



Psychology

A central aspect of the Gonzaga Psychology Department's mission is to ensure that students appreciate and understand the scientific method upon which modern psychology is based and learn the skills essential to scientific inquiry. Beyond providing a broad foundational knowledge base, we also seek to educate students in ways that encourage self-discovery, expand critical thinking skills, enhance written and oral expression, develop awareness of ethical issues and human diversity, and inspire a life-long commitment to service and social justice.

THE PROGRAM

The Psychology Department at Gonzaga offers both a major and minor in psychology. Students that choose to major in psychology choose a certain number of courses from each of the five clusters. Students are required to take classes from each cluster, but they can customize their schedule so that they are taking classes that are of most interest to them. Students that choose to minor in psychology are required to take three lower-division and four upper-division courses.

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. Gonzaga's Psychology program embraces learning both in and outside of the classroom (e.g., research assistant in faculty labs, internships, volunteer work).

CLUSTERS

Biological Psychology Cluster

Courses include:

- Biological Psychology
- Sensation and Perception

Learning and Cognition Cluster

Courses include:

- Cognition
- Learning

Social and Personality Cluster

Courses include:

- Social Psychology
- Personality
- Cultural Psychology

Developmental Psychology Cluster

Courses include:

- Child Psychology
- Adolescent Psychology
- Emerging Adulthood
- Psychology of Aging
- Lifespan Development

Clinical and Health Cluster

Courses include:

- Abnormal Child Psychology
- Psychopathology
- Clinical Neuropsychology
- Seminar: Health/Pediatric Psychology
- Seminar: Clinical/Counseling Psychology

FOUNDATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGY AT GONZAGA

First, psychology majors take a course in general psychology. In general psychology, students are introduced to the different specialties in the field and learn about key studies and theories that psychologists have contributed to each of those specialties.

Next, students take courses in statistics and research methods. In statistics, students learn about essential measurement tools necessary for making sense of the psychological studies that they will encounter. Research Methods provides students with the tools for applying the scientific method (i.e., generating hypotheses and figuring out how to test them) to complicated questions about human thinking and behavior. This class allows students to ask questions and then set out to find answers in scientifically appropriate ways.

RESEARCH CONCENTRATION

This is a special pathway within the psychology major. If students are planning for doctoral level graduate studies this may be a great opportunity to do so. The research concentration will give students additional experience in research and data analysis.

Recently completed research projects include:

- The Effects of Handwritten vs. Typed Notes on Retention
- Facebook Frienemies and Relational Mobility
- Gratitude and Our Planet: Changing Behaviors
- Gratitude: Reducing Loneliness in Older Adults
- Narcissism and Reactivity to an Awkward Stimulus

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, graduates are competitive applicants for service programs such as Teach for America, Peace Corps, and Jesuit Volunteer Corps. Still others have gone on to work in non-profit settings. Because psychology relates to so many other fields, students are encouraged to pursue majors and/or minors in other disciplines while enrolled at Gonzaga as well.

The 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.

For students interested in continuing their study of psychology, Gonzaga offers the following graduate degree programs:

- Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Counseling
- Master of Counselling (Canada)
- Education Specialist in School Psychology
- Master of Arts in School Counseling

Contact:
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GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Recent Psychology graduates have enrolled at the following institutions for graduate or doctoral programs:

- Arizona State University
- Columbia University
- New York University
- Northeastern University
- Oxford University, England
- Santa Clara University
- Seattle University
- University of California - Davis
- University of California - Los Angeles
- University of Denver
- University of Illinois
- University of Iowa
- University of Massachusetts - Amherst
- University of Nebraska
- University of Oregon
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Portland
- University of Washington

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