



The Passion

With its clash of wit, words, and wisdom, collegiate debate combines the excitement of competition with the rigors of scholarship. Debate hones communication, analytical, and research skills, while deepening knowledge on specific topics in politics, history, economics, law, and philosophy. If you are the type of person driven by an intellectual challenge and the desire to succeed, then we highly encourage you to pursue collegiate academic debate.

The Program

Gonzaga's Debate Program has a long history of excellence in collegiate policy debate. For over 100 years, Gonzaga has supported intercollegiate debate as an integral part of Jesuit education. The program distinguishes itself reaching national prominence year after year. The program holds a deep commitment to competing at the highest level on both the regional and national circuits.

Over the years, Gonzaga Debate has enjoyed enormous success. Gonzaga consistently finishes among the top of the National Debate Tournament (NDT) National Varsity Rankings and the Cross Examination Debate Association Rankings, including a 12th place finish in 2009. Gonzaga teams have reached elimination rounds at all the major national tournaments, including Wake Forest, Harvard, Kentucky, Texas, UC-Berkeley, USC, Fullerton, Northwestern, Kansas, CEDA Nationals, and The NDT. Gonzaga also consistently qualifies teams to the NDT through both the first and second round at-large processes, as well as through the district qualification process.

The program encourages students to extensively research scholarly publications in order to present interdisciplinary perspectives that appeal to a wide range of audiences. This comprehensive and meticulous preparation, coupled with superior training in speaking, cross examination, and critical thinking, has been the foundation for the program's success.

As an academic discipline, the program offers coursework through Gonzaga's Communication Arts Department. Two courses, "Principles of Debate" and "Argumentation and Debate," are open to students who meet course prerequisites. In addition, student debaters may receive academic credit for ongoing

participation in the program.

The Gonzaga Debate Program also provides a number of services to the college forensics community. In September, Gonzaga hosts the Jesuit Invitational Debates, the largest college debate tournament in the Northwest and the season opener for the West Coast college debate community. In January, focus turns to hosting the Conway Classic, one of the largest and most prestigious high school tournaments in the Northwest. In addition, Gonzaga sponsors the Gonzaga Debate Institute (GDI) each summer for high school debaters. The GDI has quickly grown into one of the finest summer institutes in the nation and the largest in the Northwest. In 2005, Gonzaga served as the host institution for the NDT, the national championship tournament of the college community. The final round was between UC-Berkeley and Northwestern University. Northwestern prevailed on a 4-1 decision. Plans are underway to once again host the Tournament in 2015.

The Students

Students who debate for Gonzaga typically pursue graduate studies and gain admission into prestigious graduate programs and law schools across the country. Gonzaga debaters have received post-graduate degrees from such institutions as Boston College, Wake Forest, UC-Berkeley, University of Oregon, University of Chicago, University of Michigan, Pepperdine, Georgetown, Marquette, University of Minnesota, and many others. Gonzaga debaters have gone on to become respected political analysts, successful attorneys, presidents of universities, and even the Speaker of the House in the United States Congress.



The Coaches

The Gonzaga coaching staff has extensive experience both competing and coaching at the highest levels of collegiate debate. The current coaching staff includes:

Glen Frappier, Director of Debate. B. A. in Political Science, Southern Illinois University, 1996. M.S. in Communication Studies, Southern Illinois University, 1998.

Steve Pointer, Assistant Director of Debate. B.A. History, Portland State University, 2002.

Carly Wunderlich, Assistant Coach. B.A. Political Science. Michigan State University. 2010.

Izak Dunn, Assistant Debate Coach. B.A. Philosophy, Idaho State University, 2007. M.A. in Philosophy, Gonzaga University, 2009.

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For more information, please contact: For more information about the Gonzaga Debate Program, please visit the website at: www.gonzagadebate.com or contact the coaching staff directly at (509) 313-6663.