

NOKWANDA GRAVA

PURDUE GRADUATE STUDENT

Major: *Counseling Psychology, Ph.D.*

Home Country: *South Africa & United States*

Why did you choose Purdue?

I was drawn to Purdue because of the strong reputation and because of the work done by the faculty in my department.

Please briefly describe your research:

My research interests include indigenous African conceptions of healing and wellbeing, community-based participatory research, and emic research as a tool for decolonization.

How did you decide what to study?

Counseling psychology was my major as an undergraduate at the University of South Africa, and I chose this path because I wanted to be able to advocate for the mental health needs of vulnerable children and families.

What was your process for selecting a graduate school?

When I applied to Purdue, I was already enrolled in a masters program at Michigan State University, so I was already living in the US. That allowed me to travel to different programs and interview and get to see the campuses. Purdue's resources were the most attractive to me as a grad student.



How do you de-stress in your free time?

There are lots of parks in the area, and I like to go on hikes. The Celery Bog Nature Area in West Lafayette is particularly nice.

How do you keep yourself organized?

Organization is essential in grad school, and I do my best to have multiple backup systems. I primarily use a to-do list and a dry erase calendar, but my phone and computer also have calendars and reminders where I place all my deadlines.

What are you hoping to do after your life at Purdue?

I hope to return to South Africa so that I can teach and conduct research.

EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

PURDUE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural and Biological Engineering
Agricultural Economics
Agricultural Sciences Education and Communication
Agronomy
Animal Sciences
Biochemistry
Botany and Plant Pathology
Entomology
Food Science
Forestry and Natural Resources
Horticulture

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Curriculum and Instruction
Educational Studies

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Aeronautics and Astronautics
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Engineering Education
Engineering Management
Environmental and Ecological Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Interdisciplinary Engineering
Materials Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Nuclear Engineering

INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS

Defense Engineering and Technology
Biomedical Sciences
Ecological Sciences and Engineering
Information Security
Life Science

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Consumer Science
Health and Kinesiology
Health Sciences
Hospitality and Tourism Management
Human Development and Family Studies
Nursing
Nutrition
Psychological Sciences
Public Health
Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

American Studies
Anthropology
Art
Communication
Comparative Literature
Design
English
History
Languages and Cultures
Linguistics
Philosophy
Political Sciences
Sociology
Theatre

KRANNERT SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

Business Analytics and Information Management
Economics
Finance
Global Supply Chain Management
Management
Marketing
Organizational Behavior and Human Resource Management

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Industrial and Physical Pharmacy
Medicinal Chemistry and Molecular Pharmacology
Pharmacy Practice

PURDUE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Aviation Technology and Management
Computer and Information Technology
Computer Graphics Technology
Construction Management Technology
Engineering Technology
Technology
Technology, Leadership, and Innovation

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE

Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Computer Science
Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences
Mathematics
Physics
Statistics

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Basic Medical Sciences
Comparative Pathobiology
Veterinary Clinical Sciences

Find more information at purdue.edu/gradschool/academics/graduate-degree-programs



Purdue is centrally located in West Lafayette, Indiana - approximately two hours south of Chicago, Illinois and one hour north of Indianapolis, IN.

Questions? Email gradinfo@purdue.edu

