THE PROGRAM

Psychology is a fascinating and complex science aimed at understanding why humans think and behave as they do. Psychologists specialize in many different areas including: social, developmental, animal behavior, learning, cognition and clinical to name a few. Students who possess a critical curiosity about the functions and causes of behavior and decision-making are invited to choose a major in Psychology (34 credits). For Psychology faculty and students at Gonzaga, those goals ultimately all focus on working together to develop empirically-supported understandings of people’s feelings, thoughts, and actions. Gonzaga’s Psychology program has been carefully developed to achieve these objectives over a student’s four years.

THE FIRST TWO YEARS

During their first two years, Psychology majors concentrate on fulfilling many of their Core Curriculum requirements in areas like English, Philosophy, Religious Studies, and History. However, they also take three very important courses as part of the Psychology major.

First, they take a course in statistics, which is often surprising to new majors. In statistics, students learn about essential empirical measurement tools necessary for making sense of psychological processes.

Second, Psychology majors take a course in general psychology. In general psychology, students learn about the different specialties in the discipline and study some of the key insights that psychologists have contributed to each of those specialties.

Third, students take a course in research methods. This class provides students with the tools for applying the scientific method (e.g., generating hypotheses, figuring out how to test those hypotheses) to complicated questions about human thinking and behavior. “Why do people do that?!” This class allows students to be able to ask that question and then set out to find some answers. This class will also prepare students for reading studies in the advanced courses that are coming next.

THE LAST TWO YEARS

During their last two years, Psychology majors go deeper into the science of psychology. They choose a certain number of courses from each of four clusters. This is where students get to dig into those areas of psychology that interest them. Students are required to take some classes from each cluster below but they can customize so that they are taking classes that are of the most interest to them.

Cluster A covers basic psychological processes. Courses include Biological Psychology, Cultural Psychology, Sensation and Perception, Cognition, and Emotion.

Cluster B addresses social, developmental, and interpersonal psychology. For example, some courses in this cluster are Social Psychology, Personality, Child Psychology, and Psychology of Aging.

Cluster C looks at applied, clinical, and other types of psychology. Its courses include Educational Psychology, Culture and Mental Health, Industrial/Organization Psychology, Psychopathology, and Clinical Neuropsychology.

Cluster D focuses on advanced research, theory, and application. Under this cluster, students may take courses like Advanced Research Methods, Psychological Assessment, History and Systems of Psychology, Mindfulness and Psychotherapy, and Comparative Psychology.

Finally, to graduate with a major in Psychology, each student must pass a comprehensive exam. While there are multiple exam options, the most common one students take is the Major Fields Test in Psychology.

Students may also complete a minor in Psychology from Gonzaga. The minor has same three required lower-division courses as the major. Minors are then required to take only four upper-division Psychology electives.

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Gonzaga’s Psychology program offers a variety of opportunities for our students to participate in research with a faculty member or to create and conduct their own individual research projects. Gonzaga Psychology students have an impressive record of presentations.
and awards at major national conferences like the annual conferences of the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Association for Psychological Science (APS).

Spokane is the regional hub of the Inland Northwest and offers a variety of service-learning and practicum experiences for Psychology students. Current Psychology students are also gaining hands-on experience by working at the Department of Social and Health Services, Spokane Mental Health, and the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery. Others are hired as crisis-line counselors at Spokane’s First Call for Help.

The Psychology Department has developed also study abroad program in Zambia. Students study comparative psychology at the world’s largest chimpanzee sanctuary in Chimfunshi, Zambia and engage in social outreach with Zambian families. These unique learning experiences are available to students who meet academic requirements and have a strong desire to apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations.

OUTCOMES

Many Psychology students choose to establish careers in education, business, law, and medicine where they have discovered their background in psychology to be beneficial. Additionally, our graduates are competitive applicants for service programs such as Teach for America, Peace Corps, and Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Still others have gone on to non-profit settings. Because psychology relates to so many other fields, students are encouraged to pursue additional studies in other disciplines while enrolled at Gonzaga as well.

The Psychology curriculum is designed to prepare students for the rigors of graduate study, and feedback from alumni indicates that they are prepared beyond the level of most of their peers from other institutions. For the past several years, strong students, especially those who have obtained research experience, have been highly competitive applicants for master’s and doctoral programs throughout the country.

Recent Psychology graduates have attended the following graduate schools:

**Ph.D. Programs**

Arizona State University  
Northeastern University  
University of Alabama  
University of California, Los Angeles  
University of Denver  
University of Illinois  
University of Iowa  
University of Montana  
University of Nebraska  
University of Nevada, Reno  
University of North Carolina, Greensboro  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Oregon  
University of Washington  
Washington State University

**Psy.D. Programs**

George Fox University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Pacific University

**M.A. Programs**

Eastern Washington University  
Gonzaga University  
Santa Clara University  
Seattle University  
University of Washington  
Washington State University  
Western Washington University

THE PEOPLE

Monica Bartlett  | Ph.D., Northeastern University  | social psychology, positive psychology, influence of positive emotions (e.g., gratitude, humility) on social behavior, prosocial behavior, human flourishing  | bartlettm@gonzaga.edu
Mark Bodamer  | Ph.D., University of Nevada, Reno  | animal (chimpanzee, orca) behavior, communication, and intelligence; language acquisition and development; psychological well-being of primates; human relationships with nature  | bodamer@gonzaga.edu
Molly Kretchmar-Hendricks  | Ph.D., University of Texas  | infant, child, and adolescent development; attachment theory and parent-child relationships  | kretchmar@gonzaga.edu
Anna Marie Medina  | Ph.D., University of Southern California  | Dept. Chair  | child clinical psychology; development of emotion and cognition in children; family violence and consequences for children exposed to violence  | medina@gonzaga.edu
Sam Leigland  | Ph.D., University of New Mexico  | learning; behavior analysis; the history, systems, and philosophy of psychology  | leigland@gonzaga.edu
Michael McBride  | Ph.D., St. Louis University  | social psychology; industrial and environmental psychology  | mcbride@gonzaga.edu
Mike Nelson  | Ph.D., Dartmouth College  | cognition; sensation and perception; cognitive neuroscience of vision and visual attention  | nelsonm2@gonzaga.edu
Vinai Norasakkunkit  | Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, Boston  | cultural influences on motivation, attention, and emotion; the intersection of cultural and clinical psychology  | norasakkunkit@gonzaga.edu
Gary Thorne  | Ph.D., University of Southern California  | biological psychology, psychophysiology  | thorne@gonzaga.edu
John Wolfe  | Ph.D., Fuller Theological Seminary  | clinical neuropsychology, psychology of aging, forensic psychology  | wolfej@gonzaga.edu
Nancy Worsham  | Ph.D., University of Vermont  | child clinical psychology, community psychology, attachment to companion animals  | worsham@gonzaga.edu

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