Dear parents, guardians and other family members of our newest class of GSPers,

We, Linda and Julia, the summer student interns, on behalf of the Georgetown Scholarship Program, would like to wish you all a great big welcome to our family. GSP is a community like no other. We are here as a support system for your student as they navigate their next four years on the Hilltop! Our purpose is to ensure that your student has the necessary resources they need in order to thrive at Georgetown; we want to make sure that they feel welcomed and supported by the GSP Office.

GSP’s Project Move-In Program offers incoming students assistance to make the transition into Georgetown easier for all first-year GSP students. From free bedding to organizing transportation for students arriving alone in D.C., we have been working all summer to ensure that your student can smoothly transition into college. In addition to the Parent Guide enclosed in this Welcome Package, we also encourage you to take a look at the Student Thrive Guide that offers a more detailed overview of the vast resources GSP has to offer your student. We have enclosed in this envelope a small gift FOR YOU that you can display on your car and in your home to show your pride at being part of the Georgetown and GSP community!

You should be proud that your student has been selected to join an incoming GSP class of 160+ students. Being part of the GSP community means stepping into a thriving and welcoming environment, one in which each individual is given an equal opportunity to succeed at Georgetown University.

Hoya Saxa and Welcome!
Linda Collado & Julia Potts
This is a popular place to study for students and has a variety of amenities including group study rooms, computers, quiet study floors and a coffee shop. Located in the library is also the Writing Center, a place for students to get help from their peers on papers. Students can also check out some books that are required for classes; check there before buying! Encourage your student to explore the many, many library resources.

GSP Office
The GSP office is located in the basement of Healy Hall under the steps (between the cannons) filled with some of the greatest people your student will meet during their time at Georgetown! Encourage them to make an appointment with the staff to talk about the college transition, or to just stop by between classes, grab a coffee, and get to know fellow GSPers (what we call students in GSP!)

Leo O'Donovan Dining Hall
Our renovated dining hall offers tons of options for students to pick from. From all-you-can-eat downstairs to different options upstairs, this is where most freshmen will eat all of their meals. Vegetarian and vegan options are offered as well. It is a great place to meet up with friends between classes and catch up! There is also a food court on campus, Hoya Court, which accepts meal swipes.

Healey Family Student Center
Also known as HFSC, this center has individual cubicles with whiteboards in each room, and tons of spaces indoors and outdoors to study, relax, and catch up. In addition to these, there is a TV lounge, two dance studios, and food locations such as Bulldog Tavern and The Hilltoss (a student-run salad shop)!

Yates Field House
Yates, as it is more commonly known, is the campus gym. With the cost of membership included in tuition, many students find it an easy and convenient way to stay active. It has everything from basketball courts, to a swimming pool, to squash courts. Yates also hosts many intramural sports!
Class Schedule

Classes are divided into two semesters per school year. Students receive final grades at the end of each semester which they can see online (on myaccess.georgetown.edu) a few weeks after the semester ends. They can often check in with professors on progress throughout the semester and will receive grades back for their midterms, papers, quizzes, etc. Classes are offered throughout the weekdays as early as 8am and as late as 9pm. Depending on their schedule, a student can choose to have classes back to back or have breaks throughout the day. While the first semester can be somewhat rough, encourage your student to have some time for themselves to take breaks from all the schoolwork. It’s also a good idea to plan for breaks in between classes so they can grab a bite to eat or just get ready for the next class.

Finals and Grades

Midterms Week and Finals Week are when students have tests for their classes at the middle and end of each semester. While they are called "weeks", midterms can take place anywhere between the two middle months of the semester (yes, this is confusing even to students!). Finals take place over about a week and a half long period. During these periods, students will spend time studying in the library or in other favorite study spots. They may appear unresponsive and stressed, but they often are just devoting themselves to their studies. The GSP Office is always open to offer students a study break!

Grades in college are very different than grades in high school. Typically a "great" GPA at Georgetown is anything above at 3.0 after the first semester. Often, students' grades are lower the first semester as they get adjusted and this is completely normal! Grades tend to improve significantly with time, but encourage your student that hard work will pay off. Remind your student to reach out and engage resources like GSP, tutoring services, study groups and most importantly their professors.
Extracurricular Activities

Georgetown offers its students a wide array of extracurricular activities to choose from. They offer intramural sports, political organizations, cultural clubs, and more! There are many activities for your student to choose from, and they can start their own if they'd like. We encourage students to get involved with 1-2 activities their first semester because it's a great way to make friends and become acclimated to campus life!

Employment

Many students choose to work during the school year to earn money for college personal expenses and to build their resume! For example, the Georgetown Center for Social Justice offers work-study jobs that allow students to give back to the greater D.C. community. By visiting seo.georgetown.edu students can find many available jobs. We encourage students not to work too many hours, especially in their first semester as they transition to the Hilltop!
College brings many unexpected costs such as books, transportation, food etc. While the cost of attendance does include some of these costs, your student may still find themselves needing to budget on campus. We recommend discussing with your student what their budget will be when they get to campus.

To help with unexpected expenses, GSP students have access to the **Necessity Grant** and **Professional Development Grant**. Via the GSP website, [tinyurl.com/GSPfinancialgrants](tinyurl.com/GSPfinancialgrants), your student can fill out the applications for these funds. The Necessity Grant is used for costs like tutoring, medical bills, emergency travel; anything you would consider an emergency need! The Professional Development Grant is available for job-related costs like business suits, transportation to interviews, and educationally enriching costs like preparation classes and conferences that further enhance students' development and experience.

*Note*: If your student receives money in the form of a refund, those funds **must** be used for education-related expenses such as books, housing costs, lab fees, or travel home during winter and summer breaks. This refund is often just enough to cover it. **You can help your student by encouraging them to save those funds for educational purposes.**

Your student will have a financial aid counselor assigned to them based on their last name, and they should be your first point of contact for any financial concerns. The contact information for their counselor can be found at: finaid.georgetown.edu/about-us. You can also contact the Office of Student Financial Services (the Financial Aid Office) at (202) 687-4547 if you have any questions or concerns.
Georgetown is located in the vibrant and accessible city of Washington, D.C., so we encourage students to venture off campus and explore. It can be really easy to stay on campus and relax, but you should encourage your student to break the "Georgetown Bubble" and see and experience the nation's capital. There are many things to choose from and often events and activities are free! Encourage them to attend concerts, scenic and historical tours, shows, dinners, basketball games, and parties.

Having a life outside the classroom (and not spending every second in the library) will help your student adjust to college, make friends and build a community.

However, also keep in mind that the freedom of college life can present many new and unforeseen challenges for students as well. For many students this is the first time they are away from home and on their own. We recommend that you speak with your student about making informed and responsible decisions regarding parties, drugs, and alcohol. These discussions are often helpful in making sure your student makes informed decisions and succeeds in college, relationships with peers, and life.
Georgetown offers students the opportunity to participate in the Alternative Breaks Program (ABP), which takes place during Spring Break. Rather than going home, students get to participate and make a difference in the lives of underserved individuals through service and immersion in the communities. These breaks can take place in many different places such as D.C., Jamaica, India, and New York among others—and they're paid for. Last but not least, they're amazing opportunities for learning.

First-year students can receive full funding for one round-trip ticket home for use at any time with the exception of the beginning and end of each semester (winter and summer breaks). Keep this in mind when planning when/if your student will return home for these breaks. For more information about this fund, reach out to the GSP Staff.

During breaks and holidays, such as Spring Break, Thanksgiving, and Easter, some students will go home, but many GSP students stay on campus. Every year, GSP hosts events such as a Thanksgiving dinner and outings into the city for students who don't travel home. Additionally, students typically use breaks as a chance to catch up on sleep or homework, grab a few extra hours at their job, or explore D.C.!
Faith at Georgetown

Georgetown University and Campus Ministry welcome students of any faith and background. Georgetown encourages its students to learn about all religious faiths and to be accepting of others' beliefs on campus. While we are a Catholic school with Jesuits, we also have a Muslim Imam, a Jewish Rabbi, a Hindi Priest, pastors and reverends, along with "Chaplains-In-Residence" of various religious backgrounds who live in the dorms. We encourage students to bring their own beliefs to campus and share and develop them over their college years. Georgetown’s Campus Ministry is a welcoming community, and their Chaplains are a wonderful resource to utilize.

Mail and Packages

Students can find their mailing address by going to the "Hoya Housing" web page (tinyurl.com/HoyaHousingGU) and logging into the system using their Georgetown NetID. Housing information will be available in August. Note that university mail often takes a few days to process and arrive at your student's dormitory. If you plan to ship packages before move-in day, do not ship any earlier than two weeks before move-in. Packages will be held at your student's dorm's Residence Hall Office (RHO).

Sending 'care packages' to your student is encouraged as it combats any homesickness they may be feeling in the first few weeks.
Wellness
Students have access to many resources such as the Student Health Center, Health Education Services, and Counseling Center. At these offices, staff members are on-hand to offer support and resources to address a variety of concerns. Students also have memberships to the campus gym, where students can find a spacious floor to work out, dance and yoga classes, exercise classes, a swimming pool and basketball and tennis courts. The gym can be a great way to de-stress after a long day. Georgetown also has a Meditation Center right on campus which is completely FREE to students and holds meditation sessions in the evenings. Your student can also reach out to our full-time Wellness Advisor in the GSP Office.

Meal Plan
All freshmen are required to have a meal plan. Students have a variety of meal choices at the dining hall (Leo's) and at food vendors on campus. There are different size meal plans your student can choose, so look them over carefully. Luckily you have two weeks to change the type of meal plan without incurring charges. Some students often go to the dining hall, while others prefer to keep more food in their dorm and prepare it in the common room between classes. Make sure your student budgets for how much they'll spend at outside places, not included in the meal plan (and don't forget to include traveling in the costs!)

Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS)
The university offers FREE counseling to students through the CAPS office. Short-term sessions are free, and GSP students can receive free longer sessions by mentioning they are in GSP. Please encourage your student to visit CAPS if they are looking for support during the transition process or at any time during their college experience. CAPS is a completely confidential service and students should never hesitate to use it. The on-call clinician number after hours is 202-444-7243. Visit their website at studenthealth.georgetown.edu to learn more about the resources they offer.

Health Insurance
All students are required to have health insurance. Your student is automatically given GU Health Insurance upon enrollment which will appear on the tuition bill. Students can waive the GU Health Insurance if they are already covered in D.C. under another plan and can provide proof of that. Parents have asked in the past if GU accepts State Medicaid as a waiver. You need to check if your state's plan covers out of state to determine that. If the cost of health insurance is too burdensome; some students are eligible for a scholarship which ensures they can still be covered with Georgetown. For more details, reach out to your student's financial aid officer!
Arriving at Georgetown

Airports

Reagan/DCA
This airport is the closest and most accessible to campus. Students can easily metro (take a train ride) to the Rosslyn station and then board a free Georgetown University Transportation Service (GUTS) bus from the metro station to campus. Georgetown is also a short Uber or taxi ride away. It is a smaller airport, however, and has fewer flights coming in and out.

Dulles/IAD
This larger airport is located about 30-minutes outside of D.C. in Virginia. This airport is a little harder to access, but it has more flights going in and out and students may often find these flights cheaper. Your student can take a 5A bus from the airport to the metro and then take the GUTS bus from Rosslyn metro station.

Baltimore/BWI
This airport is very far from campus (all the way in Baltimore!) and is often not the best option for flights. However, if it's unavoidable, there is a shuttle that runs from BWI to the MARC train and for eight dollars, your student can take the MARC train to Union Station and either metro again to Rosslyn station and take the GUTS bus or just take a taxi. Be warned, while flights out of BWI may show up cheaper, you should take into account extra time and effort to get there, or spending extra money to take an Uber or taxi directly (students have horror stories of accidentally taking a $50-100 dollar Uber from BWI!).

Train/Bus/Car

Union Station
Serving cities all up and down the eastern seaboard, Union Station is a convenient metro ride from campus. It has AMTRAK and MARC services. Union Station services trains and various bus companies.

Driving
Driving to D.C. can be a convenient option for students and their families when moving them in for the first time. It makes transporting their things easier and avoids the cost of a plane ticket.
Meet the Team

The GSP staff are a group of alumni and professionals that work to make sure students have all they need to thrive at Georgetown. Our doors are open to students and families to get to know you and address any questions or concerns!

Melissa "Missy" Foy '03
- Advising
- Liaison to Alumni Advisory Board
- Fundraising
- Long-term Strategy
- External Relations
- Strategic Partnerships

Mariana Gonzalez '15
- Event Planning
- Marketing, Communications, & Social Media
- Student Worker Supervisor
- Administrative Management
- Spanish Parent Communications

Albert Ramirez
- Budgeting and Financials
- Necessity & Professional Dev. Grants
- Financial Advising
- Club & Student Activity Sponsorship
- PEP Staff Coordinator

Jason Low '17
- Mastering the Hidden Curriculum seminar
- Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives
- First Generation Faculty & Staff Initiative
- Alumni Mentor Program Liaison
- Student Board Liaison
- Summer Fellows Staff Coordinator

Frankie Rubio '16
- Main Advisor
- Undocumented Student Task Force
- Honorary Member Program
- PEP Staff Coordinator

Corey Stewart '15
- Director of Outreach & Engagement
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- Cristo Rey & KIPP Liaison

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FAQs

Washington is a busy city—how safe is the campus?
Georgetown takes student safety very seriously! The university has its own campus police called Georgetown University Police Department (GUPD), which also works closely with the city police department known as the Metropolitan Police. If your student wants to go somewhere within a half-mile of Georgetown at night, the university provides a free van service called Saferides from 8pm – 2am every night. Student dorms also have security guards posted at each entrance, and only students with Georgetown identification cards can get into the buildings. Students can also download the LiveSafe app to receive safety alerts on campus. For more information visit police.georgetown.edu.

What if my student is struggling or failing a class?
A student’s best academic resources are their Teaching Assistant (TA), or professor. Their Dean, basically their college academic guidance counselor, is also an incredible resource for students. We encourage them to develop a strong relationship with their deans, as they can be a huge asset in anything from an academic to a medical crisis. In addition, Georgetown offers lots of academic support through tutoring. While some tutoring is free for some classes, other classes might require the student to find, and pay for, a tutor on their own— to help offset the cost of tutoring, students may apply for the Necessity Grant. They can reach out to the GSP staff for more information about the Necessity Grant process.

Will a poor grade affect my student’s scholarships at Georgetown?
NO. If your student receives a FAILING (failing is considered a F) grade, they will first be put on academic probation. They will NOT lose scholarship aid as a result of academic probation. However, violations of the code of conduct (such as possessing illegal substances), can result in loss of financial aid per federal rules.

Who can I contact in an emergency?
In an emergency, you can contact GUPD. Keep in mind, due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the university cannot release private student information if the they are over 18. Report cards, transcripts, disciplinary records, contact information, and class schedules are all protected under FERPA. Upon a student turning 18 years old, the right to this information is transferred from parents/guardians to the student only.
FAQs

What will we do with my student’s belongings during the summer? We live far away!
GSP often offers discounted storage that your student can sign up for through the on-campus service, Corp Storage. There are outside storage companies that can provide this service also, but the student would have to pay the full cost.

Do we have to come to Parent’s Weekend? Can we visit at a different time?
Parents can always visit campus. There are a variety of hotels nearby, though some cheaper options can be found in Arlington, Virginia, a short shuttle ride away from Georgetown. We suggest that you always clear a visit with your student in advance; otherwise paper and exam deadlines may leave them with no time to spend with family! While it is not required for you to attend Parent’s Weekend, it can be a fun way to get to know the university better and become acquainted with its resources.

My student already has health insurance—how can I avoid paying for the health insurance that Georgetown offers students?
If your student does NOT have health insurance, they MUST keep Georgetown Health Insurance. If the student is fully covered by their parent/own health insurance, they can follow instructions to waive the $2,000+ cost of Georgetown Health Insurance. For more information about waiving the mandatory Georgetown health insurance fee, visit: studenthealth.georgetown.edu/insurance/requirements/full-time/waiver.

If the student has Medicaid or out-of-state health insurance, they should call (202)687-4883 or email shi@georgetown.edu, the Georgetown Health Insurance Office, to see if they can waive the mandatory Georgetown health insurance fee. In either case, do not let cost be a factor! Students can contact their financial aid counselors to see if they are eligible for a Georgetown Health Insurance Scholarship to cover that cost, if finances are a burden.

What happens if my student was put in an ambulance and hospitalized for underage drinking?
We encourage students to partake in safe activities. Be sure to talk to your student about the reality of drugs and alcohol on college campuses. The Georgetown Emergency Response Medical Service (GERMS), the on-campus paramedic team, can provide medical services and transport students to the on-campus hospital. GERMS has a medical amnesty policy, which allows students to seek treatment without disciplinary consequences from the university. You will receive a bill from the GU Hospital, but it will not go on the student's record.
Contact Information

GSP's Director of Parent Engagement:
Maria Wein-Devaney
maria.devaney@yahoo.com
(914) 629-5447
Please contact Maria with any questions or concerns you may have! She has worked with GSP and mentored students for many years and can offer valuable advice.

GSP's Spanish-speaking Parent Contact:
Mariana Gonzalez
mtg44@georgetown.edu
(202) 687-0786

GSP Office: (202) 687-7351 or email gsphoyas@georgetown.edu
Location: Healy Hall G-19 (Under Healy front steps with cannons)

Visit our website: We welcome you to go our website to get more information about our resources and how to get in contact with our staff!
gsp.georgetown.edu

GU Police Department: (202) 687-4343
GERMS (GU's Medical Emergency Service): (202) 687-4357
Residence Life (housing concerns, etc): (202) 687-4560
Office of Student Financial Services: (202) 687-4547

Welcome to the GSP Family!