



STRATEGIC ADMISSIONS ADVICE

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If you like the University of Pennsylvania, we suggest you research Georgetown University

For anyone who wants to be a master of the political universe, this is the place. Strong international and intercultural culture. In the excitement of studying in D.C., students may pay little attention to the Jesuit affiliation, which adds a conservative tinge to the campus. Getting in is also easier if you're Roman Catholic. Occupies a tree-lined neighborhood that is home to many of the nation's most powerful people.

As the oldest and most selective of the nation's Roman Catholic schools, Georgetown University offers students unparalleled access to Washington, D.C.'s corridors of power. Aspiring politicians benefit from the university's emphasis on public policy, international business, and foreign service. The national spotlight shines brightly on this elite institution, drawing dynamic students and athletes from around the world. "Georgetown is one of the most prestigious schools in the nation," a senior observes. "It balances academics, social life, and faith in an all-encompassing college experience based on 'care of the whole person.'"

From its scenic location just blocks from the Potomac River, Georgetown affords its students an excellent vantage point from which to survey the world. The 104-acre campus reflects the history and growth of the nation's oldest Jesuit university. The Federal style of Old North, home of the School of Business Administration, which once housed guests such as George Washington and Lafayette, contrasts with the towers of the Flemish Romanesque-style Healy Hall, a post-Civil War landmark on the National Register of Historic Places.

Although Georgetown is a Catholic university (founded in 1789 by the Society of Jesus), the religious atmosphere is by no means oppressive. Just more than half of the undergraduates are Catholic, but

all major faiths are respected and practiced on campus. That's partially due to the pronounced international influence here. International relations, diplomatic history, and international economics are among the hottest programs, as evidenced by former secretary of state Madeline Albright's return to the School of Foreign Service. Through its broad liberal arts curriculum, GU focuses on developing the intellectual prowess and moral rigor its students will need in future national and international leadership roles. The curriculum has a strong multidisciplinary and intercultural slant, and students can choose among several programs abroad to round out their classroom experiences.

Would-be Hoyas may apply to one of four undergraduate schools: Georgetown College for liberal arts, the School of Nursing and Health Studies, McDonough School of Business, and the Walsh School of Foreign Service (SFS), which gives future diplomats, journalists, and others a strong grounding in the social sciences. Prospective freshmen must declare intended majors on their applications, and their secondary school records are judged accordingly. This means, among other things, intense competition within the college for the limited number of spaces in Georgetown's popular premed program.

"Students take their coursework very seriously," says a senior. "The courses are challenging, but it certainly isn't impossible to do well." The most popular programs include international affairs, government, international politics, finance, and nursing. Of course, the theology department is also strong. The School of Foreign Service stands out for its international economics, regional and comparative studies, and diplomatic history offerings. SFS also offers several five-year undergraduate and graduate degree programs in conjunction with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. The business school balances liberal arts with professional training, which translates into strong offerings in international and intercultural business as well as an emphasis on ethical and public policy issues. Curiously, given its location in D.C., Georgetown does not offer an undergraduate public policy major. The School of Nursing and Health Studies runs an integrated program combining the liberal arts and humanities with professional nursing theory and practice, and offers majors in nursing and health studies. The Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, the only undergraduate program of its kind nationwide, grants degrees in nine languages, as well as degrees in linguistics and comparative literature.

All students must complete requirements in humanities and writing, philosophy, and theology; other requirements are specific to each school. That GU views most subjects through an international lens is evidenced by the number of students who study abroad. The Office of International Programs offers more than 120 programs in 39 countries. First-years read the same novel during the summer and the author visits campus during the first few weeks for a day-long seminar. There are no special academic requirements for the freshman year, but about 30 Georgetown College freshmen are accepted annually into the liberal arts colloquium. Georgetown likes to boast about its faculty, and well it should. "The professors are outstanding and the teaching is first-rate," says an American studies major. A culture and politics major adds, "TAs never teach courses. They only lead discussion sections and recitations." The school's hefty endowment is the largest among the nation's Jesuit colleges and universities.

A senior says GU students are not the stereotypical "pastel polo and pearl-clad preppies from Long Island." The GU community includes students from all over the United States. African Americans

make up 7 percent of undergrads, Hispanics 8 percent, and Asian Americans comprise 9 percent. Almost half the students come from private or parochial schools. A student committee works with the vice president for student affairs to improve race relations and develop strategies for improving inclusiveness and sensitivity to issues of multiculturalism. Georgetown offers no academic merit scholarships, but it does guarantee to meet the full demonstrated need of every admit, and more than 120 athletic scholarships draw male and female athletes of all stripes. The Georgetown Scholarship Program offers additional financial incentives to eligible students.

University-owned dorms, townhouses, and apartments accommodate some 67 percent of undergrads, and "housing is extremely nice," says a senior. All dorms are co-ed, and some have more activities and community than others. "All have great amenities like Ethernet and landscaping," adds one student. Two dining halls serve "steadily improving" but expensive fare. GU students feel relatively safe on campus, thanks to the school's ever-present Department of Public Safety and its walking and riding after-dark escort services.

Jesuits, who know a thing or two about secret societies, frown upon fraternities and sororities at their colleges, and so there are none at Georgetown. The university's strict enforcement of the 21-year-old drinking age has led to a somewhat decentralized social life, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Alcohol is forbidden in undergrad dorms, and all parties must be registered. The dozens of bars, nightclubs, and restaurants in Georgetown—Martin's Tavern and the Tombs are always popular—are a big draw for students who are legal, but they can get pricey. The Hoyas, a campus pub in the spectacular student activity center, is a more affordable alternative. Popular annual formals such as the Diplomatic and the Blue/Gray Ball force students to dress up and pair off. "Social life is a major part of campus," says a student. "Kids can easily find their niche." Georgetown has a reputation as a gay-friendly campus, and regular events include Gay Pride Month and a popular drag ball called Genderfunk.

Washington offers unsurpassed cultural resources, ranging from the museums of the Smithsonian to the Kennedy Center. "Washington is an ideal place to spend your college years," says a student. "The city has everything students could want, including culture, shopping, museums, monuments, social life, and the clean and convenient Metro for transportation." Given the absence of on-campus parking, a car is probably more trouble than it's worth. Road trips are said to be not popular.

Should you notice the hills begin to tremble with a deep, resounding, primitive chant—"Hoya Saxa Hoya Saxa"—don't worry; it's probably just another Georgetown basketball game. Hoya is derived from the Greek and Latin phrase *hoya saxa*, which means, "What rocks!" Some say it originated in a cheer referring to the stones that formed the school's outer walls. The Hoya men's basketball team has a long history of prominence. The Hoyas are also competitive in men's and women's lacrosse and sailing; the women's lacrosse team has won numerous Big East Championships. The thrill of victory in intramural competition at the superb underground Yates Memorial Field House is not to be missed, either.

For anyone interested in discovering the world, Georgetown offers an outstanding menu of choices in one of the nation's most dynamic cities. Professors truly pay attention to their undergrads and the diverse students, who are "hardworking, diligent, caring individuals," says one sophomore.

"Georgetown is a place where students of all backgrounds, all traditions, and all faiths come together for a common purpose of educating each other and making an impact on the world."