

GEORGETOWN DAY SCHOOL

HIGH SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-22



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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 41% 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 2021-22 school year totals \$8 million, shared among 22% 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

COLLEGE APPLICATION POLICY

GDS students are permitted to apply to up to 10 colleges and universities. On average, students apply to seven institutions. This policy ensures that our students make thoughtful choices.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT EXAMS:

In May 2021, 114 GDS high school students sat for 174 Advanced Placement examinations; 41% earned scores of 5, 73% earned scores of 4 or above, and 91% earned scores of 3 or above.

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 or 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 courses, including AP and Upper Level (UL) offerings.

In June 2018, GDS announced that we will phase out offering Advanced Placement courses by fall 2022. In developing our new curriculum, faculty collaborated with the Curriculum Review Committee to establish standards for Upper Level (UL) courses. UL courses represent the most challenging level of coursework offered at GDS, where students examine the material at the highest levels with sustained intellectual independence. For students graduating in the Class of 2022, both AP and Upper Level (UL) courses may appear on their transcript.

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 (club), 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), Gxrls in STEM, Yearbook

STUDENT STAFF COUNCIL

THEATER

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

COLLEGE ATTENDANCE – The Classes of 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 attend the following institutions:

The number of students will be indicated if above one.

American University
Amherst College (5)
Bard College at Simon's Rock (2)
Barnard College (7)
Bates College (6)
Belmont University
Berklee College of Music
Boston College (5)
Boston University (4)
Bowdoin College (2)
Brandeis University (2)
Brown University (13)
Bryn Mawr College (3)
Bucknell University
Caldwell University
Carleton College (5)
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University (5)
Champlain College
Chapman University (2)
Claremont McKenna College
Colby College (6)
Colgate University
College of the Atlantic
Colorado Mesa University
Columbia University (7)
Connecticut College
Cornell University (7)
Dartmouth College (4)
Davidson College
Deep Springs College
Dickinson College
Duke University (6)
Elon University
Emory University (12)
Fordham University
Franklin & Marshall College (2)
George Washington University (2)

Georgetown University (18)
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College
Grinnell College
Hamilton College (2)
Harvard University (13)
Haverford College (9)
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Indiana University (Bloomington) (2)
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University (2)
Kenyon College (2)
Lafayette College (3)
Macalester College (3)
Maryland Institute College of Art
McDaniel College (2)
Middlebury College (5)
Monmouth University
Mount Holyoke College
Muhlenberg College
New York University (20)
Nicholls State University
North Carolina A & T State University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University (2)
Northwestern University (12)
Oberlin College (7)
Occidental College (4)
Parsons School of Design
Pennsylvania State University (2)
Pitzer College
Pomona College (6)
Pratt Institute (2)
Princeton University (2)
Providence College
Purdue University (4)
Reed College (2)
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Joseph's University
San Diego State University
Santa Clara University (2)
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of Visual Arts
Scripps College
Smith College
Spelman College
Stanford University (5)
Stevens Institute of Technology
SUNY at Binghamton
Swarthmore College (5)
Syracuse University (2)
Temple University (3)
The College of Wooster
The New England Conservatory of Music
The New School (3)
The Ohio State University (2)
The University of Texas at Austin (3)
Towson University
Trinity University
Tufts University (11)
Tulane University of Louisiana (9)
University of California (Berkeley) (3)
University of California (Davis) (3)
University of California (Los Angeles) (3)
University of California (Santa Barbara)
University of Chicago (4)
University of Colorado Boulder (4)
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Louisville

University of Maryland (Baltimore County)
University of Maryland (College Park) (7)
University of Miami (6)
University of Michigan (15)
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (3)
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of Pennsylvania (4)
University of Pittsburgh (4)
University of Rochester (3)
University of San Francisco (3)
University of Southern California (8)
University of Virginia (7)
University of Wisconsin (Madison) (14)
Vanderbilt University (3)
Vassar College (2)
Virginia Commonwealth University (2)
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University (4)
Washington University in St Louis (20)
Wellesley College (3)
Wesleyan University (6)
William and Mary (5)
Williams College (6)
Yale University (10)

INTERNATIONAL ATTENDANCE

University of British Columbia
University of Cambridge (2)
Imperial College London
King's College London
NYU Shanghai
University of St Andrews (5)
University of Toronto (5)
Western University

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.

Typically, beginning in junior year, students may select Upper Level or AP coursework to further challenge themselves in areas of strong interest. A student enrolled in three AP or UL courses in any given year is taking the most demanding curriculum available based on scheduling and sequencing of courses.

ARTS, PERFORMING

One year required

Acting I
Acting II
An Introduction to Performance Design
(renamed Theater Production)
Ballet I
Ballet II*
Contemporary Modern Dance I
Contemporary Modern Dance II*
Dance I*
Dance I.5*
Honors Jazz and Improvisation Ensemble (renamed UL Jazz)
Intro to Jazz Dance*
Jazz Dance II*
Jazz Improvisation and Creative Music Lab
Jazz and Creative Music Chamber Ensemble (II-IV)
Jazz Ensemble - Big Band (II-IV)
(renamed Jazz Large Ensemble)
Tap for the Beginner*
Tap II*
Vocal Technique

UL Music Theory and Composition
UL Jazz

ARTS, STUDIO

One year required

Foundations in Ceramics and Sculpture
Advanced Ceramics and Sculpture
Foundations in Drawing and Painting
Advanced Drawing and Painting
Foundations in Digital Photography
Advanced Digital Photography
Foundations in Digital Media and Graphic Design
Foundations in Digital Film and Animation

AP Studio Art/Drawing and Painting
AP Studio Art/Ceramics and Sculpture 3-D Design

INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Foundations in Programming
Foundations in Functional Programming
Foundations in Web Design
Music Production and Audio Engineering
Object Oriented Programming
Robotics, Electronics, and Programming
Special Topics in Computer Science

AP Computer Science A with Data Structures
UL Developers in Training
UL Youth Participatory Action Research

SCIENCE

Three years; one life science and one physical science

Astronomy
Astrophysics
Biology 9
Chemistry I
Chemistry II
Energy and Resources: Science, Technology, and Culture
Forensic Science*
Game Theory
Genetics and Evolutionary Biology*
Neuroscience

Physiology
Physics
Research in Environmental Science

UL Cellular and Molecular Biology
UL Chemistry II +
UL Electricity and Magnetism
UL Environmental Science: Analysis of Science in Policy +
UL Physics Mechanics +
UL Quantum Mechanics and Special Relativity
UL Research in Biology

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*

UL Contemporary Women's Literature
UL Philosophy and Literature
UL Age of Shakespeare*

MATHEMATICS

Three sequential years and completion of Algebra II

Beginning in 2020-21, the following course will no longer be offered:
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC

Beginning in 2020-21, the following course will be offered:
UL Calculus Extended
UL Calculus Honors

Beginning in 2020-21, transcripts will indicate if a student took an Extended or Honors section of Algebra II or Precalculus.

Algebra I
Geometry
Algebra II
Algebra II Extended or Honors
Precalculus
Precalculus Extended or Honors
Calculus
Statistical Analysis and Applications

UL Advanced Linear Algebra
UL Differential Equations
UL Linear Algebra
UL Mathematics Seminar
UL Multivariable Calculus
UL Statistical Applications and Analysis

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Two years required

Physical Education I
Physical Education II

Math levels: Geometry is divided into two levels, and Algebra II, Precalculus, and Calculus into three levels. Distinctions of level were not indicated on the transcript until the 2020-21 school year.

The Extended and Honors levels are accelerated, include minimal amounts of review, and move steadily through the topics. While all sections include significant problem-solving, Extended sections often approach new topics through applications and projects, while Honors sections delve more deeply into the theoretical underpinnings of topics and proof and are more abstract. Demonstrated mastery of previous course material, greater time commitment for homework and reflection, and increased independent thinking are all essential.

HISTORY

Three years required

Ninth Grade: History 9: Communities and Change
Tenth grade: African, European, Latin American, or World History
Eleventh Grade: U.S. History; American Studies; Gender or Immigration; AP U.S. History; U.S. Political History.

History Electives:
American Civil War
Comparative Politics
Contemporary Issues
Cultural Anthropology
From Freedom Rides to Ferguson
Gender Studies
Hip Hop and Social Justice
Introduction to Economics
The Middle East
The Middle East Since World War II
Politics and Policy
World War II

UL American Government
UL Europe Between the Wars
UL International Relations
UL Law and Constitutional Rights
UL Topics in Contemporary Psychology

WORLD LANGUAGES

Two sequential years of the same language in high school

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

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

Foundations I in Latin
Foundations II in Latin
Latin Language and Culture
Introduction to Latin Literature

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

UL Advanced Topics in Chinese Studies II
AP French Language and Culture
UL Francophone Literature and Culture*
AP Spanish Language and Culture
UL Advanced Spanish Literature

INDEPENDENT STUDY

* not offered 2021-22
+ indicates a double period course