



Focus on Georgetown University

Despite having more than 8,000 graduate and professional students, Georgetown University maintains a strong focus on the undergraduate education it provides for approximately 6,400 students.

The grassy campus atop a hill overlooking the Potomac River and downtown Washington, D.C. is a major draw for students who want not just the high quality education the school is known for, but also a campus life with easy access to a city replete with opportunities of all sorts and unparalleled when it comes internships in anything related to government or foreign affairs.

The Jesuit philosophy is another defining feature of the undergraduate education at Georgetown, with its emphasis on education of the whole person and education in the service of the community. Public service is a pervasive value on campus, evident in student pursuits both in and out of the classroom. Also, all students, regardless of major, are required to take two English courses, two philosophy courses to hone their critical thinking skills, and two theology courses. The latter may be comparative religion courses designed to help them understand world events.

Jesuits have always welcomed diversity and embraced religious tolerance, and as the oldest Jesuit university in our nation, Georgetown boasts of having been the first with a full-time rabbi and full-time Imam on staff. Fifty-four percent of students currently self-identify as Catholic, and seventeen different faiths are represented in the current freshman class.

Ethnic minorities comprise 32% of undergraduates, and international students 12%. That said, the students here have a reputation for being clean-cut and a bit

“preppy.” This is not to say they are all wealthy, though, and while the school admits fewer Pell-grant recipients than do some other universities, they proudly note that those who come here from more economically-disadvantaged backgrounds receive the support they need to perform as well as their peers and have comparable outcomes.

A Georgetown admissions officer who has worked at other highly selective universities says that he finds a level of civility on this campus that is often absent elsewhere. When people here debate their differences of opinion, which they do frequently on this politically active campus, they do it more respectfully.

Students apply directly to one of the four undergraduate schools: Georgetown College (the Arts and Sciences division), the Walsh School of Foreign Service (from which President Bill Clinton graduated and where his Secretary of State Madeleine Albright still teaches), the McDonough School of Business, and the School of Nursing and Health Studies.

Each of the schools has its own set of requirements, as does each major, so it is not possible to have a double major across two schools, but it is common to minor in a different school from where one majors, and interdisciplinary study is encouraged. In fact, the Business school requires language and quantitative courses as well as a four-course sequence in Economics.

In the College, after Government, Biology is the next most popular major, and the science building with laboratories is centrally located beside the Student Center. Foreign languages are also strong here, with some less common offerings like Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Portuguese.

At the Walsh School of Foreign Service, the oldest and largest such undergraduate school, all majors are interdisciplinary. For example, one major is Science, Technology and International Affairs, and another is International and Political Economy.

The School of Nursing and Health Studies is the smallest division with only 120 students in all. Its focus is clinical, and its majors include Healthcare Management and Policy, Human Science, and International Health.

Sixty percent of Georgetown undergraduates study abroad, which it is possible to do in all fields, and 90% have at least one internship. Many have two or three as the area abounds with opportunities in government, non-profit organizations, media outlets, and more.

Students are required to live on campus freshman and sophomore year and either junior or senior year, and with new dorms under construction the plan is to be 90% residential within the next few years. Many affinity groups of all types (including LGBT, which was initially controversial for a Catholic university) enable students to

find smaller communities within the larger one, but Greek life is minimal with only 15% of students participating.

Georgetown has elected to continue using its own application in lieu of the popular Common Application for several reasons. One is that the Admissions Office wants students to fill out the first part early so they may be contacted early for a required interview. Another, they say, is their lack of interest in increasing the number of applications to boost their selectivity, which is considerable as it is. For students applying in 2014, the admit rate was 16.6 percent.

At present Georgetown requires three SAT Subject tests in addition to the SAT or ACT, and does not offer Score Choice, meaning that students must submit scores for every test they take, both SAT and ACT if they take both. The median SAT's for the class entering in the fall of 2014 are 700-770 for Critical Reading and 690-770 for Math. (The Writing section is not used.) Median ACT's are 31-34.

Admissions are need-blind, and the school is committed to meeting 100% of demonstrated need. Students may apply Early Action by 11/1 in order to receive a decision by 12/15, or Regular Decision by 1/10 to receive a decision by 4/1. The admit rates for the two groups of applicants are exactly the same, so the only advantage to applying early is that the candidate will hear back earlier.

