I’m interested—
What’s the next step?

- Think carefully about your academic goals. Do research on the area of your interest to see what programs are available at other institutions (but not at Gordon) that would be considered recognized academic disciplines.

- Talk with your advisor and other knowledgeable faculty about your options and what academic experiences beyond the normal college program would be available or helpful.

- Assuming you have officially been invited, draft a tentative proposal of a cohesive, integrative Pike program that has a clear focus and which you would pursue through Gordon. If you believe you are eligible and have not received an invitation, see the Registrar’s Office.

- Meet with the Pike Honors Committee chair for assistance in refining a proposal that clearly defines your possible program and why it will be necessary to become a Pike Scholar to complete your plan.

Examples of Pike Programs
These are just ideas—you are not limited to these.

Selected Recent Contract Majors:
Area Studies (Africa, America, Asia, Middle East, Russia, etc.)
Biblical and Social Ethics
Classical Studies
Community Development
Comparative Literature
Economic Development
Environmental Studies
Gender Studies
Journalism, Political Journalism
Neuroscience
Urban Studies

Concentrations within Existing Majors:
Art: Art History; Fine Arts Management
Biology: Marine Biology; Nutrition and Public Health; Sustainable Development
Foreign Language: Hispanic Literature; Expanded French Studies
History: History with Archaeology
International Affairs: Public Health; International Public Relations
Music: Literature and Music; Musicology
Sociology: Urban Planning
Youth Ministry: International Youth Ministries; Youth and Family Ministries

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT
Registrar’s Office
978 867 4243 | registrar@gordon.edu
www.gordon.edu/pike
What is the Pike Honors Program?
The Kenneth L. Pike Honors Program provides exceptional students with an opportunity to meet unique academic goals beyond what is possible under existing Gordon majors or programs. Scholars design individualized and challenging interdisciplinary academic experiences in their areas of interest.

Who can become a Pike Scholar and what are the advantages for a Pike Scholar?
The Pike Honors Committee invites all students who have completed their first semester at Gordon and have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher to submit a program proposal. Invitations are issued early in the term after a student becomes eligible.

Pike Scholars can take advantage of diverse opportunities at Gordon or other institutions to enrich existing majors or to design a program that would not ordinarily be available to them at Gordon.

While all Gordon students may study abroad, the Pike program provides additional opportunities and allows extended absences when necessary to carry out a student’s program of studies.

How is a Pike program developed?
Approved programs may be either:

- A contract major or minor in a recognized discipline not available at Gordon—typically an individualized, interdisciplinary major.
- An existing major fulfilled in a unique way—including alternate Gordon courses, study abroad or courses at other institutions.

A Pike contract curriculum must be approved by both the Pike and Academic Program Committees of the faculty.

Is a Pike program for me?
A Pike program is a unique academic plan at Gordon College. If you can meet your goals by making substitutions to a standard major, or multiple majors and/or minors, you do not need to pursue the Pike program.

A Pike contract curriculum must be approved by both the Pike and Academic Program Committees of the faculty.

What is required to stay in the program?
To remain in the program, the scholar’s cumulative grade point average must not fall below 3.5 for three semesters. Normally the equivalent of 56 credits must be earned under the program. No grade below a C is acceptable in any course.

A student who withdraws from the program or is discontinued may not be reinstated. Pike Scholars require prior approval of the committee to make any changes in their program to accommodate course availability or changes in focus within the program.

“Jhe Pike prgamt enabl d me to purs my intersts via advncd study n an nternntl stting, whch wuld hve been impossible otherwise nd whch grtly expnd md crr options.”
—Dr. Mark Gedney, Pike ’85 and associate professor of philosophy at Gordon