Nick Gordon Curriculum Vitae | PhD Student

Location: Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
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Education

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA **2024 – Present**
PhD Student, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Advisor: Dr. Michael McDannald

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA **2020 – 2024**
Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience, Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Cum Laude
Advisor: Dr. Sara Cordes

Research Experience

Graduate Student, Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory **2024 – Present**
Boston College, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

- PI: Dr. Michael McDannald
- Developed novel behavioral paradigms
- Designed software packages to integrate video recordings into behavior
- Studied roles of amygdala and prelimbic cortex in Pavlovian and Avoidance learning
- Trained undergraduates on laboratory procedure and animal care
- Presented data at independent and university-level conferences
- Mentored undergraduates pursuing graduate careers in neuroscience

Undergraduate Researcher, Behavioral Neuroscience Laboratory **2021 – 2024**
Boston College, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

- PI: Dr. Michael McDannald
- Developed and carried out an honors thesis project investigating optogenetic stimulation of ventral tegmental area dopamine neurons
- Served as laboratory safety liaison
- Assisted graduate students in the running of behavior and husbandry of multiple cohorts of rats
- Trained undergraduates, technicians, and graduate students on laboratory safety, technique, and procedure
- Investigated the role of dopamine populations in fear discrimination and reward learning
- Retrofitted behavioral chambers with new audio and visual systems
- Developed programs to sort, analyze, and visualize experimental data

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Brain, Mind, and Behavior **Fall 2023**
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

- Collaborated with Dr. Jeffrey Lamoureux and two graduate TAs to manage 250-person class
- Met with and advised students on course material, research, and future courses

Teaching Assistant, Behavioral Neuroscience **Spring 2024**
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

- Collaborated with Dr. Michael McDannald and two other TAs to write assessments and answer student questions in a 175-person class

Teaching Assistant, Psychopharmacology **Fall 2025**
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

- Collaborated with Dr. Sindy Cole, grading assignments and meeting with students

Content Tutor, Student-Athlete Academic Services **Fall 2025**
Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA

- Provided one-on-one tutoring in economics and psychology coursework to student athletes

Publications

Amanda Chu, **Nicholas T Gordon**, Aleah M DuBois, Christa B Michel, Katherine E Hanrahan, David C Williams, Stefano Anzellotti, Michael A McDannald (2024) A fear conditioned cue orchestrates a suite of behaviors in rats eLife 13:e82497

David C Williams, Amanda Chu, **Nicholas T Gordon**, Aleah M DuBois, Suhui Qian, Genevieve Valvo, Selena Shen, Jacob B Boyce, Anaise C Fitzpatrick, Mahsa Moaddab, Emma L Russell, Liliuokalani H Counsman, Michael A McDannald (2024). Ethograms reveal a fear conditioned visual cue to organize diverse behaviors in rats. https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.09.10.612214

Mahsa Moaddab, Suhui Qian, Jacob Boyce, **Nicholas T Gordon**, Aleah DuBois, Anaise Fitzpatrick, Kaiyuan Zheng, Michael A McDannald, Michael (2025). Paraventricular thalamic inputs to the ventral pallidum shape reward seeking during threat and fear responding in extinction (In Progress)

Conferences and Presentations

Pavlovian Society

Nicholas T. Gordon, David C. Williams, Amanda Chu, Aleah M. DuBois, Suhui Qian, Genevieve Valvo, Selena Shen, Jacob B. Boyce, Anaise C. Fitzpatrick, Mahsa Moaddab, Emma L. Russell, Liliuokalani Counsman, and Michael A. McDannald (2024). A fear conditioned visual cue orchestrates a suite of behaviors in rats

Boston College Undergraduate Research Conference

Nicholas T. Gordon, Suhui Qian, Jacob Boyce, Aleah M DuBois, Michael A McDannald (2024). Optogenetic stimulation A10 Dopamine neurons of the Ventral Tegmental Area alters behavior in an instrumental reward context. An Undergraduate Honors Thesis

Behavioral Neuroscience Data Club, Boston College

Nicholas T. Gordon and Suhui Qian (2024). Optogenetic Stimulation of A8 & A10 Dopamine Neurons in the Retrorubral Field and Ventral Tegmental Area: Effects on Rat Reward Seeking Behavior. Presented Undergraduate Honors Thesis to graduate students and professors

Behavioral Neuroscience Scientific Development, Boston College

Nicholas T. Gordon and Michael A McDannald (2025). Recording prelimbic cortex activity during concurrent Avoidance learning and Pavlovian fear conditioning

Honors/Achievements

- **Honorable Mention NSF GRFP,** 2024-25
- ***Cum Laude*, Boston College**, 2024
- **Dean's Scholar Award, Boston College**, 2023
- **Nu Rho Psi Member**, 2022 - Present
- **Psi Chi Member**, 2022 - Present
- **Omicron Delta Epsilon Member**, 2024 - Present
- **Gateway Scholars**, 2020-24