

College of Humanities and Social Sciences



Humanities and Social Sciences Programs

FIND YOUR PURPOSE

GRAND CANYON
UNIVERSITY®

PRIVATE. CHRISTIAN. AFFORDABLE.

College of Humanities & Social Sciences

Our Vision

Our vision is to promote research, creativity, ethical formation and inquiry through critical, analytic and interdisciplinary study.

PREPARATION FOR THE WORKFORCE ▼

A degree from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences gives students social, intellectual and problem-solving skills needed for a thriving career. We prepare students for the workforce through our capstone courses offered in many of our programmatic areas. These courses allow students to create a tangible project (research, proposal, community service, etc.) that can be utilized during a job interview to show employers they have the skill set needed for the workforce.

PREPARATION FOR GRADUATE STUDIES ▼

Our degree programs prime students to continue their education by moving on to graduate school. Students are prepared for graduate school entrance exams through faculty-led LSAT sessions, which help students feel confident about moving on to law school and various graduate programs. Our robust portfolio of master's and doctoral-level degree programs align with our undergraduate degree programs.

HANDS-ON LEARNING AND INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ▼

Through hands-on learning, field experiences and internship opportunities, students can develop real-world skills applicable to their field. Learning outside of the classroom and beyond textbooks ensures that students are prepared to enter the workforce upon graduation and have relevant experience to show employers.

"Our college is committed to cultivating leaders who are prepared to make a difference in today's diverse and evolving workplaces."

Dean Sherman Elliott, EdD

College of Humanities and Social Sciences



Elizabeth Kluever graduated from GCU with a Bachelor's in Psychology. She then completed her Master's in Clinical Psychology and just started her first year at Wisconsin School of Professional Psychology, working toward a Psy.D. degree in Clinical Psychology.



HUMANITIES *and* SOCIAL SCIENCES

⊖ *an industry with variety!*

COMMUNICATIONS/HUMANITIES

Our humanities programs teach students the skills needed to go into many communication-oriented professions including public relations. These professionals work to maintain the relationship between the general public and specific individuals, organizations and corporations.

COUNSELING

A counselor has the opportunity to be a positive force for clients and help them achieve a better quality of life. Counselors may work with diverse clientele such as children and married couples in mental health and substance abuse settings.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The criminal justice field is an engaging field to pursue. Whether you focus on legal studies or law enforcement, those who work in criminal justice seek to create a healthy, prosperous community that keeps residents safe within a thoughtfully designed criminal justice system.

HISTORY

History majors may pursue many careers including archivists, curators, museum technicians and conservators.

LAW

Aspiring lawyers love data, factual arguments and constructing messaging to sway others. Law is an excellent field to move into! Positions include traditional lawyers, paralegals, legal assistants and more.

PROFESSIONAL WRITING

There are numerous ways to pursue a degree in English. Our college especially focuses on preparing students for careers in technical writing, a promising and exciting field.

PSYCHOLOGY

Many areas of psychology beyond traditional psychology, including sports, industrial, organizational and forensic psychology offer a variety of job opportunities.

SOCIAL WORK

Social work can be impactful and rewarding! There is a wide variety of careers that can include working in schools, hospitals, community settings, legislative policy, child and family services, social welfare, criminal justice, immigration and mental health.



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH *and* SOCIAL SCIENCES

Explore the mind and human behavior with a social science degree

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Behavioral Health Science
- Behavioral Health Science with an Emphasis in Substance Abuse Disorders
- Counseling with an Emphasis in Addiction, Chemical Dependency and Substance Abuse
- Psychology
- Psychology with an Emphasis in Forensic Psychology
- Psychology with an Emphasis in Performance and Sports Psychology
- Sociology
- Sociology with an Emphasis in Social Work

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THESE PROGRAMS?

PSYCHOLOGY	COUNSELING	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCIENCE	SOCIAL WORK SOCIOLOGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory-focused • Covers disorders and pathology • Focuses on individual behavior • Research methods and statistics • Brain anatomy and biological factors • Does not lead to licensure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill-focused • Covers disorders and pathology • Specific focus on addiction, chemical dependency, and substance abuse only • BS leads to licensure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill-focused • Covers disorders and pathology • Sociological focus • Working with families, children, or individuals • Flexible degree for career path • Does not lead to licensure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory and Skill-focused • Focuses on social behavior and society • Research methods and statistics • Social work emphasis focuses on welfare of communities and individuals • Does not lead to licensure

PSYCHOLOGY

- **Potential Careers:** Welfare or social services case manager, entry-level community behavioral worker or a human resource specialist
- **Potential Fields:** Industrial and organizational, forensic, behavioral, clinical and pediatric psychology, as well as counseling and mental health fields
- Students may also pursue graduate-level education in the psychological, counseling and/or mental health fields.

COUNSELING

- **Potential Careers:** Case manager, behavior health technician, mental health technician, substance abuse technician working in a private practice, rehab clinic or a mental health center
- The program leads to Licensed Substance Abuse Technician licensure.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCIENCE

- **Potential Careers:** Behavioral health technician, including a mental health service technician, social and community service manager or case manager
- Students may also pursue graduate-level education in the psychological, counseling and/or mental health fields.

SOCIOLOGY

- **Potential Careers:** Child welfare/social services, justice and corrections, healthcare, mental health center, case management, nonprofit work, senior care, public schools, youth services provider, recreational therapist, grassroots/human rights organizer, community relations specialist, community health educator, data analyst, employment specialist or research consultant

*With additional training



“Along with this beautiful campus and great professors, I was presented with many opportunities. I interviewed with college professors in order to be a part of a project that focused on providing psychoeducation and mentorship to the teens of Alhambra High School. The head of this project allowed for me to gain valuable work experience while serving the Phoenix community. This had led to my employment at Southwest Behavioral Health after graduation.”

– John Roberts, Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Health Science, Summer '19

“GCU has afforded me numerous opportunities. I've led group counseling for high schoolers, served as secretary for the Canyon Counselors Club, volunteered at the Phoenix Dream Center and seen the need for incorporating Spanish in the counseling field. In another school or program, I wouldn't have discovered my passion or grown so much as a future counselor.”

– Elizabeth Oekerman, Bachelor of Science in Counseling with an Emphasis in Addiction, Chemical Dependency and Substance Abuse, Minor in Spanish, Spring '21

Joseph Perez had a job lined up before he graduated in April 2019. He graduated with a degree in Psychology. His instructors helped guide him to a paid internship at Southwest Behavioral Health Crisis Recovery Unit in Phoenix, and the behavioral technician's training kicked in. He was assured of a job after graduation and credits GCU's preparation.

“In this field, you have to be ethical, and they fall in line with GCU's ethics—just having a good grasp of knowing what is right and wrong. It is something that GCU teaches greatly.”

RUQUIYAH MUHAMMAD – Sociology

There can't be a greater advocate for Career Connections than Muhammad, who calls herself “the type who likes to plan ahead.”

Not only did the website help her land a job while she was a junior; she worked full time as a behavioral health technician for Arizona Youth and Family Services for one full year, then was promoted to a position as a case manager.

It happened, she said, because Career Connections links students to jobs that match their degrees. Now she has turned into a mentor – a friend built up her profile on the website and got a job for this summer, and Muhammad wants more students to hear her message.

“It resonates more when it's coming from a student,” she said.

Retrieved from GCU Today, May 2020

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD

- Behavioral health settings such as clinics and hospitals
- International social work educational travel opportunities
- Mentoring sessions for at-risk youth, local elementary, middle and high schools
- Nonprofit agency and social services field experience
- Phoenix Dream Center group counseling sessions
- Role play and simulations for real-life applications and readiness
- Sociology and social work journal review
- Student-led research with faculty mentorship

CLUBS & LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- Behavioral Health Sciences Club – @gcu_bhsclub
- Canyon Counselors – @gucacanyoncounselors49
- Counseling Club – @gucacanyoncounselors49
- GCU Drum Circle
- GCU Pre-Law Society – @gcu_prelaw_society
- Psi Chi Honors Society – @psychigcu
- Psych Hike – @gcu_PsychHike
- Psychology Club – @gcu_psychclub
- Social Work and Sociology Club – @gcusocialwork

PUBLIC SERVICE



Lead in law enforcement, public service or government administration

GOVERNMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS IN LEGAL STUDIES

- **Potential Careers:** Paralegal or in an administrative role (special focus is provided for students preparing for the Law School Admission Test)

GOVERNMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS IN STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY

- **Potential Careers:** Public administrator or research and budget analyst, or a job in a professional setting such as a nonprofit, regulatory affairs in the private sector and the corporate space that is heavily reliant on public policy and regulation

JUSTICE STUDIES

- **Ideal for students interested in:** Policing, investigation, corrections, case management, strategic planning, regulatory compliance, licensing, contract review and cybercrime
- **Potential Careers:** Police officer, parole officer, corrections officer or as a professional in settings such as government, investigative organizations, public service agencies and private legal practice

“So, You Want to Go to Law School?”

In addition to the free LSAT preparation offered in the pre-law studies track, Government/Justice Studies Chair Kevin Walling gives an excellent presentation twice per semester: “So, You Want to Go to Law School?” It’s an excellent seminar that provides students with more information regarding preparation for law school and what law school admissions look for in their applicants.

“I took Professor Walling’s Philosophy of Law class, and thought it was great; it really got me interested in law. You go through history and the foundations of law, and that suited me because I’m actually a history major, so that really brought me more into law. I come from a military family and I volunteered at the Disabled American Veterans a lot, and they do free legal clinics for veterans. That got me interested in how I could help veterans with a legal degree.” – Jacob Frankson

AUSTIN BYROM - Pre-law

Austin Byrom is a recent GCU graduate (2020) and is working towards a law degree at Baylor University.

“The Professors helped me learn how to write memos, mediate and arbitrate and prepared me to do well in law school. Professor Kevin Walling’s two-hour ‘So you want to go to law school?’ seminar was very helpful and convinced me that law school would work for me.”

Retrieved from GCU Today, May 2020





UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Arts in:

- Government with an Emphasis in Legal Studies
- Government with an Emphasis in State and Local Public Policy

WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES AMONG THESE PROGRAMS?

JUSTICE STUDIES	GOVERNMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS IN LEGAL STUDIES	GOVERNMENT WITH AN EMPHASIS IN STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative law analysis • Criminal justice • Law enforcement • Overview of civil and criminal law • Policing and corrections • Strategic data analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American politics and government • Can serve as a pre-law degree or entryway into public or legal service • Contemporary and practical legal issues • Overview of civil and criminal law • Research and writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American politics and government • Municipal government • Policy development • Public administration • Research, writing and analytics

OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD

Government:

- Guardian Advocacy Program
- Governmental site visits
- Guest speakers
- Intern with law firms
- Role play and simulations for real-life applications and readiness
- State capitol tour
- Visits to legislature office and courtrooms

Justice Studies:

- Police department visits
- Ride-along opportunities
- Role play and simulations for real-life applications and readiness
- Shooting range practice
- Security involvement – students and faculty provided security detail for the 2019 Super Bowl

CLUBS & LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- Future Politicians of America
- GCU Speech & Debate Team
- Lopes Justice Society
- Pre-Law Club
- Student Government Club “We the People”
- Young Americans for Freedom

ANDREW WAGENKNECHT - Justice Studies

Sophomore, Andrew Wagenknecht participated in an internship with the Guardianship Review Program out of the Superior Court of Arizona in Maricopa County. His job was to visit wards and contact their guardians to make sure current living situations were going well. Andrew has plans on becoming a police officer after he graduates in 2022.

“It was a good experience. The Professors and staff care about the students and provide tons of opportunities.”

Retrieved from GCU Today, May 2020

COMMUNICATIONS

Explore a career in professional writing or communications

COMMUNICATIONS

Explore principles and best practices of communication exchanges, interpersonal and organizational communications, public relations fundamentals and ethical decision making. Students can also participate in on-campus internships with the GCU TV Team and the GCU Ad Agency.

- **Potential Careers:** Broadcaster, technical writer or editor, public relations specialist, corporate trainer, campaign manager, account executive, sales representative, human resources coordinator and training/development specialist

COMMUNICATION EMPHASES

Emphasis in Broadcasting and New Media

Graduates with this emphasis are prepared for positions in advertising, marketing, public relations and print or broadcast journalism.

Potential positions include:

- Copywriters and journalists
- News anchors and producers
- Screenwriters
- Social media/marketing specialists and managers
- Television producers
- Videographers and more

Emphasis in Political Campaigns

Graduates with this emphasis are prepared for positions in advertising, marketing, public relations, digital media, journalism and politics.

Potential positions include:

- Account executives and coordinators
- Broadcasters, journalists
- Communications campaign managers
- Employer engagement specialists
- Program managers
- Public relations managers and more

Emphasis in Interpersonal Communication and Human Relationships

This emphasis covers a wide breadth of topics, so students are prepared for a variety of different careers across many industries, including:

- Advocacy or civil rights
- Communications research
- Human relations
- Human resources
- Management and leadership
- Public or social media relations

ENGLISH FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

Students will learn the skills to lead in the modern classroom, from excellent communication and critical thinking skills to the comprehension and practical application of methodologies and classroom techniques.

- **Potential Careers:** Middle/high school English, ESP or special education teacher, as well as private tutor, standardized test developer, school administrator, education consultant and museum educator

ENGLISH WITH AN EMPHASIS IN PROFESSIONAL WRITING

This program focuses on the development of advanced writing, enriched critical thinking and analysis skills, while students enhance their understanding of the English language as a whole.

- **Potential Careers:** Grant writing, technical writing, scientific writing, copywriting, social media writing, public relations and journalism

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Startlebloom Publication is an in-house, student-led publication that allows students to submit creative, inspiring, and innovative writing and artwork. A new volume is published each year.





Graduate Certificate in Grant Writing:
GCU now offers an advanced, post-bachelor's certificate in grant writing to prepare students to work on crafting grant proposals and writing in the non-profit space.

"The four years I spent at GCU were greater than I ever imagined they would be. I was able to earn an internship position with Clear Channel Outdoor in New York City. This opportunity would not have been possible without the support and guidance from God, my family and countless professors and peers. After earning a degree in communications, I feel confident for the next chapter in my career. I am excited and proud to be currently working for Grand Canyon Education and thankful for the experience that GCU has equipped me with."

– Kelsie Sebreros, Bachelor of Arts in Communications, Spring '19

▶ UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Communications
- English with an Emphasis in Professional Writing
- English for Secondary Education
- Professional Writing in New Media

▶ OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FIELD

Grant Writing Center

- Students collaborate with the College of Science, Engineering and Technology (CSET) and other student groups to write grants with the goal to raise funds for research and educational advancements.
- Students gain real-world experiences and teamwork skills. This is an opportunity to apply knowledge learned in ENG-245 – Introduction to Practical Grant Writing.

▶ CLUBS & LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- Circle K! Service Club
- Friends of the Pen
- Lambda Pi Eta Honors Society
- Write On!



HUMANITIES

Turn your passion for history or Spanish into a meaningful career

HISTORY

This degree engages the discipline thematically, providing a contemporary alternative to chronological study. Students learn about the political, economic and social aspects of war and revolutions.

- **Potential Careers:** Business management, mass communication, policymaking, government public service and teaching

HISTORY FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

Approved by the Arizona State Board of Education, this program is an opportunity for those to pursue a career path that connects a passion for history and education. Coursework is also aligned with the requirements established by the National Council for Social Studies (NCSS).

- **Potential Careers:** Public or private school administrator, museum educator or archivist, private tutor, standardized test developer, education consultant, history textbook writer, content strategist and documentary writer or editor

MATHEMATICS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION

The BS in Mathematics in Secondary Education is designed for students seeking initial licensure and preparing for a career as a secondary education teacher in a high-demand field. Teacher candidates will obtain a wealth of knowledge in the mathematics content areas like algebra, calculus and geometry and learn to apply these concepts in the classroom. Tutoring services are available to students, which also includes the math center.

- **Potential Careers:** Public or private administrator, analyst, researcher, standardized test developer, education consultant and math textbook content writer

SPANISH

The BA in Spanish equips students to learn basic language and conversation skills and develop listening, reading, writing and speaking proficiencies. This program also focuses on fostering the ability to use language as a way to understand cultural differences as students engage in principles and methodologies necessary to perform professional duties. This degree program makes for an excellent double-major and can be paired with degree programs such as business, government, psychology and more.

GCU also offers a minor degree in Spanish that can help round out a student's degree program. Students who are bilingual may have a bigger advantage in the workforce than students who do not speak a second language.

- **Potential Careers:** Interpreter or translator

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS

- History
- History for Secondary Education
- Mathematics for Secondary Education
- Spanish

Immersing Students in Spanish Culture

The Spanish program exposes students to food, music, literature and other cultural experiences to learn fully. Spanish students have an opportunity to travel to Nogales, a border town, to experience different dialects and accents, meet with an immigration social worker and increase their understanding of the relationship between Mexico and the United States. Students will also enjoy authentic meals during their experience.



"As a student in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Honors College, I learned thorough research, critical thinking and multitasking skills; these helped prepare me to be a former fall 2018 White House intern as I conducted research on administration initiatives, completed concurrent projects and directed office administration tasks. My experiences outside the classroom also prepared me for my future after graduation, including being a current Capitol Hill Intern. GCU staff and faculty supported me in pursuing my dreams while I was a student and continues to be a steadfast resource as I continue seeking to find my purpose."

*– Kara Morrow, Bachelor of Arts in History,
Minor in Athletic Coaching, Spring '18*

What is the Benefit of Being Bilingual?

Bilingual students have more diverse opportunities in the workforce. They are more marketable and oftentimes can receive an increase in pay for being bilingual.

CLUBS & LEARNING COMMUNITIES

- American Sign Language Club
- History Club
- Spanish Club

SPEECH *and* DEBATE

Strengthen Your Public Speaking Skills and Gain Real World Experience

SPEECH AND DEBATE

GCU's nationally ranked Speech and Debate team* won four titles at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensic Association Fall Championship—earning the team its best finish in history. Competitor Tommee Gleason was also awarded as a Top Overall Speaker at the national championship. The team travels all over the country debating and speaking on a wide variety of topics.

Through developing communication skills, students understand how to respond to difficult questions with tact and poise while becoming more versed in current events. Furthermore, students that demonstrate a commitment to the program can earn scholarships and job recommendations.

"I decided to join the team and it was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Every time I have interviewed for a job, my speech experience is a major talking point. Professors and coworkers have congratulated me on my ability to communicate effectively in presentations and meetings. I owe this 100% to my time on the speech team. Being on the team is a fantastic journey. All of my closest friends right now are those whom I have met on the speech team. The community is wildly supportive and legitimately wants everyone to get better. The GCU speech and debate team has been getting more and more competitive on a national level and I am very grateful to have been a part of it!" – Tommee Gleason, Bachelor of Science in Computer Science with an Emphasis in Big Data Analytics, Spring '19

*Ranked 20th





DIVERSIFY YOURSELF FOR CAREER SUCCESS, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF **FLEXIBILITY**

ACADEMIC MINOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

Our various minor degree programs help traditional students maximize their education and give them a competitive advantage in today's workforce. A minor is earned in conjunction with a major degree and provides specialization within an academic area. Students can use their elective credits toward a minor degree and use it as a graduate school application differentiator.



For a full list of minors, visit

GCU.EDU/MINORS



"At the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, our goal is for you to discover your God-given talents with professional, dedicated and compassionate faculty at your side. The success of our college is driven and inspired by your personal success. Our vision for you extends well beyond the classroom. We are here to serve you for the duration of your journey."

Dean Sherman Elliott, EdD
College of Humanities and Social Sciences



HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES ► *Top 5's*

- **Career Preparation** *pg. 3*
- **25+ Faculty-Led Clubs** *pgs. 8, 10, 12, 14*
- **Startlebloom** *pg. 11*
- **Speech and Debate** *pg. 15*
- **Minor-Friendly Programs** *pg. 17*

NEXT *steps:*

- 1** ▶ Apply for free at **gcu.edu/ApplyNow**
- 2** ▶ Upload your transcripts and submit your test scores
- 3** ▶ Upon acceptance, visit campus
(all-expenses paid* programs available)
- 4** ▶ Register for courses and pay the registration deposit



To learn more about Grand Canyon University, undergraduate programs offered on campus, available scholarships and more, contact an admissions counselor.

855-428-7884
[gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions](https://www.gcu.edu/CampusAdmissions)

*Restrictions for travel reimbursement may apply.

Grand Canyon University is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org), an institutional accreditation agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Pre-licensure nursing students who begin or resume attendance in Fall 2020 and beyond will be ineligible to utilize most GCU institutional aid/scholarships for tuition and fees once accepted into the clinical portion of the program. Important policy information is available in the University Policy Handbook at <https://www.gcu.edu/academics/academic-policies.php>. The information printed in this material is accurate as of FEBRUARY 2022. For the most up-to-date information about admission requirements, tuition, scholarships and more, visit [gcu.edu](https://www.gcu.edu). ©2022 Grand Canyon University 21GTR0634