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
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

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