

GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE 2019-20



Head of School
Russell H. Shaw

High School Principal
Katie Gibson

Co-Director of College Counseling
Emily M. Livelli
elivelli@gds.org • 202-274-3180

Co-Director of College Counseling
Jenni Ruiz
jruiz@gds.org • 202-274-3182

Associate Director
of College Counseling
Gregory Wong
gwong@gds.org • 202-274-3184

Registrar
Deirdre D. Nicholson
dnicholson@gds.org • 202-274-3183

College Application Policy

GDS students are permitted to apply to up to 10 colleges and universities. On average, students apply to seven institutions.

Georgetown Day School is a Washington, DC PreK-12 independent school with an enrollment of 1,075 students, a city campus, and a comprehensive, innovative curriculum. Founded in 1945 as the first integrated school in Washington, DC, GDS maintains a diverse student body, 45% of whom identify as students of color, as well as a diverse faculty and Board. The High School is college preparatory, sending 100% of its graduates to colleges and universities throughout the world. The financial aid budget for the 2019-20 school year totals \$7.1 million, shared among 24% of the student body.



Our “GDS Student Will” competencies outline the essential skills our students will need in order to have a meaningful impact in the world; these skills lie at the heart of the GDS curriculum.

A GDS STUDENT WILL:

- Build networks & collaborate across difference
- Innovate & create
- Take risks & learn from failure
- Self-advocate
- Think critically
- Communicate clearly and powerfully
- Tackle complex problems
- Learn actively & resourcefully
- Engage as a just, moral, ethical citizen
- Lead

NATIONAL HONORS AND AWARDS

The Class of 2020 (128 students): includes 2 National Merit Semifinalists, 23 Commended Students, and 3 National Hispanic Scholars.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS: 2019

In May 2019, 230 GDS high school students sat for 502 Advanced Placement examinations; 43% earned scores of 5, 74% earned scores of 4 or above, and 93% earned scores of 3 or above.

SAT SUMMARY (93 STUDENTS)

	middle 50%	mean
Evidence-Based Reading and Writing	665-740	696
Math	635-760	691

MEAN SAT SUBJECT TEST SCORES

Biology-Ecology	682	Math 1	648
Biology-Molecular	709	Math 2	717
Chemistry	739	Physics	729
English-Literature	653	Spanish	713
French	726	U.S. History	713

ACT SUMMARY (72 STUDENTS)

	middle 50%	mean
English	31-35	32.4
Math	26-33	29.7
Reading	31-35	32.1
Science	25-34	29.9
Composite	29-34	31

THE CURRICULUM

A GDS education engages students with real-world problems, places them at the center of their learning, teaches them to collaborate across difference, empowers them to connect with resources, challenges them to think critically and creatively, and prepares them to be active citizens of the world. GDS supports students in exploring programs of study that develop a deep appreciation of the arts, humanities, and sciences as equally valuable disciplines that offer various perspectives on the world.

- Georgetown Day School does not rank students, nor does it compute a grade point average.
- GDS does not offer AP courses in English. All seniors write a 10-15 page critical essay on an author or topic of their choice as the culmination of their study in literature and writing.
- The high school math curriculum is one of the most advanced programs among independent schools in the area, including coursework beyond BC calculus to linear algebra, number theory, multivariable calculus, and discrete mathematics.
- Typically starting no earlier than junior year, students may choose from a wide array of advanced and AP-level courses.

In June 2018, GDS announced that starting in the fall of 2022, AP courses will no longer be offered. The School will begin to phase out AP courses beginning in the 2020-21 school year in order to engage students in curriculum focused on authentic learning, cutting-edge research, and interdisciplinary explorations.

CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

MINIMESTER

In winter 2018, GDS launched the first annual Minimester for students and faculty. During this three-day intensive program, students have an opportunity for an immersive, experiential learning experience without the confines of traditional schooling. Selected courses include: Exploring Reproductive Justice, Prisoners and Their World, Sabermetrics, Unplugged in the Wilderness, and The Neuroscience of Implicit Bias.

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH

GDS supports a cohort of students each year who participate and design social science research studies to address an issue that they identify in their community. Two previous topics students have studied were 1) the politics of space and 2) socioeconomic status and sports.

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

From courses like AP Computer Science to Robotics, Electronics, and Programming, the department offers courses that prioritize and prize project-based learning, inquiry-based instruction, expanded technology integration, and interdisciplinary teaching.

9TH GRADE SEMINAR

The 9th Grade Seminar is a flagship social justice course that serves as a launching point for a GDS High School education. The goal of the course is to gain greater insight into our complex and layered identities while creating a space to ask and learn about the identities and perspectives of others. The class consists mostly of interactive activities and student-led conversations which help us begin to examine the various components of our individual and shared identities.

SENIOR QUEST

All seniors participate in a Quest, or investigation, in which they apply their curiosity, talents, interests, skills, and knowledge to a question, task, creation, or issue of relevance to the student in particular as well as to a significant constituency outside of the GDS community. Quests call for teamwork, a multi-disciplinary approach, community involvement, demonstrable social value, and presentation and communication skills.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1

Continually aware of the reasons for its founding, Georgetown Day School inculcates in its students a concern for the world around them. Although many GDS students volunteer far more extensively, all students must complete at least 60 hours of direct community service.

2

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): GDS is a proud recipient of the National Association of Independent Schools Leading Edge Award for Equity and Justice. Through day-to-day activities, curriculum instruction, and school-wide programming, GDS encourages respect for identity and cultivates awareness of the multiple perspectives, beliefs, experiences, and backgrounds reflected in our diverse community. At the High School level, we offer affinity groups, curriculum, programming, and a social justice teach-in day as opportunities for our students to engage in principles of practice grounded in equity, inclusion, and social justice.

3

In 2014, the GDS Policy and Advocacy Institute began as a summer opportunity for students to engage in meaningful, long-term work in an important area of public policy. Fellows learn the fundamentals of policy development and the relationship between policy and advocacy from experts. They “live” at the intersection of theory and practice, engaging directly with governmental and non-governmental organizations to understand the challenges and to participate in the development of effective policy and/or advocacy initiatives. Policy Institute tracks have included: Waging Life in the DMV, Addressing Sexual Assault and Consent, and Life Resettled.

AMONG THE MORE THAN 100 ACTIVITIES OFFERED, MAJOR PURSUITS INCLUDE:

ACADEMIC TEAMS

Debate, Harvard Model Congress, It's Academic, Math Team, Model UN, Quiz Bowl

ATHLETICS

Baseball, Basketball, Crew, Cross Country, Golf, Lacrosse, Rock Climbing, Soccer, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Tuesday Night Tutoring, Tuesday Night Art, Friendship Terrace Volunteers, Super Science Sessions

MUSIC AND DANCE

A Capella, Chorus, Chamber Choir, Fata Morgana (Dance Troupe), Jazz Band

AFFINITY GROUPS

Adoptee, Black Student Union, Body Positive, Feminisms for those Marginalized by Gender, Fusion, HOLA, Jewish Student Union, Middle Eastern and Arab Affinity, Muslim Students Association, Triple A, SIS, Spectrum, Students for Socio-Economic Awareness, Young Women of Color, Young Men of Color

PUBLICATIONS

Grasslands (Literary), Insight (Diversity), Augur Bit (Student Newspaper), Yearbook

STUDENT STAFF COUNCIL

THEATER

Fall Play, Winter One-Acts, Spring Musical, Cabaret

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE - The Classes of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 attend the following institutions:

The number of students will be indicated if above one.

Amherst College, 7
Bard College
Bard College at Simon's Rock, 2
Barnard College, 7
Bates College, 8
Belmont University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College, 2
Boston University, 6
Bowdoin College, 5
Brandeis University
Brown University, 12
Bryn Mawr College, 2
Bucknell University, 2
California Institute of Technology
Carleton College, 5
Case Western Reserve University, 3
Champlain College
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College, 3
Colby College, 4
Colgate University
College of Charleston
College of the Atlantic
College of William & Mary, 5
Colorado College, 2
College of Wooster
Columbia University, 5
Cornell University, 2
Dartmouth College, 3
Davidson College, 3
Deep Springs College
Dickinson College, 3
Duke University, 7
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Elon University

Emory University, 11
Fordham University, 2
Franklin & Marshall College, 2
Georgetown University, 13
Hamilton College - NY, 4
Harvard College, 12
Harvey Mudd College, 2
Haverford College, 6
Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 2
Indiana University at Bloomington, 3
James Madison University, 2
Jewish Theological Seminary of America
Johns Hopkins University, 3
Kenyon College, 2
Macalester College, 4
Maryland Institute College of Art, 4
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
McDaniel College
Middlebury College, 7
Monmouth University
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College, 2
New York University, 28
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University, 3
Northwestern University, 9
Oberlin College, 9
Occidental College
Ohio Wesleyan University, 2
Pennsylvania State University
Pitzer College
Pomona College, 3
Princeton University, 3
Purdue University, 2
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rochester Institute of Technology
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Joseph's University
Salisbury University, 2
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design, 2
Scripps College, 4
Skidmore College
Southern Methodist University
Spelman College, 2
St. John's University
Stanford University, 5
Stevens Institute of Technology
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
The New School - All Divisions, 3
Trinity College
Trinity University
Tufts University, 15
Tulane University, 12
The University of the Arts
University of California, Berkeley, 3
University of California, Los Angeles, 6
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Chicago, 5
University of Colorado at Boulder, 5
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Maryland, College Park, 8
University of Miami
University of Michigan, 13
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2
University of Notre Dame

University of Pennsylvania, 12
University of Pittsburgh, 2
University of Redlands
University of Rochester, 2
University of San Francisco, 2
University of Southern California, 13
The University of Texas, Austin
University of Virginia, 5
University of Wisconsin, Madison, 14
Vanderbilt University, 3
Villanova University, 3
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University, 2
Washington University in St. Louis, 19
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University, 6
Williams College, 8
Yale University, 10

INTERNATIONAL ATTENDANCE

Imperial College London
King's College London
McGill University
Queen's University
University of British Columbia
University of Toronto
Western University
University of Cambridge, 2
University of St Andrews, 4

CURRICULAR OFFERINGS

While we list the minimum requirements for graduation below, most students go beyond these requirements to engage deeply with courses offered and to explore their academic interests.

ARTS, PERFORMING

One year required

Acting I
Acting II
An Introduction to Performance Design
Dance I
Dance I.5
Dance for Musical Theater
Jazz Improvisation
and Creative Music
Jazz and Creative Music
Chamber Ensemble (II-IV)
Jazz Ensemble - Big Band (II-IV)
Vocal Technique
Honors Band

ARTS, STUDIO

One year required

Introduction to Ceramics and Sculpture
Advanced Ceramics and Sculpture
Introduction to Drawing and Painting
Advanced Drawing and Painting
Introduction to Fine Art Photography
Advanced Photography
Digital Media and Design
Making Video in the 21st Century
AP Studio Art
AP Studio Art/Photography 2-D Design
AP Studio Art/Ceramics and Sculpture
3-D Design

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

AP Computer Science A
Introduction to Computer Programming
Accelerated Python
Introduction to Web Design
Mathematics for Computer Science
and Engineering
Robotics, Electronics, and Programming
Special Topics in Computer Science
Introduction to Android App Development

SCIENCE

Three years; one life science and one physical science

Biology 9
Chemistry
Advanced Chemistry
Physiology
Physics
AP Biology+
AP Chemistry+
AP Physics - C/MEM+

AP Environmental Science
Evolutionary Biology*
Game Theory
Waves and Optics*
Research in Environmental Science
Research Methods in Biology
Astronomy
Astrophysics
Neuroscience
Forensic Science
Quantum Mechanics
and Special Relativity

ENGLISH

Four years required; All English courses are taught as highly rigorous, discussion-based, writing intensive seminars.

English 9
English 10
English 11
English 12

Junior and Senior Literature electives (offered as one semester or full year):
Creative Writing*
Contemporary Women's Literature
Modern Literature*
Philosophy and Literature*
Age of Shakespeare

MATHEMATICS

Three sequential years and completion of Algebra II

Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II
Precalculus (previously named Trigonometry and Precalculus)
Calculus
AP Calculus AB+
AP Calculus BC+
Statistical Analysis and Applications
AP Statistics
Linear Algebra
Advanced Linear Algebra
Differential Equations
Seminar in Advanced Topics in Math
Multivariable Calculus

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Two years required

Ninth Grade Physical Education
Physical Education II

HISTORY

Three years required

Ninth Grade: Communities and Change
Tenth grade: African, European, or World History
Eleventh Grade: U.S. History, American Studies: Gender, or AP U.S. History

Electives:
American Civil War
AP Comparative World Politics
AP Psychology
AP U.S. Government and Politics
Contemporary Issues in a Changing World
Cultural Anthropology
Economics
From Freedom Rides to Ferguson
Gender Studies
Law and Constitutional Rights
Mediterranean World Since World War II
The Middle East
Politics and Policy
World War II

WORLD LANGUAGES

Two successive years of the same language in high school

Foundations I in Chinese
Foundations II in Chinese
Chinese Language and Culture
Advanced Chinese Language and Culture
Advanced Topics in Chinese Studies I
Advanced Topics in Chinese Studies II

Foundations I in French
Foundations II in French
French Language and Culture
Introduction to French Literature
Advanced French Language and Culture
AP French Language and Culture
Francophone Literature and Culture

Foundations I in Latin
Foundations II in Latin
Latin Language and Culture
Introduction to Latin Literature from Myth to Sci Fi
Urbs Aeterna: The History, Literature, and Topography of Rome
Speculum Vitae: Latin Comedy*

Foundations in Spanish
Applications in Spanish
Integrations in Spanish
Spanish Language and Culture
Introduction to Spanish Literature
Advanced Topics of the Spanish Speaking World
AP Spanish Language and Culture
Advanced Spanish Literature

*not offered 2019-20

+ denotes a double period class