

Sport and Exercise Science: Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity

Doctor of Philosophy



Specialized Expertise, Broad Impact

One of the nation's only programs of its kind, our Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity Ph.D. program is led by world-renowned researchers and leaders in the field. UNC specializes in the study of social influence on sport and physical activity behavior—the impact of parents, siblings, teachers, peers, coaches and other community members

on individual motivation and experiences in sport, exercise and physical activity. You'll work with internationally recognized experts in the field, getting strong support for your development as a researcher, writer and college-level teacher. Our small, selective program fosters supportive relationships and mentoring that helps you maximize your career strengths.

Career Pathway

The Ph.D. Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity has broad implications that affect a diverse range of public policies. As a researcher in the social psychology of sport, you may investigate questions related to obesity, K-12 education, healthy aging, athletics, health care, community recreation and other important issues. Graduates can seek positions in the following areas:

- University or college faculty position
- Nonprofit or government research
- Public policy

Degree Options

At UNC, you can enhance your research by taking advantage of numerous partnerships on campus and in the community. First and foremost, you can collaborate with scholars from other areas of our School of Sport and Exercise Science, which has a national reputation for innovation and pioneering research. In addition, you'll find many opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration with athletes in our NCAA Division I sports programs, researchers in UNC's College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, faculty and graduate students in the Colorado School of Public Health or tap into our network of relationships with K-12 educators throughout Colorado.

Program Details

- Greeley Campus Delivery
- Credits Required: 64-67
- Time to Completion: Three to four years
- Classes Start: Fall semester

Related Programs

- **Sport and Exercise Science: Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity, M.S.**
- **Sport and Exercise Science: Sport Administration Emphasis, Ph. D.**

Cost and Value

Tuition rates are based on the 2021-22 Academic Year:

Colorado Resident Tuition: \$685 per credit hour plus fees.

Nonresident Tuition: \$1,296 per credit hour plus fees. You may qualify for CO resident tuition — see WRGP information at right.

UNC is regularly called out as a top value for both resident and nonresident students, and the university offers financial aid packages for qualified students. For more information, visit [UNCO.EDU/COSTS](https://unco.edu/costs).

What Students Say

“I am extremely grateful for my experience at the University of Northern Colorado under the Social Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity Program in Sport and Exercise Science. Everything from the coursework, the teaching opportunities, the extensive research experience and professional development I was provided from the faculty makes this program unique, respected and invaluable.”

*-Lyndsie Koon, Ph.D. program graduate,
current post doctoral research associate, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*

Financing your Education

UNC offers a variety of financial support options, including:

- A limited number of competitive graduate teaching assistantships, which are generally reserved for doctoral students only. Decisions about assistantships are made each fall semester.
- Colorado resident tuition for students from 15 western states is offered through the Western Regional Graduate Program. To see if you qualify visit [UNCO.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL/FUNDING/WESTERN-REGIONAL-GRADUATE-PROGRAM.ASPX](https://unco.edu/graduate-school/funding/western-regional-graduate-program.aspx)

Faculty Spotlight

Megan Babkes Stellino, Ph.D.

Megan Babkes Stellino, Ph.D. joined the faculty at UNC in 2001 after a two-year post-doctoral research fellowship in psychology at UCLA and with the International Center for Talent Development. Prior to earning her doctorate at UNC, she completed her Master of Science in Exercise Science from the University of Oregon and her undergraduate degree in Psychology from the University of Washington. Her research interests include motivation and social psychological correlates (emotion, self-perceptions) of children's sport and physical activity involvement, social influences (parents/family, coaches, and peers) on youth physical activity and sport experiences, and the psychosocial and environmental aspects of children's school-based physical activity promotion.

Program Contact

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About UNC Graduate School

The University of Northern Colorado, founded in 1889, is Colorado's right-sized doctoral research university, serving a diverse student body around the world. Given its size, program mix, and mission, UNC offers students the access and opportunities of a small college along with the nationally recognized programs, research funding and facilities that come with being a leading U.S. university. Students seeking preparation for a world (and workplace) full of opportunities and options, complexities and cultures, diversity and demands, will find faculty mentors and excited fellow students to engage with here at UNC.



UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Graduate School

[UNCO.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL](https://unco.edu/graduate-school)