



GORDON
COLLEGE



KENNETH L. PIKE
HONORS PROGRAM

GUIDE AND APPLICATION



The Kenneth L. Pike Honors Program invites exceptional students with a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher to design a unique academic program that creatively complements or extends Gordon College majors or minors in pursuit of their learning goal.

Pike Scholars can take advantage of diverse opportunities at Gordon, or at other domestic or international institutions, to enrich existing majors in unique ways. Scholars design a creative, rigorous program with a depth and breadth that would not ordinarily be available to them at Gordon.

Application Guide

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

A Pike major, minor or concentration is individualized, but the process of developing one is collaborative. Students should confer about their Pike Program Proposal with their current academic advisor, the Pike Committee chair (who may refer the student to a Pike Committee member as well), and the staff in the Registrar's Office. In addition, the student should research existing majors at Gordon College to find out which departments and courses fit well into the envisioned Pike Program Proposal. The student will also research other colleges' programs that could serve as models for the student's proposal. If a student submits a proposal that is promising but needs improvement, the Pike Committee may invite the student to develop it further. This cooperative yet rigorous process ensures that every approved Pike project is intellectually solid, and integrates academic options in the best possible way.

Application Timeline

A student considering proposing the Pike Program is strongly encouraged to begin the application process very early in the semester, and to submit a fall semester application by October 1, or a spring semester application by the Tuesday following spring recess. A student whose proposal is approved can enter the Pike Program in the semester that follows.

However, there is no official application deadline. The Pike Committee will consider applications that are submitted later than the dates listed above. Because the application and review process take time, applying late in a semester may make it difficult to begin the Pike program in the subsequent semester (because the application may not be resolved at the time course registration begins, which may complicate a student's course selection).

Application Process

Here are the basic steps in the process. Please read the pages that follow to learn the details of the Pike Honors Program and the application process.

Step 1: Advice and goal setting

Consult with your current academic advisor to help refine your academic goals. See "Getting Started" (page 4). Then, with that advice, contact the Pike Committee chair to discuss your emerging Pike idea. He or she may also have you speak with a current Pike Committee member to further your idea.

Step 2: Research

Learn about the range of options for a Pike Program. See "Characteristics of a Pike Program Proposal" (page 5). Learn about appropriate offerings in Gordon College's existing departments and courses. Research programs at other colleges that you could use as models as you design your Pike Proposal. If you plan to take some courses elsewhere, obtain all necessary details about studying at that location. Inquire about past Pike majors, minors and concentrations at Gordon College.

Step 3: Curriculum planning

Inventory the courses you already have taken, and still need to take, at Gordon College. Begin planning the courses (and, if applicable, other educational experiences) to include in your Pike Proposal (at Gordon, and elsewhere). See Curriculum Proposal (page 5).

Step 4: Essay

Write an essay that describes your Pike Program Proposal and addresses why it is necessary to achieve your goals. See Essay Guidelines (page 6).

Step 5: Submit

Submit all application materials, with an Application Cover Sheet signed by your advisor and the Pike chair endorsing your proposal. See Application Checklist (page 6).

The Pike Committee (which consists of faculty and College administrators) will review your proposal.

GETTING STARTED

Some academic goals can be achieved through honors programs in some existing majors; through additional majors or minors; or through approved adjustment to a standard curriculum. Consider whether a Pike Program is essential to your academic goals. The Pike Committee will not approve Pike proposals that could be accomplished through other means.

After meeting with your current academic advisor about your idea, arrange an initial consultation with the chair of the Pike Committee. Come prepared to talk about these issues:

- What do you want to study? Why?
- What are your likely career goals, and how do your sense of vocation and your faith relate to the individualized course of study you are considering?
- Which type of Pike Program seems like the best fit for you? (See list below.)
- Will your Pike Program Proposal include completion of Gordon's Core requirements? If not, what substitute courses do you propose?
- If you want to design a contract major or minor in an area of study Gordon does not offer, what would the title of the major or minor be? What well-regarded colleges offer this major or minor? As you currently envision your Pike Program, how would it resemble those other colleges' programs (in terms of coursework, field experiences, etc.)? How would it differ from them?
- Do you want to include special academic opportunities at Gordon College in your Pike Program, such as independent study or supervised research?
- Do you want to take supplementary courses at another institution? Do you want to study overseas?
- The Pike Honors Program requires each student to complete a "capstone" experience—a piece of research, writing, or visual work that addresses the issues you encounter through your Pike Program, and applies the knowledge you gain through it. What kind of project might you propose to fulfill this requirement?

Pike Programs

Consider what type of Pike Program would be the best fit for you.

Contract major

Design a major in an area of study not normally available at Gordon College: in a recognized academic discipline, or an interdisciplinary field that could draw on course offerings from various departments to achieve a defined conceptual focus.

Concentration within a Gordon major

Fulfill a traditional major with alternate Gordon courses, and/or with off-campus study (overseas or at other U.S. institutions).

Pike minor

Develop or enhance a minor or concentration to complement your focused area of interest and study.

YOUR PIKE PROPOSAL

Characteristics of a Pike Program Proposal

You may find it useful to look through one or more successful Pike Program Proposals which students have presented in the past. Some of these are available at the Registrar's Office. The Pike website also presents information about past and current student Pike Programs. (Visit www.gordon.edu/pike).

Successful proposals must have:

- a clear conceptual focus
- address key questions in the area of study
- reflect the typical requirements for an academic major (or minor):
 - › a set of foundational introductory courses
 - › courses covering the history and/or theory of the field of study
 - › advanced level courses
 - › a "capstone" course or experience, such as a research project, honors thesis, or presentation appropriate to the discipline
- include required prerequisites or cognate requirements for the desired progression of coursework, such as courses in statistics or research methods
- include courses that satisfy the Gordon Core requirements, and total or exceed the 124 credits required for graduation

Curriculum Proposal

As you plan what courses to integrate into your Pike Proposal, print the forms on the next two pages to use as worksheets. The same information will appear on both forms, but in different order. You will submit both worksheets as part of your application.

Four-Year Study Plan by Category

List courses under the category headings printed on the form. This will help you keep track of how you will fulfill Gordon College's Core, language, and physical education requirements, and lay out the courses that would count toward your Pike program.

Four-Year Study Plan Calendar

Write in all the courses you already have taken for credit, and when you took them. Then map out semester by semester how you will propose to sequence your Pike coursework and other classes for the rest of your time at college.

On both of the forms, please put one of these symbols next to each course title, to keep track of (and inform the Pike Committee of) where you propose to take each course.

+ courses you have completed

* courses you are taking now

A courses you propose to take **a**way (at a Gordon-related off-campus program)

N courses you propose to take in a **n**on-Gordon setting (at another institution unrelated to Gordon)

R **r**equired courses you plan to petition to **r**eplace with another

ESSAY GUIDELINES

The forms that follow will lay out the coursework you propose for your Pike program. The essay you write to accompany those forms will do something different. It is your opportunity to make clear to the Pike Committee what motivates you to pursue the academic program you propose, how your sense of Christian mission and vocation relate to your proposal, and your likely career goals. Earlier in this application guide, you were encouraged to talk with the Pike Committee chair and your academic advisor about these issues as the first step of preparing your application. In your essay, you will describe the conceptual focus of your proposal, and share with the Pike Committee your thoughtful reflections now that you have researched your options, refined your thinking, and carefully planned your Pike Proposal.

Address these points in the essay:

- your academic goals, including life experiences and curiosity which led to these goals
- your plan for a focused, integrative curricular program, and which category it falls under: contract major/minor, or traditional major/minor fulfilled in a unique way
- if you propose to create a contract major/minor/concentration, include its descriptive title, and information about what well-regarded colleges offer this major/minor/concentration, and how your program would be similar to/differ from these
- how the Pike Honors Program is *necessary* to achieve your goals, or why the standard curriculum restricts your options
- the academic experiences you plan to integrate

into your Pike Program, beyond an existing academic major (if applicable), such as overseas study, coursework at another institution, independent study, or supervised research

- your proposal (if applicable) for substitutions for any Core requirements
- your proposal for fulfilling the “capstone” requirement

Your essay should be:

- no longer than 1,000 words. Most Pike Proposal essays range from 600 to 1,000 words
- double-spaced, 12 pt.
- identified by a running header with page numbers, your name, and the title of your Pike Program Proposal

APPLICATION CHECKLIST

- Discussed and refined proposal concepts with advisor and Pike Committee chair
- Researched other institutions’ programs in this field
- Reviewed past Pike majors/minors/concentrations
- Completed Four-Year Study Plan (by category)
- Completed Four-Year Study Plan Calendar
- Completed essay
- Discussed and reviewed draft of proposal with my academic advisor, and obtained my academic advisor’s signature on Application Cover Sheet
- Assembled application packet:
 - Application Cover Sheet (as page 1)
 - Four-Year Study Plan (by category)
 - Four-Year Study Plan Calendar
 - Essay
 - Documentation of coursework or other academic experiences you propose to take at institutions other than Gordon College
- Submit your application electronically, or printed, to the Pike Committee Chair

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Once your proposal package is received and reviewed, the Pike Committee may: Accept your proposal and invite you to formalize your plans; respond favorably to your overall proposal but invite you to develop your proposal further; return your proposal with comments for revision, resubmission, and reconsideration; or decline your proposal, with an explanation.



GORDON COLLEGE

KENNETH L. PIKE HONORS PROGRAM APPLICATION COVER SHEET

Personal Information

Name _____ Student ID # _____

Anticipated year of graduation _____ Cumulative GPA _____

Current major(s) and minor(s) _____

Proposed Pike major/minor/concentration(s) _____

.....

I have read, understood, and completed the preliminary proposal process described in the guidelines, including all aspects of assembling a comprehensive initial proposal package.

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

.....

This preliminary proposal has sufficient merit to be considered as a collateral, complementary, or individually developed major, minor or concentration based on the guidelines provided.

Signature of academic advisor _____ Date _____

Signature of Pike chair _____ Date _____

Curriculum Proposal: Four-Year Study Plan by Category

Within each category, list courses in sequence (from 100 level to 400 level). Beside each course title/number add the appropriate symbol (see page 5). Fill in the credits you earned (or propose to earn) for electives, independent study options, and Pike courses. If necessary, attach another page with further information and explanation.

COMMON CORE COURSES		36 Credits	Symbol	INDEPENDENT STUDY OPTIONS		Credits	Symbol
COR 10x	The Great Conversation	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
BCM 101	Old Testament	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
BCM 103	New Testament	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PHI 118	The Examined Life	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
HIS 121	Historical Perspectives	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
NSM 202	Scientific Enterprise	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
BCM 308	Christian Theology	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Foreign Language							
_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Physical Education							
PED ____	La Vida/Discovery/Concepts	0	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PED ____	_____	0	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
PED ____	_____	0	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
THEMATIC CORE COURSES							
		20 Credits	Symbol				
Note: include required literature course, either among the above or with an added course.							
Natural World							
_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Human Person							
_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Aesthetic Sensibilities							
_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Civic Responsibility							
_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Global Understanding							
_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
ELECTIVES		Credits	Symbol				
_____	_____	_____	_____				
_____	_____	_____	_____				
_____	_____	_____	_____				
_____	_____	_____	_____				
TOTAL CREDITS						_____	_____

Curriculum Proposal: Four-Year Study Plan Calendar

Beside each course title/number add the appropriate symbol (see page 5).

AP/TRANSFER/SUMMER

Credits

YEAR ONE: FALL

Credits

YEAR ONE: SPRING

Credits

YEAR ONE: SUMMER

Credits

YEAR TWO: FALL

Credits

YEAR TWO: SPRING

Credits

YEAR TWO: SUMMER

Credits

YEAR THREE: FALL

Credits

YEAR THREE: SPRING

Credits

YEAR THREE: SUMMER

Credits

YEAR FOUR: FALL

Credits

YEAR FOUR: SPRING

Credits

YEAR FOUR: SUMMER

Credits

ADDITIONAL

Credits

TOTAL CREDITS



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