

# The Gonzaga Bulletin

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## Breaking down the class of 2024

GU set to welcome large class despite COVID-19 complications



MILA YOCH TWITTER: @milagrosyoch / Source: Gonzaga Office of Admission

By NOAH WONG

This school year will be atypical in more ways than one. But whether it is virtually or in-person, members of the class of 2024 will have their first college experiences this fall.

The class of 2024 has enrolled 1,104 students and 126 transfers. Enrollment has fluctuated over the summer as some students have deferred and some have applied late due to circumstances that have arisen because of COVID-19.

"We have kept our application open, it is still open if students want to put in a late application," said Erin Hays, director of undergraduate admissions. "It's really open for students who don't want to go as far away as they had planned."

One of the most notable statistics of this class is that 28% of students are students of color.

"It's our most diverse class racially and ethnically," Hays said. "We're really proud of that. And we keep working hard to continue to diversify Gonzaga and make sure that there's great representation on campus and multiple perspectives and voices and that's really important."

First generation students make up 14% of the incoming

class.

Like previous classes, there are more women than men, with a split of 52% to 48%.

The class is tied for second in academic excellence with an average unweighted GPA of 3.82. The average SAT and ACT scores are 1258 and 28.

Although Gonzaga is a private institution, 60-65% of students are from public high schools.

While admissions does not have the exact breakdown, students were involved in serving their communities, leadership activities through clubs or student government, working part time and athletics.

Another first is that this class has the largest honors class in GU history, with 80 students.

There are 37 states represented, with the top 10 in order being Washington, California, Oregon, Colorado, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Alaska, Minnesota and Hawaii.

International students hail from 16 countries ranging from Azerbaijan to the Philippines and more.

The college with the highest enrollment is the College of Arts and Sciences with 359, and the School of Business Administration is second with 248.

The School of Engineering and Applied Sciences has 230, the School of Nursing and Human Physiology has 153

and the School of Education has 55 enrolled students.

Financial aid will be received by 98% of the class, and 90% will receive a merit scholarship.

Jim White, the student financial services dean, said the university has seen about three times the normal level of appeals due to changing financial standings of families.

While GEL Weekend became an online event, about 70% of enrolling students participated, making it possibly the largest GEL ever.

"All of it got canceled," Hays said. "Students had to make a decision without really getting that Gonzaga experience that is very critical to a college decision."

The students have had perseverance through the whole pandemic.

"The love they have for others, the care for the world and wanting to do good things and wanting to make a difference and do good things for society and just loving to learn and wanting to be a Zag," Hays said. "I've just been impressed by all of that."

Noah Wong is a staff writer.

## COVID-19 return protocol



LILY KANESHIGE IG: @aka.lily

Gonzaga is offering a combination of in-person and online classes for the fall.

By DEVAN IYOMASA

As Gonzaga prepares to reopen for the fall semester, university administrators have implemented key guidelines to contain the spread of COVID-19, meaning this semester will look very different from those before.

On July 31, GU President Thayne McCulloh sent an email to undergraduate students and families containing a 48-page document detailing the university's plan for reopening.

In response to COVID-19, GU created the Pandemic Response Task Force, led by Charlita Shelton, to develop the necessary protocols to reopen in the fall.

"President McCulloh was very intentional about having as many individuals as possible from the community involved with the task force," Shelton said.

The task force is comprised of over 100 students, faculty, staff and administrators who have been working closely with the Spokane Regional Health District.

Mary Joan Hahn, director of community and public relations, said the situation is ever changing and plans may be updated, but regardless, the year will certainly look and feel different.

"This is not business as usual," Hahn said via email. "Many restrictions and limitations will need to be observed by everyone in order to create as safe of an environment as possible."

Here is what you need to know about current safety protocols and campus guidelines before the first day of class.

### Returning to Campus

Upon arriving in Spokane, GU asks students to quarantine at home for at least seven days before coming to campus. The arrival

guide states this preemptive step is crucial in mitigating exposure on campus.

Each student will receive two cloth face masks, which can be picked up during the first week of class. Face masks must be worn at all times when on campus or in the community.

According to the arrival guide, students must utilize a self-screening mobile app using their GU credentials to monitor symptoms and possible exposure to COVID-19. Students are required to complete daily self-certifications before arriving on campus.

### Academic Instruction

All courses, including hybrid and in-person models, will be offered in a remote option, allowing students to pursue their instruction virtually.

"As a mid-size, private university, we have the ability to offer flexibility to our students and families, so they can make their own decisions regarding the best academic model and their personal preference for living arrangements for the coming year," Hahn said via email.

Following Thanksgiving break, all courses will be delivered online.

### Housing and Residence Life

GU's strategy regarding on-campus housing involves changing many factors of typical residence life to minimize close contacts with students. These efforts include using a phased move-in schedule and closing common areas, for example.

On-campus living requirements for first and second-year students have also been suspended, but the option will remain available.

SEE PROTOCOL PAGE 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF FESE ELANGO

Fese Elango has been on GSBA since her freshman year at Gonzaga.

## Meet GSBA president Fese Elango

By NATALIE REITH

With a positive and open mindset, senior Fese Elango aims to make a memorable year for Gonzaga students despite challenges brought by COVID-19, as she serves as the Gonzaga Student Body Association (GSBA) president this fall.

Student government has always been a passion for Elango. She has made leadership a priority throughout her academic career at GU. Elango is a biology major and is involved in Black Student Union outside her position with GSBA.

"Gonzaga is really cool because there are so many different ways to serve people and be involved in the community," Elango said. "I like doing the student government aspect of it because you're listening to your peers and then advocating for them in different settings."

Elango has been determined to be involved in student government since her freshman year at GU. She won her first election her freshman year and served as election commissioner. Sophomore and junior years she served as the director of diversity and inclusion.

Elango said her favorite part of GU during her academic career has been her involvement in student government. She has enjoyed working with many like-minded students who love GU and the student body.

GSBA Vice President Taylor Sipila said it has been a blessing working with Elango in preparation for this fall semester during these times of uncertainty.

"Fese is someone who embodies what it means to be a Zag," Sipila said. "Her focus is constantly geared to how she can best support those around her. As GSBA president, she will be a natural binding force for our student body."

During her time serving with student government, Elango said her favorite experience has been the white privilege event her team planned and hosted in 2019. The event was held in Cataldo Hall by the former inclusivity chair and had over 200 attendees.

"It was a cool space to talk about white privilege and its impact on different people in our community," Elango said. "I feel that event helped create the space for it to be talked about more, which is something that I hope becomes a good move towards having conversations."

Elango said that her and Sipila aim to make this school year as

SEE ELANGO PAGE 2

### INDEX

News.....1-3  
Opinion.....4  
Arts & Entertainment.....5-6  
Sports.....7-8

### OPINION

Words of wisdom to make sure you have the best four years

PAGE 4

### A&E

A guide to all the best eats around campus from the eyes of a senior

PAGE 6

### SPORTS

Brains and Sophia Braun: GU soccer player, computer science major and Argentinian superstar

PAGE 7