ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
The Department of Sport and Physical Education offers two Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) degrees: a B.Ed. in Physical Education and a B.Ed. in Sport Management. These degrees prepare students for teaching, coaching, fitness, or sport business leadership careers. They are designed to be a broad-based foundation for graduate studies in sport administration, physical education, or health-related areas. Students interested in pursuing the teaching option must also complete the requirements of the Teacher Certification program. This qualifies individuals to teach physical education (health/fitness) in grades K-12.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS
The B.Ed. in Sport Management prepares students for a variety of positions within the sport industry. Some of these positions may include:
- Amateur Sport Teams/Organizations
- Professional Sport Teams/Organizations
- Sport/Fitness Clubs
- Sport Venue and Facility Organizations
- Parks and Recreation Departments
- Sport Media Organizations
- Collegiate Athletic Departments

Gonzaga’s Sport Management program offers its students several exceptional benefits:
- Small class sizes, hands-on classroom experiences, and networking opportunities with fellow students and faculty members
- Widespread industry connections for internships

Students take a broad curriculum with courses in many areas. Some of these courses include:
- Administration of Sport and Athletics
- Sport Promotions and Sponsorship
- Psycho-Social Aspects of Sport and Exercise
- Sport and Fitness in the Digital Age
- Ethical and Legal Aspects in Sport
- Sport Facility Management
- Sport and Activity in a Diverse Society
- Health and Fitness Club Management

Students are also required to complete two sport management internships for their degree. It is also recommended that students in Sport Management pursue an advisor-approved minor, such as business, communication studies, promotions, journalism, or other relevant specialty areas. This track also prepares students to pursue graduate studies in sport management or athletic administration. The Sport and Physical Education Department also offers a 24-credit minor in Sport Management.

THE MISSION
The Department of Sport and Physical Education is part of Gonzaga’s School of Education. The School’s mission is to prepare socially responsible professionals who serve with care, competence, and commitment, guiding not only the educational goals for the School, but also the behaviors of the faculty, students, and staff. The School of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) and is approved by the Washington Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB).

- Experience-based curriculum to best prepare our undergraduate students to be leaders within the sport industry
- Small class sizes, which provide more opportunities for hands-on classroom experiences and interactions with fellow students and faculty members
- Strong scientific foundations which prepare our teacher candidates to create developmentally appropriate lessons and activities across the lifespan
- Providing teacher candidates multiple opportunities throughout the program to work with K-12 learners in Physical Education
- A strong foundation in management techniques and planning for students interested in eventually coaching

The Physical Education program is designed primarily to prepare students for Washington State Certification to teach health and physical education at the K-12 level in schools. Candidates seeking teacher certification will receive a Health and Fitness endorsement and can teach in grades K-12. Physical Education candidates also have an opportunity to pursue teaching certification in other disciplines (English, Science, Math, Social Studies, Music, etc.) who want to add a second endorsement to their certification. This certification option has reciprocity for obtaining a teaching license in most U.S. states.
Students not interested in seeking teacher certification who wish to pursue careers in the fitness industry as personal trainers, fitness club programmers, fitness club managers/owners, or providers of fitness and health-related programming for individuals, groups, or corporations can complete the major in Physical Education, along with a Fitness Specialist concentration, without completing the requirements for teacher certification. This concentration provides additional knowledge, skills, and hours from classes and internships to prepare for work in the fitness industry and other various exercise settings. Students will be qualified to sit for national certification exams (ACSM, NSCA, etc.) in fitness specialties and to work as fitness professionals independently, in fitness clubs, and in community organizations that promote health and fitness. Another possibility is enrollment in a graduate program focused on exercise or fitness.

GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Gonzaga also offers graduate study in sport administration. The M.A. in in Sport and Athletic Administration (MASAA) program is designed as an interdisciplinary curriculum, grounded in the liberal arts, drawing on studies in educational and organizational theory. The program prepares students to be leaders in sport, athletic, and health professions. The emphasis is on training candidates to administer programs in accordance with best professional practices.

The MASAA curriculum is designed as a 34-credit program taken over six semesters. Students spend a minimum of 300 hours working in a variety of internship settings. Advisors work closely with students to select internship sites that will best match students’ interests, goals, and career aspirations.

Graduate Assistantships are also available to a limited number of students. Graduate Assistants typically teach undergraduate classes in our extensive physical education activity program. Applications for Assistantships are to be submitted to the Sport & Physical Education Department Chair.

OUTCOMES

Both undergraduate and graduate students in sport management at Gonzaga complete internships as a requirement of their degrees. Students also often cite their internships as one of most valuable parts of their educational experience. Some recent internships and job placements have included the following:

College/University Athletic Departments
- Gonzaga University
- University of Washington
- University of San Diego

Collegiate Athletic Organizations
- West Coast Conference
- NCAA

Professional Sports Franchises
- Seattle Mariners
- Golden State Warriors
- Oakland Athletics
- Portland Timbers
- Colorado Rapids
- Seattle Seahawks

Minor League Sports Franchises
- Everett Aquasox
- Spokane Indians
- Idaho Stampede

Health and Fitness Clubs
- 24-Hour Fitness
- U-District Sports Medicine (Spokane)
- Get Fit 360
- CrossFit

Sport Marketing Agencies/Companies
- IMG Worldwide
- Wasserman Media Group
- IEG
- Event Marketing Strategies
- Slalom Consulting

Recreational and Community Organizations
- YMCA
- Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Recent graduates of Gonzaga sport management programs have also attended the following graduate programs:
- Marquette University Law School, Sports Law program
- University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law
- University of San Francisco, M.A. in Sport Management
- San Diego State University, Sports Business Management M.B.A. program
- Boise State University, M.S. in Exercise and Sports Studies
- University of Arkansas, Master of Athletic Training

FACULTY CONTACTS AND SPECIALTIES

Boe Burrus | Ph.D., Springfield College | exercise physiology | burrus@gonzaga.edu

Heidi Nordstrom | Ph.D., University of New Mexico | sport management/administration | nordstrom@gonzaga.edu

Karen Rickel | Ph.D., University of Idaho | Dept. Chair | health and wellness | rickelk@gonzaga.edu