



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
School of Continuing Studies

SCS Admissions Policies Handbook

2024 - 2025

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WELCOME

Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies (SCS) offers graduate programs in professional and liberal studies, professional and graduate certificate programs, custom and corporate training and education, summer school and special programs, English language programming, and the University's only part-time bachelor's program. By pairing seasoned scholars and practitioners with innovative educational programming, SCS prepares students with the skills needed to succeed in today's evolving business landscape.

We believe that education should help students build and maintain a genuine spirit of reflectivity to guide them along their academic and intellectual journey. The policies outlined here are developed to maintain the integrity of our degree programs and Graduate Certificate programs and to ensure equity and fairness through their application.

University Mission Statement

Georgetown is a Catholic and Jesuit, student-centered research university. Established in 1789 in the spirit of the new republic, the university was founded on the principle that serious and sustained discourse among people of different faiths, cultures, and beliefs promotes intellectual, ethical and spiritual understanding. We embody this principle in the diversity of our students, faculty and staff, our commitment to justice and the common good, our intellectual openness, and our international character.

An academic community dedicated to creating and communicating knowledge, Georgetown provides excellent undergraduate, graduate, and professional education in the Jesuit tradition for the glory of God and the well-being of humankind. Georgetown educates women and men to be reflective lifelong learners, to be responsible and active participants in civic life, and to live generously in service to others.

SCS Mission Statement

The mission of the School of Continuing Studies (SCS) is to deliver a world-class, values-based education to a diverse array of communities and individuals throughout their academic and professional careers; to improve employability and develop workforces; and to contribute to building a civic-minded, well-informed, and globally aware society.

SCS Vision Statement

To transform the lives and careers of diverse lifelong learners by providing access to engaged and personalized liberal and professional education for all.

History of the School of Continuing Studies

Since its official founding in 1970, the School of Continuing Studies has filled an important role at Georgetown University by introducing academic programs and professional training opportunities that respond to the evolving needs of society and the workforce. The nimble structure and culture of SCS has been maintained over time, from the introduction of summer courses in the 1950s to the University's first Master of Professional Studies degrees in the 2000s.

The School's Summer Sessions began in 1954 following the 1953 appointment of Rev. James F. Dougherty, S.J., to direct a coordinated summer school for the University. During its first year in operation, what was then known as the "Summer School" offered courses from 15 academic departments, such as Political Science, Religion, and Modern Languages. Dr. Paul Sullivan succeeded Father Dougherty in 1954, first as director and then as the first dean.

In November 1970, the University's Board of Directors authorized a change to the School's name from the Georgetown University Summer School to the School for Summer and Continuing Education, and in doing so, marked the founding of the School as it is known today. In the spring of 1974, two Liberal Studies programs were announced by former dean Dr. Joseph Pettit. Becoming the two oldest degree programs at the School, the first student graduated from the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program in 1975 and the first three students graduated from the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies program in 1976. The first students from the Doctor of Liberal Studies program, established in 2005, graduated in May 2010.

In December 2004, the University's Board of Directors authorized a name change to the School of Continuing Studies or SCS, as it is known today. The School's first Master of Professional Studies (MPS) programs were launched in fall 2007 by then-dean Dr. Robert Manuel. The Master of Professional Studies programs emphasize a balance of theoretical and applied learning through graduate-level coursework. The first Master of Professional Studies programs offered were in Public Relations & Corporate Communications and Journalism, and the first group of Master of Professional Studies students graduated in December 2008. The School continues to add new Master of Professional Studies and Graduate Certificate programs, with each created to fill industry needs for educated professionals.

In 2013, SCS moved from offices on Georgetown's Main Campus and in Arlington, Virginia, to its current home at 640 Massachusetts Ave NW, allowing for continued expansion into new academic areas. Under the leadership of Dean Kelly Otter, Ph.D., who assumed her role in July 2014, the School maintains an ever-growing portfolio of degree and non-degree educational opportunities. SCS will move to a new location in the Fall of 2025 as part of the institution's Capitol Campus project, joining our community near the GU Law Center at 111 Massachusetts Ave NW.

Accreditation Information

Georgetown University and the School of Continuing Studies programs are accredited by the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools. The Commission on Higher Education is an institutional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. The Commission is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education for accrediting activities in the Middle States region, which includes the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Institutions based outside of the United States, whether or not chartered or licensed within the Middle States region, may not make reference to the Commission's recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education. Any reference to accredited status may not imply that the Secretary's recognition of the agency extends to foreign institutions.

Disclaimer, Website, and Update Information

This Handbook is published for prospective SCS students for the programs contained here. It is not a contract or an offer to contract. Updates to certain policies and procedures may be necessary to the Handbook, and all applicants and students will be held to the most current standards and regulations of SCS and their programs. Therefore, we encourage students to check our Student Handbook and Policy web page at the start of each semester to download the most recent Program Handbook for that academic term and to read about academic and nonacademic policies that affect all students in the School and at the University. The most recent edition of each Handbook and links to important policies and procedures can be found [online](#).

It is the responsibility of the student to keep well-informed with respect to the regulations and requirements in this Handbook as well as separate policies and procedures established by other University Offices (such as the Registrar's Office, Financial Aid, Revenue and Receivables, and the Office of Global Services) which may affect the student.

Office of Academic Affairs & Compliance

The Office of Academic Affairs & Compliance reinforces the relationship between the School's liberal and professional studies programs and the fundamental [Jesuit Values of Georgetown](#). This involves bridging academic rigor with human values, ethics, and cura personalis, a central belief in each individual's unique needs and gifts. We monitor student progress to ensure that minimum academic standards are met; serve as the final point of appeal for exceptions to policy; assess overall program quality; and provide recommendations to programs regarding academic trainings and workshops for students, faculty, and staff in the School's credit and noncredit, high school, undergraduate, and graduate programs.

Visiting Georgetown SCS

Located in downtown Washington, D.C., SCS is accessible via public transportation and car. See the [Campus Life](#) section of our website to learn more about [getting here](#).

Address: 640 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001

Main Admissions Phone: (202) 687-6299

Web address: <https://scs.georgetown.edu/admissions/>

Email: scsadmissions@georgetown.edu

[View Larger Map](#)

ADMISSIONS POLICIES

Admission Requirements

In line with Georgetown's Jesuit tradition, the application review process is holistic.

For admission consideration, applicants to the Master of Professional Studies, Executive Master of Professional Studies, and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies programs are required to:

- 1) have an earned United States bachelor's degree or international equivalent from an accredited college or university; or
- 2) be enrolled in their final term of an undergraduate degree program and are on the path to earning a United States bachelor's degree or international equivalent from an accredited college or university.

Academically, a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 on a 4.00 scale is typically required for admission, as graduate students are expected to maintain a 3.00 in order to remain in good academic standing.

For admission consideration, applicants to the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies program are required to:

- 1) have earned a United States high school diploma or GED certification or the international equivalent; or
- 2) be enrolled in their final term at a United States high school or GED certification program or an international equivalent program

Academically, a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 on a 4.00 scale is preferred. Applicants who do not have previous post-secondary college experience may be considered for provisional admission. Professional experience is not a requirement for this program.

For admission consideration, applicants to the Doctor of Liberal Studies program are required to:

- 1) have an earned a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university; and
- 2) have at least one conferred graduate-level degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university.

Application Requirements and Process

All programs require applicants to apply and submit an online application. An applicant can apply to multiple programs at GU and at SCS, however, if admitted, they can enroll in only one program at a time; it is not possible to pursue two credit programs at Georgetown University concurrently.

Applicants interested in online programs should review U.S. and International admissions eligibility [information](#).

International students are strongly encouraged to submit their applications by the priority deadline for the semester they are applying for, to allow enough time for visa processing, if admitted.

[Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies Application Requirements and Deadlines](#)

[Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Application Requirements and Deadlines](#)

[Doctor of Liberal Studies Application Requirements and Deadlines](#)

[Master and Executive Master of Professional Studies Application Requirements and Deadlines](#)

[Graduate Certificates Application Requirements and Deadlines](#)

Provisional, Non-Degree Enrollment

Applicants who do not meet our minimum academic requirements may be allowed to enroll in provisional, non-degree status for an opportunity to prove their academic potential at the graduate-level. The academic programs and SCS Admissions make this recommendation; applicants cannot request this status.

Exceptions include:

- The Doctor of Liberal Studies does not admit students provisionally.
- The Graduate Certificate programs in Lean & Agile Practices, Competitive Business Intelligence, and Cybersecurity Risk Management do not admit students provisionally.
- Due to the course model of the Executive Master of Professional Studies in Humanitarian Crisis & Emergency Management provisional non-degree students are not permitted. This program can only be completed in full-time status.

Provisional students enrolled in the Master of Professional Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies, and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies programs are limited to 2 courses/6-credit hours (part-time status) in the academic program to which they applied.

- Master of Professional Studies and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies students must earn grades of “B” (3.00) or better in both courses before being considered for full admission to a degree program.
- Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies students must earn grades of “C” (2.00) or better in both courses before being considered for full admission to a degree program.

Master of Professional Studies and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies students who earn two grades, six credits, of “B” or better, regardless of cumulative GPA, within the permitted time frame of one year will be transferred into degree-seeking status. This transfer can only be done after all pending grades are posted.

Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies students who earn two grades, worth six credits, of “C” or better (regardless of cumulative GPA within the permitted time frame of one year) will be transferred into degree-status. This transfer can only be done after all pending grades are posted.

Provisional students are limited to one year (three consecutive semesters) to complete these two courses. Provisional students may defer the start of their program, but they are not permitted to take a Leave of Absence (LOA) once they have begun their studies.

- The only LOA a provisional student may take is under the “Military: U.S. Armed Forces” policy. For further information, please review the [student handbook](#) under the section “Military: U.S. Armed Forces LOA Request, Return, and Re-Enrollment.”

Students should communicate with their instructors any questions regarding grades. Provisional students are notified of their degree-seeking status change by email. All coursework, credits, and grades completed in non-degree status then count toward the Master of Professional Studies degree.

- Master of Professional Studies and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies: Grades of “B-” (2.67) and below, including a “U” grade, are unsatisfactory and disqualify the provisional student from degree-seeking status.
- Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies: Grades of “C-” (1.70) and below, including a “U” grade, are unsatisfactory and disqualify the provisional student from degree-seeking status.
- Provisional students who do not meet these minimum standards are automatically academically dismissed and cannot reapply to any SCS credit program.

Conditional Enrollment

Conditional admission may be granted to:

- 1) Applicants who are enrolled in their final semester or quarter of their admissions qualifying post-secondary degree or high school program
- 2) Applicants who graduated from an institution inside of the United States who applied with an unofficial transcript
- 3) Applicants who apply with transcripts showing in-progress courses for their current semester

Conditionally admitted students must provide a final official transcript or a WES, ECE, or SpanTran/TEC course-by-course evaluation with their graduation date and degree conferral prior to the start of their term. If this cannot be produced by the start of the first semester, a final conditional transcript deadline will be set.

For example, if a student conditionally admitted for spring cannot provide their official transcript with a degree conferred by the first day of spring classes, then they must provide a final transcript prior to the first registration date of summer. Students who fail to provide their official transcript by the final conditional transcript deadline will have a hold on their account, and will not be able to register for future semesters until the official, degree-conferred document is received by the Office of Admissions.

Applicants completing their undergraduate degree at an institution outside the United States must follow the transcript evaluation policies listed on our [website](#) and meet our stated deadlines.

Confidentiality of Admissions Materials

All information submitted to SCS Admissions, including personal essays, transcripts, and portfolios, are considered confidential and cannot be returned to the applicant. Admitted applicants who did not waive their right to view the letters of recommendation may request a copy. Only those admitted into a program may receive a copy of a letter of recommendation under the condition that they did **not** waive their right to view their letter.

Neither the applicant's admission status nor the information contained in the applicant's admissions file will be shared with individuals outside of the School and University without a signed waiver from the applicant. By submitting these documents, the applicant attests to their accuracy and validity. All work submitted under the applicant's name (such as the statement of purpose or writing samples) must reflect the original work of that applicant. If any false information or plagiarized material is discovered in application materials, admission can be rescinded, course schedules canceled without the right of refund, and degree(s), if already conferred, revoked.

Applicants are officially admitted when a notice of acceptance signed by the Dean has been received, e-confirmation to matriculate returned, and course registration has been completed.

Deferral of Admission Acceptance

Admitted students have the option to defer their term of admission. All deferrals must be requested in writing through the Admissions Office.

- Enrollment can be deferred one time, to one of the three consecutive semesters following the initial term of admission. Students who do not attend the program after deferring their semester of attendance might be required to re-apply to the program.
- Students are responsible for dropping courses if registered to avoid any tuition or fee charges.
- If any academic work is completed during the period of deferral, the student must submit the new transcripts to SCS Admissions and inform their admissions advisor.
- Students may receive an exception to the one time deferral policy on a case-by-case basis.

Admission Decision Appeal Process

All decisions from the School of Continuing Studies are final and not subject to appeal.

Denied applicants must wait one year from the semester they were denied to reapply to the same program.

Dismissal and Termination

Any student who is dismissed and/or terminated from any credit program at SCS is not eligible to reapply to any other credit program at SCS. This includes degree and graduate certificate programs.

Program Withdrawal

If a student has attended their first class and wishes to withdraw formally from a program, the student must submit their request via email to their program and the Office of Academic Affairs & Compliance (scsoaac@georgetown.edu) so that it may be recorded on their permanent record. The date of the email will be used as the official date of withdrawal and for any applicable refund. Once the email has been submitted, the request is considered final. They should also contact the [Office of Revenue and Receivables](#) to satisfy all financial obligations to the University. It is the student's responsibility to keep all email correspondence related to withdrawals.

If a student wishes to withdraw from a program before attending their first class, the student must submit their request via email to SCS Office of Admissions (scsadmissions@georgetown.edu). The Office of Admissions will change their intent to matriculate, and the student will no longer be able to register for classes.

SCS Credit-Bearing Degree Program Switch

If a current SCS student wants to leave their undergraduate or graduate academic program to join another SCS undergraduate or graduate academic program, the student must apply for admission to the new program through the SCS Admissions Office. Admission to one program does not guarantee admission to another at SCS or Georgetown University.

Once a student is admitted, they must first accept their offer. The SCS Office of Admissions and the Office of the University Registrar will then work together to implement the program change.

A student will not need to submit a request to withdraw from their current program or have “withdrawn” notated on their transcript because they will not be withdrawing from the University.

Tuition and Financial Aid

Please visit our website for current [tuition](#) and [financial aid](#) information. For information on loans and other financial assistance, please contact the [Office of Student Financial Services](#).

Financial Aid advising requirements and processes to receive financial aid can be complex and time-consuming. We encourage all students seeking aid to work directly with the Office of Student Financial Services for information regarding eligibility requirements. Students who do not make satisfactory progress towards degree completion (whether through time to completion or academic actions like probation) can subsequently jeopardize their eligibility for aid and may be subject to additional corrective measures established by Student Financial Services and the Office of Academic Affairs & Compliance.

Financial Aid Contact Information:

Email: scsfinaid@georgetown.edu

Phone: 202-687-4547

FAFSA Georgetown SCS Code 001445

Scholarships

Georgetown School of Continuing Studies provides a number of [service-based scholarships](#) as well as scholarships for students with affiliations to certain organizations.

[External scholarships opportunities](#) are also available.

Military and Veterans Benefits

[Georgetown University Military and Veterans' Resource Center](#) connects military students and veterans with the resources they need to successfully transition from combat to classroom and from classroom to new career. This includes help navigating the admissions process, applying for financial aid and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs education benefits, academic assistance, and preparing to re-enter the workforce.

The School of Continuing Studies participates in the [Yellow Ribbon Program](#) for U.S. veterans.

Veteran Resources Contact Information:

Veteranservices@georgetown.edu

202-687-2708

Military Benefits Contact Information:

militarybenefits@georgetown.edu

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Educational Records Policy

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (also known as FERPA and the Buckley Amendment) is a federal law which states that a written institutional policy with respect to student records must be established and that a statement of adopted procedures covering the privacy rights of students must be made available annually. The law provides that the University will maintain the confidentiality of student educational records.

Georgetown University accords to its students all rights under this law. No one outside the University shall have access to students' educational records, nor will Georgetown disclose any information from these records without the written consent of the student, except to:

1. personnel within the University, on a need-to-know basis;
2. persons or organizations providing student financial aid;
3. accrediting agencies carrying out their accreditation function;
4. persons in compliance with a judicial order or a lawfully issued subpoena (provided that the University will first make a reasonable attempt to notify the student);
5. organizations conducting studies to develop, validate, and administer predictive tests;
6. authorized representatives of federal or state government agencies for the purpose of audit and evaluation of government programs; and
7. persons in an emergency in order to protect the health and safety of students or other persons.

All of these exceptions are permitted under the Act. Information will be released only on the condition that the party to whom the information is released will not disclose it to a third party without the written consent of the student. Furthermore, the University will maintain records of any access provided without the expressed consent of the student, and these records will be

made available to the student on request. The University expects that student's dependent on their parents will normally wish to share academic and other information with them. This information will not be provided directly to them, however, without the student's consent.

Within the University community only those members individually or collectively acting in the student's educational interest are allowed access to student educational records. These members include personnel in the offices of the Deans and the Registrars, directors of admissions and directors of financial aid, personnel in counseling offices, and academic personnel within the limitations of their need to know.

The University will provide directory information at its discretion. This information includes the student's name, addresses and telephone numbers, date and place of birth, parents' names, major fields of study, dates of attendance, enrollment status, expected date of graduation, degrees and awards received, the most recent previous educational institution attended, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, and height and weight of members of athletic teams. Students may instruct the Registrar to withhold the release of directory information by providing written notice to the Office of the University Registrar by the second week of classes of the Fall semester. Since instructions will be honored for only one academic year, such notice must be filed annually with the Registrar.

The law provides students with the right to inspect and review information contained in their educational records, to challenge the contents of their educational records, to have a hearing if the outcome of the challenge is unsatisfactory, and to submit explanatory statements for inclusion in their file if they find the decision of the hearing panel to be unsatisfactory. *The word "student" in this context is defined to include all current and former students, but not applicants for admission.*

Academic files are maintained by the graduate and undergraduate program Deans' offices, Academic Affairs & Compliance Office, and the University Registrar. These files may contain admission credentials, requests for exceptions to policies, and records of current and previous academic work. Records are also contained in certain instances by the following Offices or Departments: the Associate Dean of Student Affairs; the Career Education Center, the Office of Student Financial Services; the Office of Global Services; the Center for Minority Student Affairs; the Office of Revenue and Receivables; and certain academic programs.

Students who wish to review their educational records must make a written request to the custodian of these records. The information will be made available within 45 days of the request. Students may have copies made of the records with certain exceptions (e.g., a copy of an academic record on which a hold has been placed because of an unsatisfied financial obligation to the University). These copies will be made at the student's expense at the rate of fifteen cents per page.

Copies of transcripts or an original permanent record from another institution submitted to Georgetown University as admission credentials will not be released to the student or to other institutions.

It should be noted that educational records do not include the following:

1. Records of instructional, administrative and educational persons which are in the sole possession of the maker and which are not accessible or revealed to any individual except to a temporary substitute;

2. Records of the Campus Public Safety Department;
3. Student health records;
4. Employment records; or
5. Alumni records.

A master's or doctoral thesis submitted to SCS in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a graduate degree is not an educational record as defined herein. Instead it is a scholarly document intended for disclosure and publication by inclusion in the University's library and by other means, and the student's act of submitting it to SCS is deemed to be consent to its disclosure and publication.

Health records, including those maintained by members of the Student Health Service, the Counseling Center, and the Department of Psychiatry, may be personally reviewed by a physician or other appropriate professional of the student's choice.

Students may not inspect or review these records, which are specifically excluded by federal law:

1. Financial information submitted by their parents;
2. Confidential letters and recommendations associated with admission, employment or job placement, or honors, to which they have waived their rights of inspection and review;
3. Confidential letters and recommendations which were placed in the records prior to January 1, 1975; and
4. Educational records containing information about more than one student, in which case access will be permitted only to that part of the record which pertains to the inquiring student.

Students who believe that their educational records contain information that is inaccurate or misleading, or is otherwise in violation of their privacy or other rights, should discuss their concerns informally with the custodian of those records. In most cases this will be the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs & Compliance or the University Registrar. If this discussion does not lead to a resolution of the student's concern, the student has a right to an informal hearing. During this process the student will be afforded a full and fair opportunity to present relevant evidence. If the result of the hearing process is in agreement with the student's request, the appropriate records will be amended. If not, the student will be notified within a reasonable amount of time that the records will not be amended; the student will then be informed of his or her right to a formal hearing.

The Dean of SCS may establish a subcommittee comprised of representatives of her Executive Committee and charged with the responsibility of adjudicating challenges to the contents of student records. The formation of the subcommittee is at the Dean's discretion. Requests for a formal hearing must be made in writing to the appropriate Dean's office within one calendar year after the initial denial of the student's request. This petition must be dated and signed by the petitioner and must contain a brief and concise explanation of the item being challenged and the basis for the challenge. It must also contain a statement that the petitioner's initial request to a University official was denied, naming the official and stating the date of the denial. The petition must further specify what relief is being requested.

The Dean will forward the petition to the chairperson of the appropriate committee, the hearing will be convened within a reasonable time, and all concerned parties will be notified in writing of the date, place, and time of the hearing; the hearing will be closed to the public. The

chairperson may request a written response to the petition prior to the hearing from the University official who initially denied the student's request. The student will receive a copy of any written response prior to the hearing. The chairperson may also request written verification of the item in question from the author.

The hearing will include an informal presentation of arguments from both sides. The student will have a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues and may be assisted and represented by individuals of his or her choice at his or her expense, including an attorney. Evidentiary rules will be disregarded. Committee members have the obligation to disqualify themselves if there is any indication of personal bias. Additionally, the student has the right to disqualify any member of the committee, after giving adequate reasons to the chairperson; in such cases an alternate will be appointed. After both parties have presented their cases, the committee will have 48 hours to render its decision.

The written findings and conclusion of the committee will be provided in writing to both parties within a reasonable time and will include a summary of the evidence and the reasons behind the decision. Minutes of the hearings will be kept on file in the appropriate Dean's office.

The powers of the committee shall include but not be limited to:

1. Ordering the destruction of the document;
2. Ordering the removal of the document from the file and its return to the author;
3. Ordering the denial of the student's request.

After the decision of the committee has been rendered, the student whose request has been denied will have ten days to file a written appeal to the Dean. If the Dean is an interested party to a particular action, the Dean shall appoint a surrogate. Failure to file an appeal within ten days after the decision shall constitute a waiver of appeal rights.

After assessing the grounds for the appeal, the Dean will decide to accept or reject the request for a further review of the case. Upon allowing an appeal, the Dean will review the hearing record and any new evidence submitted. The Dean is empowered to sustain, reverse or alter the board's decision. The Dean's decision will be communicated in writing within 30 days of receipt of the request for an appeal and this decision will be final.

The above procedures constitute general guidelines for these committees. The committees, however, may establish additional procedures as deemed necessary and appropriate to insure fairness and to facilitate the hearing process. All time limits are to be determined without counting Saturdays, Sundays, and University holidays and vacation periods.

It should be noted that a student may challenge a recorded grade only on the grounds that it was inaccurately recorded, not on the grounds that it was lower than what the instructor ought to have awarded.

Students who believe that the adjudication of their challenges was unfair or was not in keeping with the provisions of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 may submit a written request for assistance from the appropriate Vice President of the University. Further, students who believe that their rights have been abridged may file complaints with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act Office, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC 20201.

Non-Discrimination Policy

Georgetown University provides educational opportunities without regard to, and does not discriminate on the basis of, age, color, disability, family responsibilities, familial status, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, national origin, personal appearance, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, source of income, veteran's status or any other factor prohibited by law in its educational programs and activities. Inquiries regarding Georgetown University's non-discrimination policy may be addressed to Institutional Diversity, Equity & Affirmative Action, 37th and O Sts., N.W., Suite M36, Darnall Hall, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. 20057. The most up-to-date policies and procedures can be found [online](#).

If a student believes that discrimination in such academic matters as coursework, grading, class participation, or the evaluation of any other degree requirements occurred, the matter should be presented to the Faculty Director of that program on an informal basis within 30 days of the alleged incident. If, after the preliminary investigation by the program leadership, or through discussion with the student, the faculty member, and other relevant individuals, the complaint is resolved satisfactorily, no record of the complaint will be placed in the file of the student or the faculty member. If the complaint is not resolved, the student may submit a formal written complaint to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs & Compliance on behalf of the Dean of SCS; a copy of this formal written complaint should also be sent for information purposes to the University's Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Diversity, Equity & Affirmative Action.

Upon receipt of the formal written complaint, the Office of Academic Affairs & Compliance will complete an investigation and may either render a decision based upon those findings or establish a board of three impartial SCS members to review the complaint. This board may consist of program Associate/Assistant Deans or Executive Directors, and/or faculty members within the School depending upon the circumstances.

The review board will:

1. Hear and consider the student's complaint;
2. Accept and consider further evidence concerning the complaint;
3. Forward its recommendation for resolution or further action in the case to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Every effort will be made to ensure the student's fundamental fairness in the complaint process. It should be emphasized, however, that the review board is not a court of law. While the board may review materials and graded work presented as documentation, it does not have the authority to re-grade work or make determinations about the academic merit of assignments. If the board finds that discrimination has occurred that may have affected the student's grade in the course, it will recommend further review by the Associate Dean/Executive Director of the program in consultation with the Office of Academic Affairs & Compliance and a faculty member deemed to have expertise in the course content.

The student will be expected to attend the review board's hearing of the complaint. If, because of extraordinary circumstances the student is unable to attend, he or she may submit a written summary of the case. The student should supply a list in advance of any individuals s/he would like to bring to the meeting to assist in presenting the complaint. The student may be present for all stages of the review board's hearing except for the final deliberation by the board.

The review board shall have at the hearing all available information pertaining to the student's complaint including his/her academic record. The board will accept and review written statements submitted by the student, faculty member, and/or other relevant individuals. The board may also, at its discretion, entertain oral testimony from witnesses.

The general outline of the hearing will be as follows:

1. The board will review the complaint and academic record of the student;
2. The student will have the opportunity to present the case and any attending circumstances;
3. The board may request specific people to appear before it;
4. The board will deliberate and make its recommendation.

After the board has completed its review and forwarded its recommendation to the Office of Academic Affairs & Compliance, that Dean will notify the student in writing and send copies of the board's decision to the Office for Institutional Diversity, Equity & Affirmative Action (IDEAA) and to the Affirmative Action Officer of the relevant campus. Any party to the complaint wishing to appeal the board's decision should file a written appeal within 30 days of the decision to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs with a copy sent to the University's Institutional, Diversity, Equity & Affirmative Action Office. The written appeal should indicate the grounds for the appeal and any new evidence that was not submitted to the review board. The Associate Dean will accept or reject the appeal based upon the grounds stated and will render a final decision within 30 days of that appeal.

Although GU and SCS encourage students to avail themselves of these internal mechanisms for discrimination complaints, all students have the right to contact external enforcement agencies such as the District of Columbia Human Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the Office of Civil Rights of the Department of Education, and the Department of Labor. Reprisal or retaliation against an individual for making a complaint regarding discrimination, or for using or participating in internal or external processes, is prohibited.

Mandatory Tuberculosis Screening/Immunizations for New Students

Mandatory Tuberculosis Screening/Immunizations for New Students. The District of Columbia requires all new students, regardless of age, to respond to a Tuberculosis Screening Certificate. It should be completed before the student begins coursework. In addition, any students under age 26 attending school is required by D.C. Law to present evidence of immunization against the following diseases: Poliomyelitis, Measles, Rubella (German Measles), Diphtheria, Mumps, and Tetanus. For further information—or to access the TB Screening Certificate, call the [Student Health Center](#) at (202) 687-4500.

COVID Vaccination Requirements

Georgetown University strongly recommends that all community members stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines and receive the latest dose as recommended by the CDC. Please visit the [GU COVID](#) webpage for the most update to date information.

Technology Skills Required

Academic programs use multiple learning management systems, such as Canvas, and tools depending on the nature of the course or program in order to stimulate classroom discussion; anyone familiar with popular social networks or other online communities should feel comfortable with the tools. Students will not need to be proficient with distance education technology before enrolling, but basic computer literacy, such as knowing how to access a Web site, upload and download documents, conduct basic Web-based research using Library databases and similar sources are required. Students must log onto the learning management platform using a secure GU login and password. Some courses make active use of synchronous sessions via a web video camera. An orientation module is provided and a technology help-desk is available to both students and faculty.

Technology Equipment Required

For courses that use Canvas course management programs, students will need access to a computer with the following specifications: Canvas: A minimum screen size of 1024x600. That is the average size of a netbook. If you want to view Canvas on a device with a smaller screen, we recommend using the Canvas mobile app on a mobile device with iOS 7 and newer or Android 2.3 and newer will work. Students working on a computer will need Windows XP SP3 and newer, Mac OSX 10.6 and newer, or Linux – 28 chromeOS. The computer should be 5 years old or newer when possible, with at least 1GB of RAM and a 2GHz processor. Students also need an internet connection with a bandwidth of at least 512kbps. In order to join Collaboration sessions, students need a computer with either: Windows XP (32 bit), Windows Vista (32 or 64 bit) or Windows 7 (32 or 64 bit), Pentium III 1 GHz processor; Mac OS X 10.5 (32 or 64 bit) or Mac OS X 10.6 (32 or 64 bit), G4, G5 or Intel processor; Ubuntu 9.10 (64 bit), Pentium III 1 GHz processor. Windows or Linux users will need a sound card with speakers and microphone or headset (or telephone for Telephony users). Mac users will need an internal, USB, or external iSight microphone (or telephone for Telephony users). Students will also need a broadband internet connection in order to access the Georgetown Media Service. Students in the MPS Urban and Regional Planning program are required to own a laptop or desktop computer that can run ESRI Geographic Information.