



## Welcome to our webinar!

Before we begin...

- Please introduce yourself in the chat box: name, current role/affiliation, location, what you hope to learn today.
- Please mute your microphone for now.
- If you have questions during the presentation, you can type those in the chat box, and we'll answer them at the end.
- During the Q&A, feel free to unmute to ask questions.
- Note that we are recording the session.



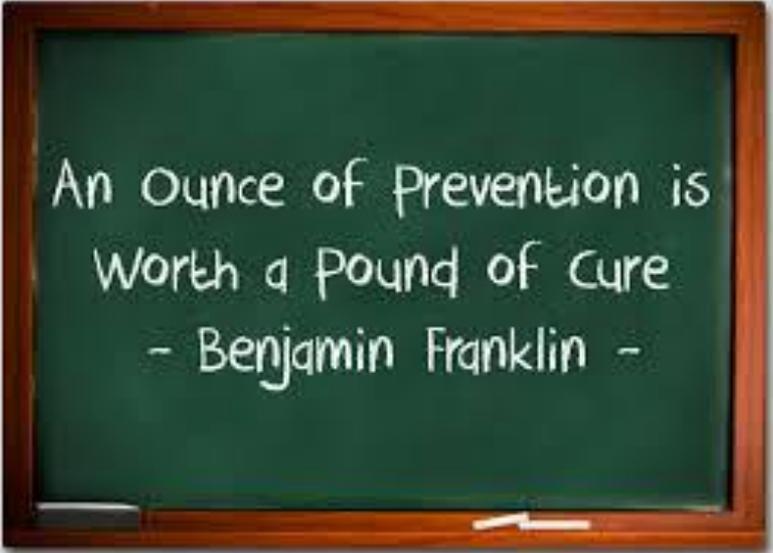


## Today's Road Map

- What is Prevention Science?
- Prevention Science PhD at WSU
  - What
  - Who
  - Why
  - How
- Q&A



# What is Prevention Science?



An Ounce of prevention is  
Worth a pound of cure  
- Benjamin Franklin -



# What is Prevention Science?

Prevention Science focuses on the development of evidence-based strategies that reduce risk factors and enhance protective factors to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities.



# What is Prevention Science?

Prevention Science draws from several disciplines, such as social, behavioral, medical, and neurobiological sciences to understand societal, community and individual level problems.



# What is Prevention Science?

A central tenet of Prevention Science is the promotion of health equity and reduction of disparities by studying how social, economic and racial inequalities and discrimination influence healthy development and wellbeing.



# What do Prevention Scientists do?

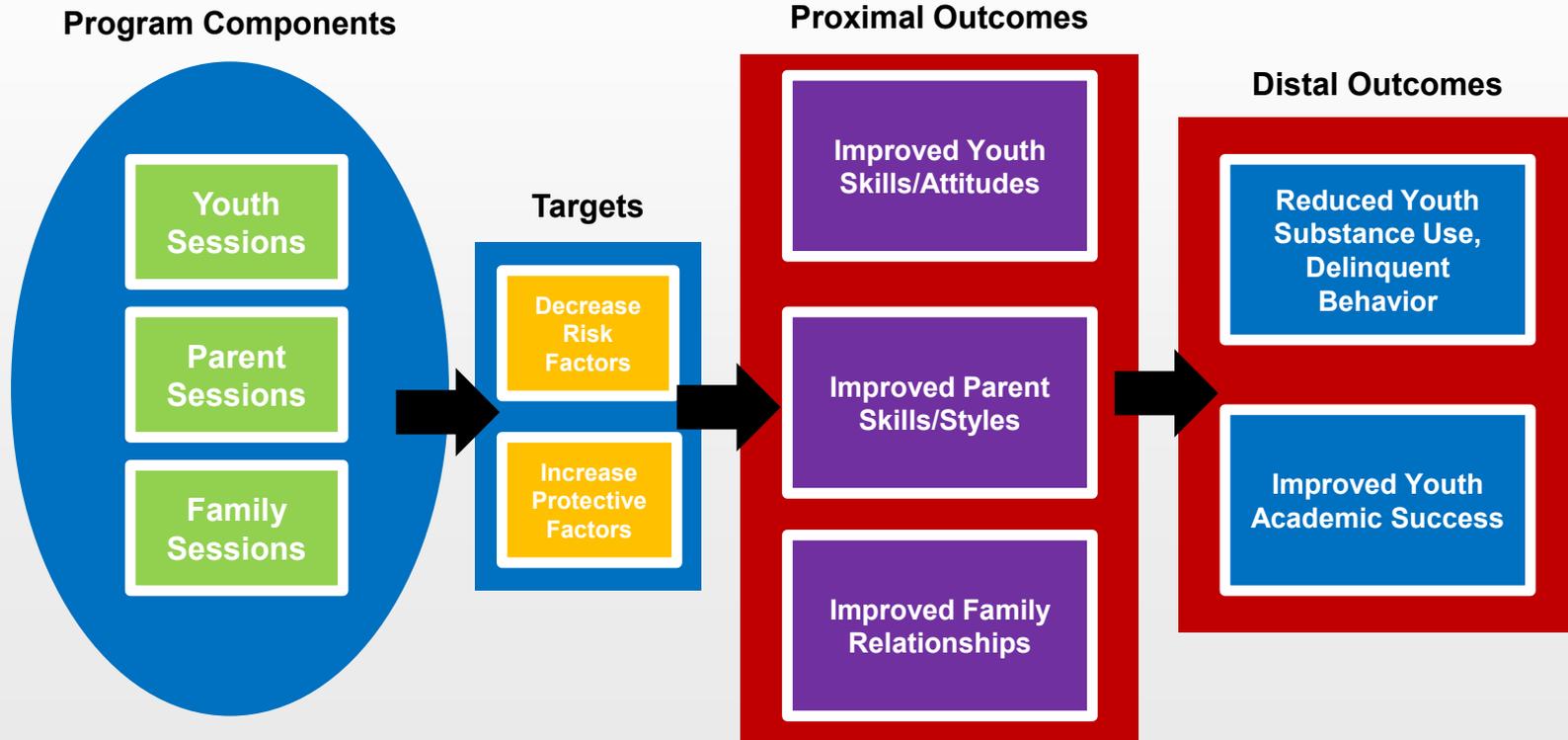
Conduct research on risk & protective factors





# What do Prevention Scientists do?

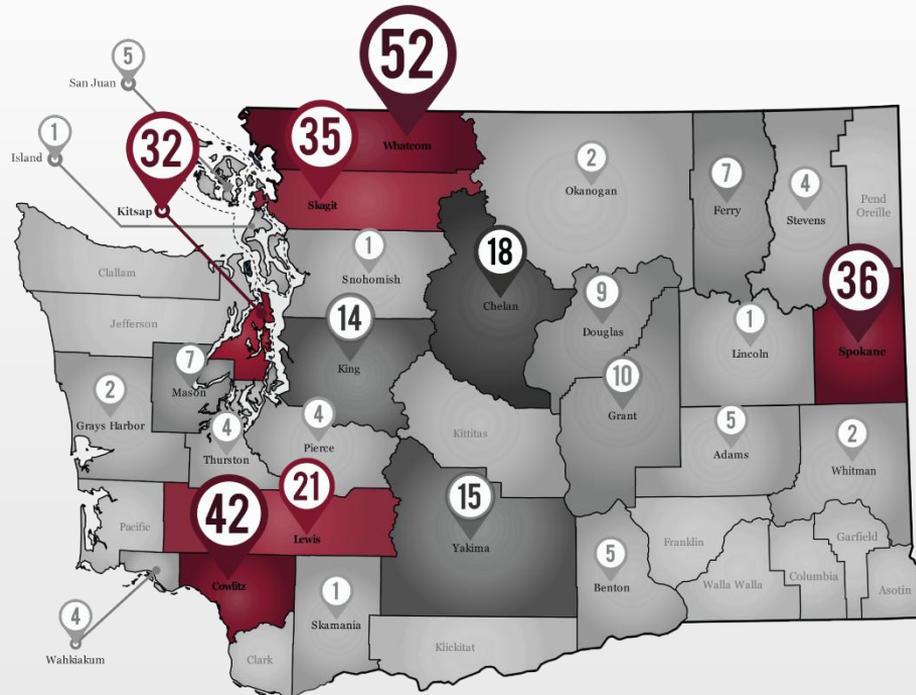
## Design & evaluate programs





# What do Prevention Scientists do?

Study and promote the scaling-up of effective programs





# Focus Areas of Prevention Science at WSU





# Prevention Science PhD Program at WSU

- **What** are the core components?
- **Who** are the faculty & students?
- **Why** should you choose our program?
- **How** do you apply?





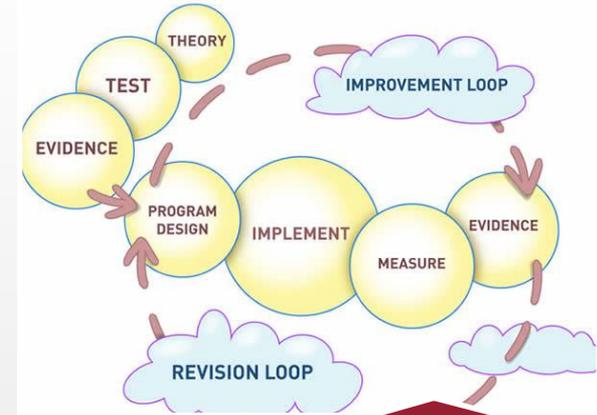
# Prevention Science Curriculum



Developmental  
Epidemiology & Public  
Health



Research Methods &  
Statistics

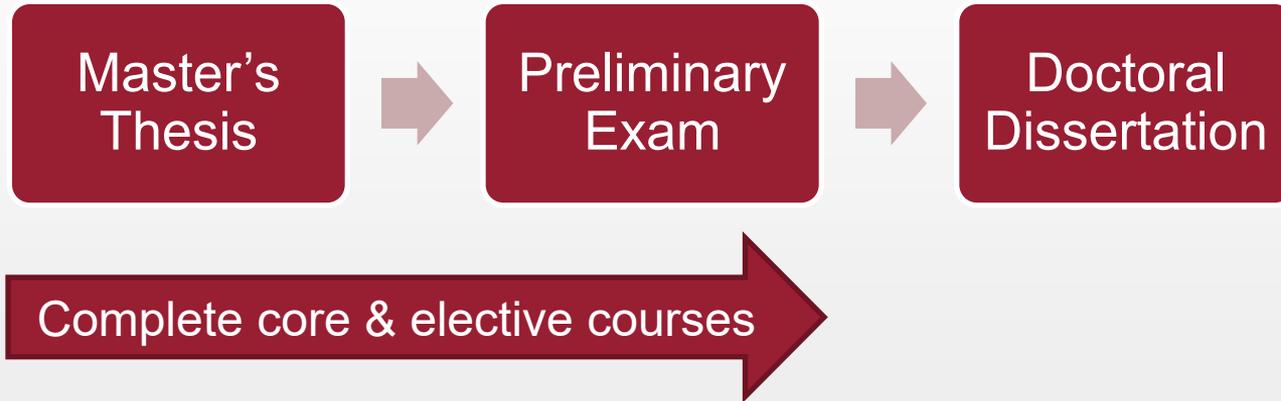


Program Development,  
Implementation &  
Institutionalization

Modeled after the Society for Prevention Research Standards of Knowledge



# Structure and Flexibility



See [Prevention Science Graduate Student Handbook](#) for more details.



# Diverse Faculty and Students

- Location and campus
- Discipline and educational backgrounds
- Research interests and expertise





# Three Campuses



## Vancouver, WA

City population ~160,000  
Largest suburb of Portland, OR  
Campus population ~3500



## Pullman, WA

City population ~30,000  
Rural, eastern WA, Palouse region  
Campus population ~20,000



## Spokane, WA

City population ~200,000  
2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in WA  
Campus population ~1600



12 faculty & 7 students

25 faculty & 19 students

10 faculty & 6 students

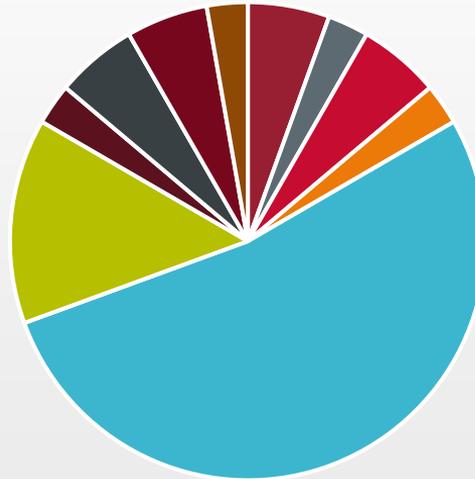
Approximately 1/4<sup>th</sup> of our students are part-time.



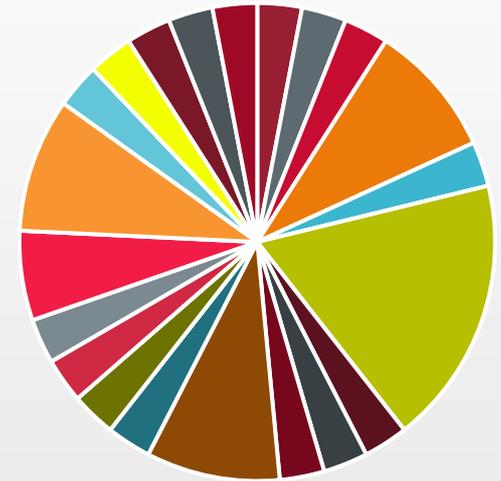
# Department and Discipline

- Human Development\*
- Communication
- Education
- Kinesiology
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Psychology
- WSU Extension

Department



Discipline



\*The program is administered through the Department of Human Development



# Fall 2025-2026 PSGSO Events



Professional  
Development Event  
Driving Policy Change  
(November)



Virtual and In-  
Person Happy  
Hours



Poster Session in  
March—details incoming!



Events on other  
campuses

PSGSO 



# Jordan Newburg

[jordan.newburg@wsu.edu](mailto:jordan.newburg@wsu.edu)



## Research Area

My area of research is mental health literacy and mental health promotion for individuals, families, and communities across the lifespan.

## Why Prevention Science at WSU?

- Incredible colleagues and mentors
- Focus on interdisciplinary research and collaborations with a variety of stakeholders
- Research labs focused on translating and sharing science for impact in communities



## Goals & Aspirations

- Community-based research and evaluation work
- Adapting interventions and promoting health equity

## Lessons Learned

- Goals and processes for achieving them will change with progress—that's okay! The key is to take care of yourself, adapt, and keep going!
- Cultivating relationships and communicating with friends and colleagues can be uncomfortable but it's rewarding and imperative!

# Madeline Fodor (they/them)

**Research interests:** Protective factors for the mental health of gender-minority adolescents; focus on socio-ecological domains (i.e. family gender environment, gender affirming care access, trans community).

## Research Assistantship Experience

- IMPACT Lab
- Grants and contracts with WA DoH



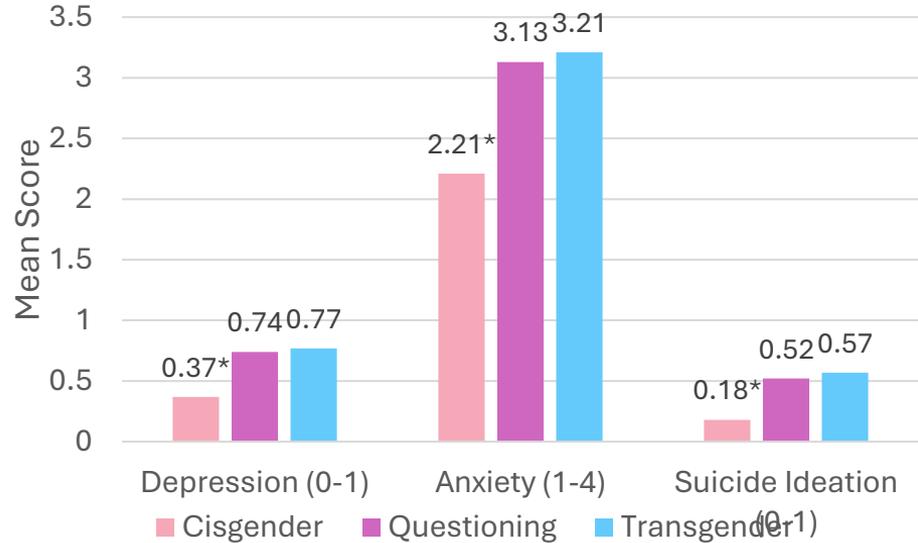
## Scholarship Opportunities

- WGSS Certificate / Symposia
- Society for the Prevention of Firearm Related Harms
- Opioid and AI/AN conferences



## Thesis and Dissertation Research

- Master's Thesis Spring 2025
- Designed survey for dissertation data – currently being administered!
- Exploring mixed methods research





Department: Human Development  
Campus: Pullman

**Dr. Brittany Cooper**  
**[brittany.cooper@wsu.edu](mailto:brittany.cooper@wsu.edu)**

- My research focuses on how to support the large-scale scale-up of youth substance use prevention programs in schools and communities.
- **IMPACT Research Lab Projects:**
  - Community Prevention Wellness Initiative
  - Northwest Prevention Technology Transfer Center
- **Student Opportunities:** examining implementation facilitators and barriers, adapting EBPs, consulting with state policymakers, and presenting research through reports and publications.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Cooper's work.



Department: Human Development  
Campus: Pullman

## Dr. Patricia Pendry [ppendry@wsu.edu](mailto:ppendry@wsu.edu)

- I conduct randomized controlled trials examining effects of animal assisted interventions (AAs) in preventing or reducing the physiological ramifications of social and academic stress in youth and college students
- **Pendry Lab Projects:**
  - Examining links between emotion and cortisol reactivity during AAs
  - Coding of video-recorded human canine interactions during AAs
  - Cats on Campus: Policy design and evaluation
- **Student Opportunities:** Designing, implementing and evaluating AAs on campus, coding observational data, analyzing physiological data, managing programming and data collection with undergraduate teams, presenting research through reports and publications.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Pendry's work.



Department: Human Development  
Campus: Pullman

**Dr. Nicole R. Scalise**  
**[nicole.scalise@wsu.edu](mailto:nicole.scalise@wsu.edu)**

- My research examines early mathematical development, with a focus on children from low-income households.
- **Research Lab Projects:**
  - Meta-Analysis of Playful Learning Interventions
  - International Study of Early Number Learning (ManyNumbers)
  - School-Home Communication on Early Math Development
- **Student Opportunities:** literature reviews; study design; data collection with adult and child participants, in-person and online; analysis of quantitative and qualitative data; disseminating research findings through national, and international conferences and co-authored publications in peer-reviewed journals.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Scalise's work.



Department: Community and Behavioral Health  
Campus: Spokane

## Dr. Crystal Lederhos Smith [crystal.lederhos@wsu.edu](mailto:crystal.lederhos@wsu.edu)

- My research focuses on substance use disorder treatment optimization, therapeutic use of novel substances, and precision medicine interventions.
- **Laboratory for Innovations in Therapeutics Projects:**
  - Pharmacogenetic Testing to Optimize Opioid Use Disorder Treatment
  - Off-target Effects of Varenicline on Cannabis Use
  - A Phase 2 Clinical Trial on Psilocybin for for Co-occurring PTSD and Alcohol Use Disorder

**Student Opportunities:** Literature reviews, face-to-face research participant engagement, secondary data analysis, and presenting and publishing research.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Smith's work.



## Dr. Michael J. Cleveland ([michael.cleveland@wsu.edu](mailto:michael.cleveland@wsu.edu) )

- My general interest is understanding the challenges that youth and young adults must overcome to establish and maintain recovery from alcohol and other substance use disorders.
- **Current Projects:**
  - Feasibility testing of a music-listening intervention to regulate emotions in alcohol use recovery
  - Integrating research on recovery capital and identity development among emerging adults in recovery from SUD
- **Future/Planned Projects:**
  - Examining the effects of music listening on neural markers of stress (EEG) among individuals in recovery from AUD
  - Understanding how youth access recovery systems of support during the transition into young adulthood



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Cleveland's work.



Department: Kinesiology  
Campus: Pullman

**Dr. Anne E. Cox**  
**[anne.cox@wsu.edu](mailto:anne.cox@wsu.edu)**

- I study how to make physical activity experiences enjoyable. This has included studying the role of body image, mindfulness, and yoga.



**Psychology of Physical Activity Lab Projects:**

- Examining the impact of yoga instruction on body image and motivation variables
- Testing the effects of mindfulness on exercise enjoyment and experiences



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Anne Cox



Department: Human Development  
Campus: Pullman

**Dr. Jennifer C. Duckworth**  
**[jennifer.duckworth@wsu.edu](mailto:jennifer.duckworth@wsu.edu)**

- My research focuses on preventing substance use and other health-risk behaviors among teens and young adults by developing and adapting culturally responsive prevention and interventions strategies that promote equity and well-being.
- IMPACT Research Lab
  - Young Adult Substance Use Prevention
  - Parent-based Interventions, Cultural Adaptations
  - Norms and Risk Perceptions
- **Student Opportunities:** Study design and implementation, data analysis, and dissemination—examining risk and protective factors, adapting and developing parent- and student-focused interventions, collaborating with state prevention partners, and presenting research through reports and peer-reviewed publications.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Duckworth's work.



Department: Human Development  
Campus: Pullman

**Dr. Kory Floyd**  
**[kory.floyd@wsu.edu](mailto:kory.floyd@wsu.edu)**

- My research examines the health benefits of close relationships and the detriments of loneliness.
- **Research Lab Projects:**
  - Stress-Alleviating Effects of Affectionate Communication
  - Communicative Interventions for Loneliness
  - Immunosupportive Benefits of Supportive Touch
- **Student Opportunities:** literature reviews; study design; data collection with adult participants, in-person and online; analysis of quantitative data; disseminating research findings through national, and international conferences and co-authored publications in peer-reviewed journals.



[Click to learn more about Dr. Floyd's work](#)



Department: Kinesiology and Educational Psychology  
Campus: Pullman

**Dr. Brian F. French**  
**[frenchb@wsu.edu](mailto:frenchb@wsu.edu)**

- My research focuses on the quality, accuracy, and fairness of scores used to make decisions about individuals and groups.
- **Research Psychometric Lab Projects:**
  - Washington Assessment of Risk and Needs of Students([warns.wsu.edu](http://warns.wsu.edu))
  - AI use in assessment development
  - Improving models and methods through simulation and analytic work
- **Student Opportunities:** To work on real world problems in assessment and measurement through the application of advanced methods and methodologies in areas ranging from Education to Health.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. French's work.



**Amanda Lamp, PhD**  
**alamp@wsu.edu**

- My research focuses on 1) sleep, fatigue and cognitive performance in aviation and 2) sleep and qualitative research in elite athletes
- **Occupational Sleep Medicine Group Research Projects:**
  - Aviation pilot data collection and analysis
  - Advanced care planning AND death over dinner events implementation, data collection and analysis
  - Student education incorporating horses curriculum development, implementation, data collection and analysis
- **Student Opportunities:** mixed-methods data analyses (i.e., qualitative and quantitative), student facilitated advanced care planning in rural communities, death over dinner student events and IPE health student education incorporating horses.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Lamp's work.



## Dr. Amy M. Salazar ([amy.salazar@wsu.edu](mailto:amy.salazar@wsu.edu) )

- My area of expertise involves supporting children, youth, and families with or at risk of child welfare system involvement, and in particular youth transitioning from foster care to adulthood, in domains such as higher education, financial capability, and permanency.
- **Current Projects:**
  - Fostering Higher Education postsecondary support intervention for youth with foster care experience in Georgia, Iowa, and Japan
  - Scoping review of financial capability building interventions applicable for youth with foster care experience
  - [Quality Improvement Center on Engaging Youth in Finding Permanency](#)
- **Student Opportunities**
  - Helping analyze data, write technical reports and journal articles, work with community partners, collaborate with foster care scholars around the world



Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Dr. Salazar's work.



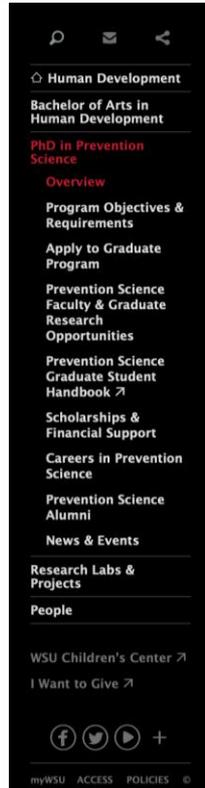
Department: Human Development  
Campus: Pullman

**Dr. Elizabeth Weybright**  
**[elizabeth.weybright@wsu.edu](mailto:elizabeth.weybright@wsu.edu)**

- My research focuses on adolescent health topics of firearm injury and substance use prevention including community-engaged programming and research.
- **Adolescent Health Promotion Lab Active Projects:**
  - Youth Substance Use and Firearm Injury Prevention
  - Program Adaptation
  - Youth Engagement in Research and Programming
- **Student Opportunities:** Implementation of evidence-based programs, secondary data analysis, community-based research, qualitative data analysis.



Click [here](#) to learn more about Dr. Weybright's work.



## Program at a Glance

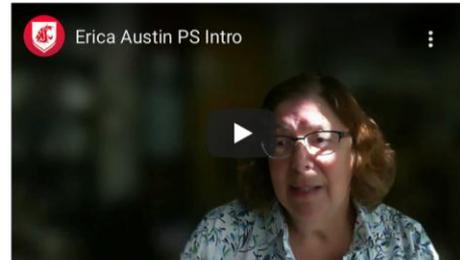
Our Prevention Science faculty and students conduct research within and across several focus areas, including:

- Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery
- Community-Based Translational Research
- Prevention Across the Lifespan
- Physiological and Psychological Underpinnings of Risk and Resilience

Get to know some of our faculty and graduate students by watching their video introductions below. Read more about all our Prevention Science faculty [here](#), and read more about their research labs and projects [here](#).

## Faculty Introductions

Erica Austin – Communication in Pullman



Learn more about Erica Austin and her research [here](#).

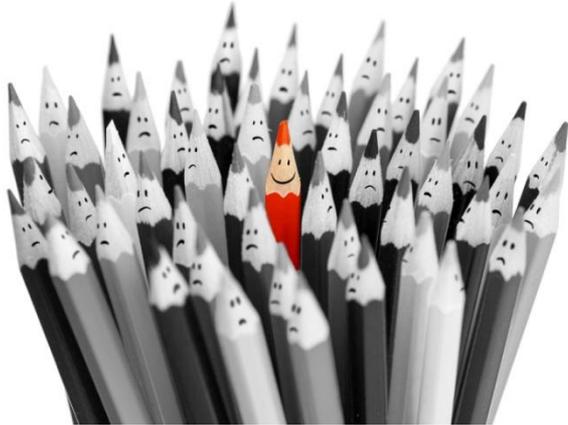
Tracy Klein – Nursing in Vancouver



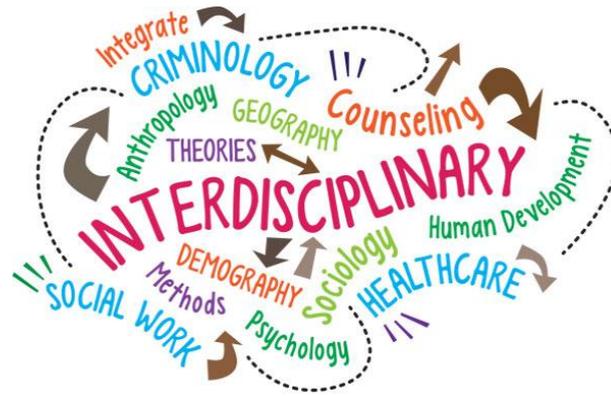
Learn more about Tracy Klein and her research [here](#).



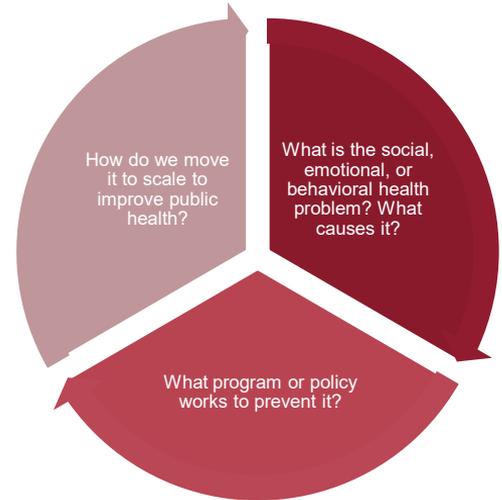
# Why should you choose our program?



First PhD of its kind in the US  
(established in 2012)



Diverse, interdisciplinary  
training



Expertise in generation  
& translation of research



# Diverse Job Opportunities



University researcher & teacher.



Program evaluator, research associate, or grant manager for social service agency, consulting firm, state or federal government agency.





# Admission Procedures

## Prevention Science: Apply to Graduate Program

### Application

- Official transcripts
- 3 letters of recommendation
- Statement of purpose
  - Reason for applying
  - Research interests
  - Relevant experiences
  - Career goals
  - Faculty you want to work with

### Review Considerations

- Evidence of academic success
- Evidence of research skills & experience
- Fit between your interests/goals & our program
- Good match with faculty mentor

\*Note: GRE scores are not required and will not be considered if submitted.



# Application & Admissions Timeline

- Deadline for applications is December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Review of applications begins shortly thereafter
- Zoom interviews with top applicants in January
- Most admissions decisions are made by February 28<sup>th</sup>



# Assistantships

**Historically, our Prevention Science graduate students are funded and trained as teachers and researchers.**

- Research Assistantship (RA)
- Teaching Assistantship (TA)
- 20 hours/week = stipend, tuition waiver, insurance
  - August 16 to May 15

Find out more about assistantships here:

<https://gradschool.wsu.edu/assistantships/>





# Thank you!

Visit our website to learn more:  
<https://hd.wsu.edu/preventionscience/>

Contact [raven.weaver@wsu.edu](mailto:raven.weaver@wsu.edu) with any questions or comments.



## Prevention Science Graduate Program

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY