

## An Interdisciplinary Curriculum Rooted in Values & Ethics



Georgetown University's Doctor of Liberal Studies (DLS) features an interdisciplinary curriculum rooted in human values and ethics. The program provides students with skills in perception, analysis, communications, and creative thinking, and teaches them how to successfully apply these skills throughout their time in the program and beyond. Courses span broad areas of the humanities, social and public policy, international affairs, religious studies, and the intersection of science and technology with culture.

Two characteristics make this degree distinctive: its interdisciplinarity and its values basis. Unlike Ph.D. programs, the program encourages students to frame issues in ways that cut across traditional disciplines, rather than solely focusing on research and the production of new knowledge. The goal of the degree is not primarily research and the production of new knowledge; instead, the program encourages students to frame issues in ways that cut across traditional disciplines. Students have the opportunity to design their own program, enabling them to investigate the relevant aspects of those disciplines that most significantly contribute to their individual research.

### WHY GEORGETOWN

As a program at a university that is based on Jesuit principles, DLS embraces the values component as a cornerstone of the degree. While students produce theses across a wide variety of disciplines, they are required to develop them from a values-based framework and through an ethical lens.

**Inspiring Faculty.** Georgetown's prestigious faculty members and professors will serve not only as students' advisors, but also as their mentors and advocates.

**Research and Scholarship.** Georgetown boasts one of the largest and most in-depth collections of research and scholarly work to guide students as they develop their theses.

**Flexible Format.** Courses are held in the evenings and on weekends to enable students to continue to grow personally and professionally in other commitments outside of the program.

**Close-Knit Cohort.** The small size of the doctoral program ensures that students will learn and grow alongside a cohort of like-minded peers—essential to the success of a doctoral candidate.

### CURRICULUM

The Doctor of Liberal Studies degree requires 36 credits of coursework (including four foundational courses). Students must also pass both the written and oral qualifying examinations and successfully complete and defend a doctoral thesis.

#### Foundation Courses

During the first four regular semesters in the program, students are required to complete, in sequence, the four Seminar Foundational courses. These courses are specifically designed to develop students' understanding and mastery of interdisciplinary approaches to academic research, argumentation, values reflection, and oral and written communication.

#### Qualifying Exam

At the conclusion of the coursework, doctoral candidates sit for both an oral and a written qualifying exam to demonstrate proficiency in the areas required to progress to the final thesis defense.

#### Thesis

DLS students pursue a range of topics in their theses, and many have seen their research published as books. Past thesis topics have included research around globalization, war, peace, religion, politics, and major events of human history.

### WHO SHOULD APPLY

As courses are offered exclusively in the evenings and on occasional Saturdays, the DLS program attracts many working professionals from a wide variety of industries and occupations, including, but not limited to:

- Federal Government
- Healthcare
- Private Industry
- Education
- Associations

Applicants to the program must possess a completed graduate degree, or one that will be completed no later than the semester prior to the fall start. Students begin the program as a cohort, and as such, applications are only accepted once a year.

All applications and required materials must be received by **February 1** in order to be considered for admission in the following fall's cohort.

EARN YOUR  
DOCTOR OF  
Liberal Studies

#### APPLICATION DEADLINES


Visit our admissions page for more information about application deadlines and applying online.

#### TUITION

Educational expenses are assessed each semester based on the number of credits for which you are registered. Visit our website for current tuition rates.

FOR APPLICATION INFORMATION AND TO APPLY, VISIT:  
[scs.georgetown.edu/dlsdegree](https://scs.georgetown.edu/dlsdegree)

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