typical 9-5 job. Being a police officer is a calling especially since you need to wear many hats. You can be an enforcer of laws, a medical aid for someone in need, a comforter and someone who is involved in the community. To our Police Department COP stands for Community Oriented Policing and community is truly why they all come to work. They get to work with students, faculty and staff and they have the unique opportunity to build personal relationships here in our community.

