

Doctor *of* Business Administration

36 Months

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
SAN FRANCISCO

Powered by upGrad



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About Golden Gate University - San Francisco

Golden Gate University, a private nonprofit university in the heart of San Francisco's financial and high-tech district, empowers working professionals to achieve their professional goals with GGU's DBA program provides an opportunity for working professionals to advance their business, consulting, or teaching career with a doctoral degree. Founded in 1901, GGU has been a leader in online education for nearly three decades, and its programs offer maximum flexibility for modern students. GGU's DBA program provides an opportunity for working professionals to advance their business, consulting, or teaching career with a doctoral degree. GGU has been repeatedly ranked as #1 in the United States for working professionals based on superior flexibility and career outcomes for students.



Professor Brent White

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs,
Golden Gate University, San Francisco

GGU's association with upGrad extends our mission of providing high quality education for working professionals who aspire to change or advance their careers. We're eager to welcome students from around the world to our innovative, practice-based programs. Our mission is to ensure that access to a GGU education is affordable and accessible to students everywhere. This partnership provides students with unique scholarship opportunities to earn an advanced degree from their home countries.

Why Golden Gate University



For Working Professionals by Washington Monthly



Best Online College in California by OnlineU and SR Education in 2020

*From a research on 1943 Universities



Ranked among the Top 10% Schools in the US by CollegeFactual in 2022



80% faculty members are San Franciso-based practicing professionals



Located in downtown San Francisco among offices of Salesforce, LinkedIn, Meta, Amazon and more

Accreditations and Associations

WASC Senior College and University Commission

Association of American Law Schools

Ranking

college factual Top Quality Nationwide

BEST GRADUATE SCHOOLS 2021

BEST ONLINE COLLEGES FOR ROI California 2020

2020 BEST ONLINE COLLEGES Overall SR EDUCATION GROUP

About upGrad

upGrad is an online education platform to help individuals develop their professional potential in the most engaging learning environment through a wide range of programs designed to improve their expertise. upGrad collaborates with top-class universities across the world including the University of Arizona, Caltech, Purdue, IIIT Bangalore, Deakin Business School, Wharton, Liverpool John Moores University, and University of Maryland among others. upGrad has been Ranked #1 in the LinkedIn Top Start-ups for four consecutive years, it made it to the GSV Global EdTech 50 List 2020, it received the Best Communication and Teaching Platform in the Education Innovation Awards 2020.

20M+ hours of learning | **2M+** learners | **100+** countries | **7 years** of existence



Phalgun Kompalli

Co-founder

upGrad

Through our association with Golden Gate University, San Francisco, upGrad endeavors to facilitate continuing education for working professionals throughout their careers. The pedagogy, program structure and delivery of these programs from the innovation capital of the world is our key differentiator.

The upGrad Advantage:
Six leadership outcomes only we deliver

We provide a full range of post-doctoral services. Much like a concierge, we work tirelessly in the background so you can focus on your doctoral experience, while we open up a bouquet of stellar outcomes for you.

1. Boardroom Consultant

Earn an add on certificate of PwC Directorship and Board Advisory @INR 10,000/-, and be an officially recognised, force-to-reckon-with, in the eyes of board nomination committees and executive search firms. Signal your fluency across board-level matters to the world of corporate governance. From risk and compliance, to mergers and acquisitions, to environmental and societal governance.



2. Published Author

Transform your doctoral dissertation into a book or in a journal, and position yourself as a published thought leader in your domain. Become a top voice even in the real world. Be quoted by trade media, and be invited to panels at conferences. Learn storytelling from published authors. Turn your “someday I’ll write a book about this” into today!

Published Work by Our DBA Students

The Ethical Compass: An upGrad Learner Explores Decision Science in India's Business Landscape

Source

Disruptive Innovation: Why Leading Companies Thrive or Fail

Source

Govern Like a Twin: Simulate. Validate. Elevate: says upGrad Learner in his Thesis

Source

Frugal Innovation: How Emerging Space Markets are Redefining the Space Race

Source

3. Industry Professor

Give back your entire career's worth of wisdom, and inspire the leaders of tomorrow. Teach as an industry expert, in top UGC-recognized universities, by seamlessly pivoting to academia without stepping away from your professional role. Cement your legacy as an icon who not only led the industry but inspired the next generation.

4. Product Creator

Get a clear, practical path from tech leaders who've turned ideas into products. Productise your ideas and turn concepts into business growth. Spot opportunities to solve real challenges using emerging tech! Design winning strategies, prototype and pilot quickly with no-code tools to earn leadership buy-in. Track ROI, create impact!

5. Patented Innovator

Protect the innovations born out of your doctoral research, with our network of top tier law firms specialising in Intellectual Property. From thorough patentability analysis to defining a unique defensible space, to drafting claims using precise legal language to build an ironclad IP that transforms your brilliance into bankable value.

The upGrad advantage for Patent Grants

What you need	The support offered	What you get
A path-breaking patentable idea	**The IP firms in our network will take over all the bureaucratic steps including** • Patentability search • Drafting and filing the application • Prosecution and litigation support	A patent to your name – a trademark of your legacy

6. Funded Entrepreneur

Get direct mentorship from established VCs and Founders. Master the art of pitching your business via Silicon Valley storytelling and business models made to withstand the toughest of investor scrutiny. Then culminate your journey at our exclusive VC Symposium Day where you'll get to pitch to real investors with chequebooks in hand!

Your Roadmap from Vision to Venture Funding

Masterclass 1
Build an Investable Idea

»

Masterclass 2
Nail Your Investor Pitch

»

VC
Symposium Day

**Certain features may come at an additional cost*



Program **Information**

The **Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)** program is designed for professionals who want to further their career with the most advanced business degree program GGU offers. The DBA program addresses the learning needs and objectives of senior business managers, consultants and university professors. Its primary objective is to produce graduates who can contribute to the advancement of their professions and to the expansion of knowledge and awareness of contemporary strategic issues and practices.

Our curriculum has a three-tiered focus. Students examine current theories, practices, and issues in business; train in research methods; and study the relationships between business and social and global issues. We believe doctoral students must be adept in all these areas to be successful contributors to the expansion of knowledge and improvement of business practices. For the dissertation, students conduct original research on a topic of current importance and personal interest. The dissertation should impact and help illuminate the strategic issues they face in their professions.

The program encourages students to accept the added responsibility of a shared commitment to the advancement of their professions and to upholding the highest ethical standards in the private or public sector.

Program Highlights



Accreditation

GGU is accredited by WASC Senior College and University Commission, the organization that accredits universities in California and Hawaii, including Stanford, University of San Francisco, UC Berkeley, UCLA and more.



Live Interactive Classes

Academic support offered from faculty members, teaching assistants, and your peers across the world.



Interact with Global Leaders

Network with Golden Gate University's 70,000+ alumni base which includes legal experts, entrepreneurs, mayors, NASA astronauts, scholars, practitioners and C-suite professionals of global organizations.



Affordable Fees

Through hybrid learning and available scholarships, students can reduce their fees for a GGU graduate degree by up to 70% off the cost of a full-time, on-campus degree.



Skills Based Curriculum

Prepare to tackle real world business problems with a unique curriculum that incorporates theory alongside practical and relevant industry knowledge.



Academic Credentials

Earn the same U.S. Degree awarded on campus.

Student Learning **Outcomes**

Graduates of the DBA program will achieve the program's primary objectives through the development of:

- A thorough knowledge of the scientific and scholarly research methods and their application in the business setting in a senior management position, as a consultant, as a professor at the university level
- Advanced critical thinking, conceptual and analytical skills
- A strong understanding of both the seminal theories and the latest practices in business management including an advance and intensive knowledge of theory and practice in one field of business
- Intensive knowledge of theory and practice in a chosen field of business or public management
- Advanced ability to use qualitative and quantitative tools to perform original applied research that advances business knowledge
- An appreciation of cultural, ethical, and global issues and their impact on business theory and practices
- Advanced skills necessary for effective decision-making in complex environments through integrating theoretic insights with practical knowledge

Faculty



Dr. Mickey P. McGee

Dr. Mick McGee is the Director of the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) Program at the Golden Gate University. He teaches courses in the DBA, MS Leadership and the Executive Masters of Public Administration (EMPA) Programs. He is a retired US Army Officer and was on the personal staff of GEN Colin L Powell. He has also held several prestigious positions in organizations such as the US Naval Postgraduate School and HSBC Bank North America. He has also received several awards from GGU for his teaching excellence as well as his outstanding scholarship of application, integration and discovery in research.



Dr. Judith Lee

Dr. Judith Lee is a Tenured Professor and Dept. Chair of Business Innovation & Technology in the Ageno School of Business. A past recipient of the Nagel T. Miner Research Professorship focusing on Business Analytics Education, Judy has developed and taught Master of Science degrees in IT Management, Project Management, and Business Analytics. Judy has a BA in American History, an MBA in Management, and holds the degree of Doctor of Business Administration. She is also a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Faculty



Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez

For close to a decade, Dr. Joaquin Gonzalez was Commissioner of Immigrant Rights for the City and County of San Francisco and received special recognition of his public service from the U.S Congress. A five-time Research Excellence and a four-time TeachingExcellence (GGU, NUS, USF) awardee, Dr. Gonzalez' research is informed by his extensive professional experience working on public service reform projects and appointments with the International City/County Management Association, the World Bank, the Institute On Governance (Canada), the Inter-American Development Bank, USAID, State Department, the Asia Foundation, and the governments of Singapore, the Philippines, and China.



Dr. Anitha Manohar

Dr. Anitha Manohar received her PhD in Finance from the University of South Carolina in 2009. Before joining Golden Gate University, she was an Assistant Professor of Finance at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut for four years and at Mercer University in Georgia for eight years. She has taught finance courses in Investments, Derivative Securities, Security Analysis, Corporate Finance, International Finance, Portfolio Theory and Financial Planning. She completed a research project with the Urban League of Southern Connecticut which examined the impact of education, employment, income inequality, affordable housing and health disparities on the quality of life for urban residents of Connecticut.



Program Curriculum

CATEGORY	COURSES	CREDITS
Foundation	• Doctoral Research and Writing • Quantitative Research Methods • Qualitative Research	12
	• Qualifying Exam	
Concentration *(Choose any one)*	• **Finance** • **Leadership** • **Business Analytics** • **Marketing** • **General**	12
Dissertation		32
Total Credits		56

Concentration Details

CONCENTRATION	COURSES	CREDITS
Concentration *(Choose any one concentration of 12 credits)*	• **Finance**	
	- Corporate Finance	4
	- Financial Theory and Applications	4
	- International Finance	4
	• **Marketing**	
	- Marketing Management	4
	- Consumer Behavior	4
	- Digital Marketing and New Media	4
	• **Leadership & Strategy**	
	- Leadership Theory, Research and Application	4
	- Strategic Leadership	4
	- Leading Complex Change	4
	• **Business Analytics**	
	- Managing Data as an Asset	4
	- Operations Performance Management	4
	- Application of AI in Solving Business Problems	4

PwC Directorship &
Board Advisory Certificate

Earn an add on certificate of PwC Directorship and Board Advisory @INR 10,000/-

The Directorship & Board Advisory Certification is a specialized executive program designed for professionals aiming to transition into board-level roles. Delivered in collaboration with PwC India, this immersive program cultivates strategic thinking, ethical governance fluency, and boardroom confidence through live sessions, real-world simulations, and expert-led masterclasses.

The program comprises approximately 20 hours of live lectures, conducted through masterclasses led by PwC experts. The batch schedule will be communicated to learners well in advance.

Program Outcomes

Practical Board Skills:
Develop boardroom fluency, strategic thinking, and key frameworks necessary for effective boardroom preparedness.

Stakeholder Influence:
Learn how to manage stakeholder expectations, enhance investor relations, and ensure strategic alignment with organizational vision and values.

Governance & Compliance:
Gain deep insights into Indian and global corporate governance standards, legal responsibilities, ethical conduct, and risk mitigation strategies.


upGrad | pwc

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

Presented to

<student name>

for having completed the program
on Directorship & Board Advisory Certification
in association with PwC Academy
issued on _____

Director, upGrad

Partner, PwC India

Curriculum **Overview**

An Overview of the Modern Board

Introduction to the Board of Directors and modern boardroom dynamics, covering roles and responsibilities, legal obligations, disqualifications, powers, ethical frameworks, “officer in default,” D&O insurance, and other safeguards.

Corporate Governance, Ethics & Regulatory Frameworks

Explore global and Indian governance standards, best practices, participation frameworks, taxonomy, transparency, integrity, and ESG foundations.

Finance & Risk for Board Oversight

Understand strategic finance and risk, including directors’ responsibilities, red flags in financials, audit committees, internal controls, and related obligations.

Digital, Cyber & M&A Readiness

Examine the board’s role in digital transformation, AI, cybersecurity, and M&A evaluation, including regulator perspectives.

Independent Directors – Risks and Rewards

Learn about regulatory requirements for Independent Directors, enrollment in the Independent Director Databank, qualifications and disqualifications, code of conduct, related party transactions, and director responsibilities.

Stakeholder Engagement & Investor Relations

Master stakeholder mapping, effective communication, board dynamics, decision-making processes, investor expectations, and strategic engagement.

Final Project: Board Simulation & Readiness Presentation

A hands-on simulation project to demonstrate boardroom readiness and application of program learnings.

*(Topics are indicative and subject to minor changes.)

PwC Program Experts



Manisha Narang

Manisha Narang, Subject Matter Expert, is a seasoned Company Secretary with over 20 years of expertise in corporate governance, regulatory compliance, board advisory, and cross-border business structuring. She specializes in guiding boards, managing risk, enabling regulatory clarity, and supporting M&A, NBFC licensing, and global market entry for leading organizations.



Shekhar Chopra

Shekhar Chopra, Subject Matter Expert, is a qualified Company Secretary with 15+ years of experience in corporat governance, M&A, board advisory, and regulatory compliance. He has led governance frameworks, board evaluations, risk management, and shareholder engagement across top firms including Deloitte, EY, and SRL Diagnostics.

*List of all faculty teaching in the PwC program will be shared with the students before the start of the sessions.

Program **Details**

Program Start Date

Please refer to the website for the program start dates

Program Duration

36 months

Program Fee

Please refer to the program page for more details

Eligibility

Master's Degree (or equivalent) or Bachelor's Degree with 5+ years work experience.



Scholarships offered by

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY
SAN FRANCISCO

upGrad

GGU has been at the forefront of making higher education affordable and accessible to all, primarily working professionals. We prepare graduates to lead and serve through high-quality, practice-based educational programs.

Since our first San Francisco night classes in 1901, GGU has been a supporter of self-made individuals. GGU scholarships are available for students who seek to gain a new perspective on the changing landscape of business administration.

$100M
Scholarship Fund

70%
Scholarships Available for 5,000 Students



Ronnie Screwvala

Co-founder and Chairman
upGrad

The scholarship helps motivated students gain industry-relevant knowledge and transferrable skills that employers want. Today, fewer than 30 million Indians pursue advanced degrees. Online + hybrid education is the real answer for working professionals who want to advance their careers with a degree from a San Francisco-based university.


PORT OF
SAN FRANCISCO

Life at Golden Gate University - San Francisco



The GGU campus is in the heart of San Francisco's thriving high-tech and financial district, an epicenter of global innovation. With neighbors like Salesforce, LinkedIn, Airbnb, Pinterest, and Twitter, a GGU degree helps unlock opportunities with the world's leading employers. San Francisco consistently ranks among the best cities in the U.S. and the world. Home to a booming economy, delightful weather, world class food, arts and culture, plus endless options for active outdoor living, the Bay Area is one of America's most popular cities to visit, work, and live. Our notable alumni are leaders in business, tax, law, technology, government, healthcare and higher education across the globe.

Immersion **program**

GGU's immersion program offers students an opportunity to study on the San Francisco's campus. Nestled in the financial district, GGU's campus is surrounded by some of the top global technology and consulting firms. An in-person immersion is ideal for a student who is ready to take their career to the next level and impact their industry in a meaningful way on a global scale.



Learn from scholar professionals with work experience in the San Francisco Bay Area, including Silicon Valley



Take advantage of world-class art, culture, and food in San Francisco



Network with GGU faculty who can guide your career



GGU will share the immersion calendar at the start of the program



On campus classes with other GGU students

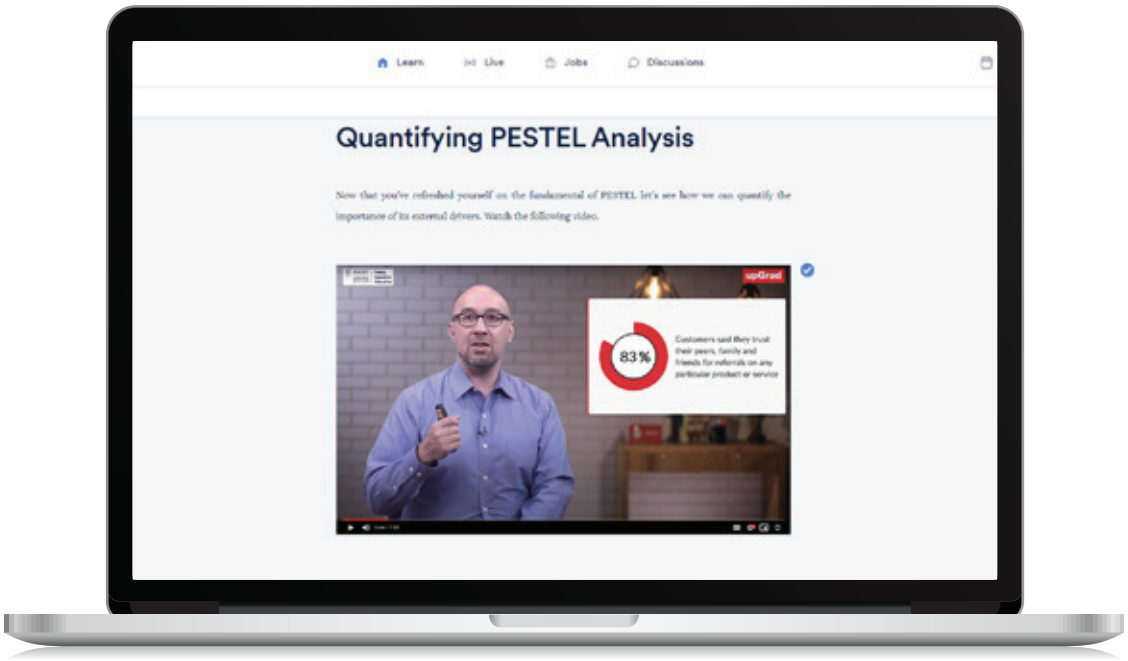


Offered twice annually, with dates added at the start of each program term

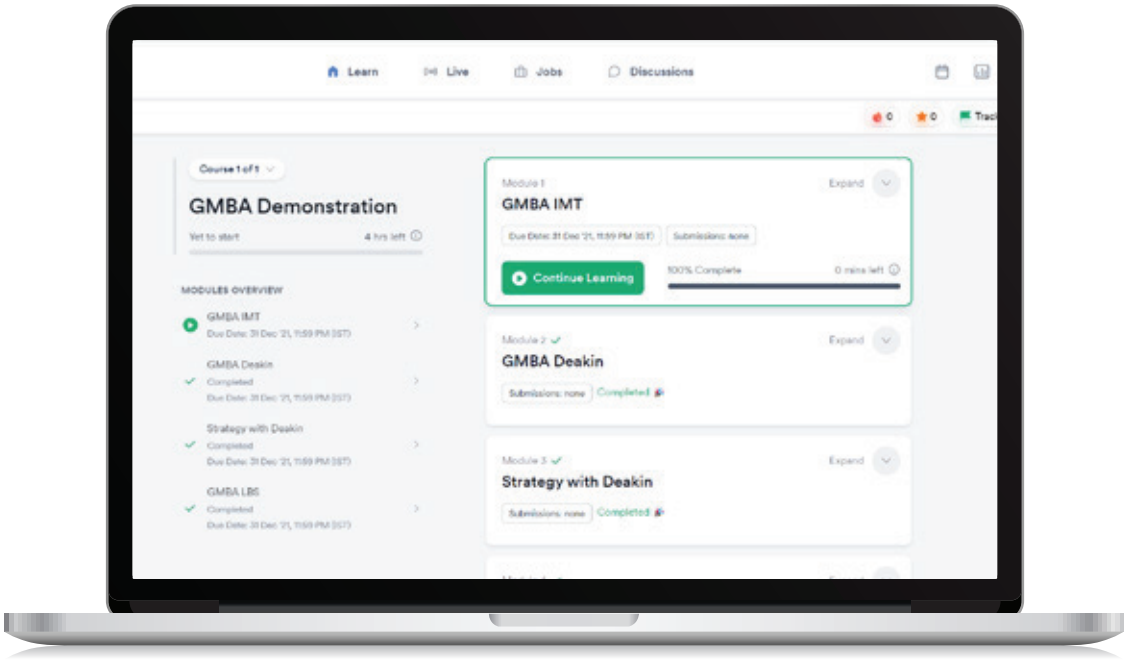


Network with a diverse group of students from over 48 countries

A glimpse of the upGrad platform



Teaching Faculty



Learning Platform Navigation

**Note: Images here are not a reflection of this program.*
Please reach out to an admissions counselor for a real-time demonstration of the learning platform.

Career Support

We maintain a steadfast commitment to supporting Golden Gate University students on their career journeys. We strive to help graduates find meaningful, impactful work that will further their goals.

With GGU's industry network from the San Francisco Bay Area, including leading Silicon Valley and Fortune 500 companies, our career services program offers a wide range of services.

Available to GGU students:



1:1 Mentorship

- Guidance on career paths offered from corporate experts in a variety of fields
- Career coaches offer overall personal and professional growth



Profile Building

Resources available for resume building, LinkedIn profile updates, job searches, interview preparation, and salary negotiation



Global Network

Access to 300+ upGrad's hiring partners and GGU's San Francisco-based network of more than 50,000 alumni on LinkedIn



Continued Access

- Access to career coaches and industry connection sessions following program completion
- Accelerated career growth prospects through mentors



Company-specific Presentation

Get company specific guidance to ensure that you’re interview ready

upGrad

upgrad.com

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