

General Information Regarding Course Modalities

SCS offers courses in two modalities: *on-ground* and *online*. Students may enroll exclusively in on-ground courses, exclusively in online courses, or in both on-ground and online courses during the same semester (*mixed modalities*). At the time of Admission, students must choose a primary modality: *on-ground* or *online*. This designation can have specific implications for Veterans and International Students. Additionally, health insurance eligibility and registration priority can be affected by the student's primary modality. Therefore, students and advising staff should be aware of the following information.

I. Veteran Students

A. *Online Only*

Students who take exclusively online courses receive a percentage (not the entire amount) of their distance education housing allowance.

The VA only provides housing allowance for the specific dates of the modules (i.e. the dates the class actually runs). Housing allowance is not provided for any breaks between modules and payments are prorated based on the module dates, NOT the full term of the semester.

Most of our online classes meet in 7.5-week, half-semester modules. The dates for these modules can be found on the [Modular Course Calendar](#).

B. *Mixed Modalities*

Students who enroll in both online and on-ground courses (mixed modalities) within a semester should consult the 15-week, full-semester [Academic Calendar](#) and the 7.5-week, half-semester [Modular Course Calendar](#).

Students who take at least one on-ground course receive a percentage of the in-residence housing allowance.

In all cases the VA determines the amount of housing allowance students receives based on the students' eligibility of funds and their enrollment in courses.

Veteran students should consult with the [Veterans Office Director](#) before making any adjustments to their schedules as this could affect their benefits eligibility.

II. International Students

A. Online Only

In order to remain compliant with federal VISA regulations, international students are not eligible to take courses exclusively online.

B. Mixed Modalities

Students who enroll in both online and on-ground courses (mixed modalities) within a semester should consult the 15-week, full-semester [Academic Calendar](#) and the 7.5-week, half-semester [Modular Course Calendar](#).

International students are required to be enrolled full-time (3 courses) and can take one online course each fall and spring, provided that the other two courses are on-ground.

Student Advising

I. Selecting a Primary Modality

At the time of their acceptance to Georgetown, students must select a primary modality (*on-ground* or *online*) to indicate whether they intend to take primarily online courses or on-ground courses. While students will not be limited to one modality or the other, for the purposes of course registration, specific types of financial aid, and access to student health insurance a modality must be indicated.

When selecting a primary modality, students should consider the following:

A. Registration

The primary modality selected determines course selection and registration access. Students who select *online* as their primary modality will be given priority registration and access to online courses. Similarly, students who select *on-ground* as their primary modality will be given priority registration and access to on-ground courses. Students may register in courses outside of their primary modality if seats are still available once the priority registration period ends. Each program sets the guidelines for priority registration (deadlines, number of seats available) so students should contact their academic programs for more information.

B. Health Insurance

Students who select *online* as their primary modality are not eligible for the Georgetown University student health insurance plan.

C. International Students

International students must select *on-ground* as their primary modality in order to be eligible to apply for a student VISA.

D. Veterans

Under the guidelines set forth by the US Department of Veterans Affairs, students using Veterans benefits who select *online* as their primary modality should be aware that the amount of housing allowance provided varies based on the student's eligibility, number of credits a student is enrolled in, and the specified start and end dates for online courses. Students can visit <http://veterans.georgetown.edu/> for more information on Georgetown's Veterans Office and links to the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

II. Changing Primary Modalities

At the time of admission and enrollment, students select a primary modality (*online* or *on-ground*) that indicates their preference for taking the majority of their courses online or on-ground. Although students may take courses in either modality, students may find it necessary to change their primary modality selection.

International students should only choose on-ground as their primary modality.

When changing their primary modality preference, students should consider the following:

A. Changing from *online* to *on-ground*

1. Health Insurance

Students who change their primary modality from online to on-ground become eligible for Georgetown University's student health insurance plan.

2. Registration

Students who change their primary modality to on-ground will be given priority registration for on-ground courses. Students may register for online courses if seats are still available once the priority registration period ends. Each program has guidelines for priority registration (deadlines, number of seats available) so students should contact their academic programs for more information.

3. Veterans

The amount of housing allowance available to veteran students differs when taking on-ground courses (compared to online). Students who are taking all of their courses on-ground must review their benefit eligibility in light of their change in enrollment status. Please visit <http://veterans.georgetown.edu/> for more information on Georgetown's Veterans Office and links to the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

B. Changing from *on-ground* to *online*

1. Health Insurance

Students who switch their primary modality from on-ground to online are ineligible for Georgetown University's student health insurance plan.

2. Registration

Students who change their primary modality to online will be given priority registration for online courses. Students may register for on-ground courses if seats are still available once the priority registration period ends. Each program has guidelines for priority registration (deadlines, number of seats available) so students should contact their academic programs for more information.

3. Veterans

The amount of housing allowance available to Veteran students who were previously taking all of their courses on-ground and now want to take one or all of their courses online varies significantly. Students should review their benefits and eligibility based on enrollment before making this decision. Please visit <http://veterans.georgetown.edu/> for more information on Georgetown's Veterans Office and links to the US Department of Veterans Affairs.