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. The School's mission not only guides the educational goals for the department, but also the behaviors of the faculty, students, and staff.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

The B.Ed. in Kinesiology and Physical Education program prepares professionals who can design and deliver health, fitness, and physical education programs. Students are trained in pedagogical and scientific practices that help others reach their highest potential through a humanistic approach to wellness. Graduates are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to work in school, clinical, community, and commercial/corporate settings to instruct, coach, and evaluate health, fitness, and sport-related activities. Additionally, this degree can serve as the path to graduate studies in kinesiology, exercise physiology, athletic training and strength and conditioning programs and rehabilitation-focused programs.

The B.Ed. in Sport Management gives students the prestige of a Top-10 NCAA athletic brand on their resume. In addition to this reputation, graduates are inspired to impact the world with an enhanced understanding of their personal mission in life through Gonzaga’s Jesuit traditions.

NATIONAL STANDARDS

All teacher preparation degree programs, including elementary, secondary, school counseling, and advanced certification programs, are approved by the Washington Professional Educator Standards Board. These degrees prepare students for careers as teachers, coaches, fitness specialists, or leadership and managerial roles in the national sport industry and for pursuing graduate degrees in their field.
KINESIOLOGY

Unique to Gonzaga is the fact that faculty strive to know their students’ strengths and needs to provide the support necessary for excelling in the program and their future profession. They create hands-on classroom and laboratory experiences to fully engage students in learning and applying professional practice, knowledge, and skills. Furthermore, faculty are a resource for students even after they graduate by providing mentorship and networking opportunities for continual success in the field.

Students who wish to pursue careers in the fitness industry can complete the major in Kinesiology, along with a Fitness Specialist concentration. This option is for individuals interested in working in a fitness environment in roles such as an exercise physiologist, strength and conditioning coach, community/youth sport camp leader, fitness club programmer, or group activity instructor. Students will be qualified to sit for national certification exams in fitness specialties such as the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), Certified Exercise Physiologist Exam, or the National Strength and Conditioning (NSCA) Certified Strength and Conditioning Exam. In addition to the roles listed above, students will be prepared to pursue clinical or applied graduate degrees in the kinesiology and exercise science fields.

The Kinesiology program also can prepare students for Washington State Certification to teach health and fitness at the K-12 level. Students interested in pursuing the teaching option must complete the the Health and Physical Education Pedagogy Concentration along with the Teacher Certification requirements. Candidates seeking teacher certification will receive a Health and Fitness endorsement and can teach in grades K-12. In addition, candidates have an opportunity to pursue teaching in a second endorsement in other disciplines (e.g., English, Science, Math, Social Studies, Music, etc.).

CAREER PATHS

Our graduates successfully become:

- Certified exercise physiologists
- Fitness club programmers
- Graduate students in Kinesiology/Exercise Science
- Physical and health educators in public and private settings
- Sport coaches at various levels
- Strength and conditioning coaches
- Wellness coaches
SPORT MANAGEMENT

With small class sizes, we strive to create collaborative, hands-on classroom experiences directly linked to discovering the student's professional aspirations. Course curricula train students to become leaders within the sport industry by taking classes in the following areas:

- Sport promotions and sponsorship
- Ethical and legal aspects in sport
- Social/psychological aspects of sport and exercise
- Sport facility management
- Sport and fitness in the digital age
- Sport and activity in a diverse society

Sport Management faculty and staff have widespread sports industry networks to connect students for required internships as well as beginning their career in the sport industry. Fields where students and alumni engage include:

- College/university athletic departments
- Professional and amateur sport teams/organizations
- Recreational and community organizations
- Sport media organizations
- Sport venue and facility organizations

Students are required to complete two sport management internships. Additionally, it is recommended that students in Sport Management pursue an advisor-approved minor, such as business, communication studies, promotions, journalism, or other relevant specialty areas. The Department also offers a 24-credit minor in Sport Management, which requires one professional internship.

Some recent internships and job placements include:

College/University Athletic Departments

- Fiesta Bowl marketing and media
- Gonzaga University
- University of San Diego
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin - Madison

Professional/Minor League Sport Franchises

- Portland Timbers
- Seattle Mariners
- Seattle Seahawks
- Seattle Storm
- Spokane Chiefs

Recreational and Community Organizations

- Boys and Girls Club of America
- Hoopfest Spokane
- ParaSport Spokane
- Spokane Sports Commission

Recent graduates of the undergraduate sport management programs have entered graduate programs at the following universities:

- California State University Fullerton
- Gonzaga University
- Marquette University Law School
- University of Northern Colorado
- University of San Francisco

Gonzaga offers a choice of an on-campus or online graduate program in sport administration. The Master of Arts in Sport and Athletic Administration (MASAA) 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.

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