



— Doctor of Business Administration

36 Months



Technology Service Partner

upGrad

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About Golden Gate University - San Francisco

Golden Gate University is a pioneer of higher education in the heart of Silicon Valley since 1901. In over 120 years, its mission has been to make quality education affordable to all. Being a first of many innovating and disruptive programs, it's no surprise that GGU is among the first players to initiate online learning in 1996. A strong 70,000+

alumni network that includes NASA astronauts, Mayors, Entrepreneurs, Industry disruptors, Political, and Legal leaders and others. GGU has been consistently ranked as #1 in the United States for working professionals due to the impact on careers and flexibility it enables for its learners.

Our association with upGrad cements GGU's vision of enabling high quality education for working professionals who aspire to do more than their day-to-day jobs. We're eager to welcome learners from across the world to learn through online & hybrid channels and be a part of our heritage to become the leaders of tomorrow. With this partnership, we aim to create an impact in the lives of students with the availability of scholarships.

Bruce Magid

Provost

Golden Gate University, San Francisco



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 Silicon Valley based practicing professionals

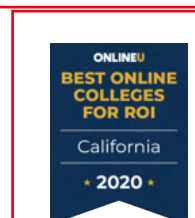
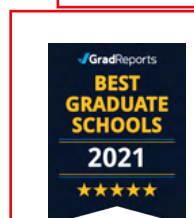


Located in downtown San Francisco among offices of Salesforce, LinkedIn, Meta, Apple and more

Accreditations



Ranking



Life At Golden Gate University- San Francisco



The GGU San Francisco campus is in that part of the world that if it was a country, it would be among the richest ones. Having HQs of LinkedIn, Google, Intel, Pinterest, Oracle, Apple as neighbors makes it an epicenter of leading global innovation. The city is one of the most desired places to live in the globe. With a booming economy, great weather, a world class food scene, and endless options for getting outdoors and staying active, the Bay Area leaves little to be desired in a city. An ideal synergy for a meaningful immersion.

Immersion program

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 learner 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 Silicon Valley Professionals on the vibrant and energetic GGU Campus



Engage with the art, culture and new age tech at San Francisco



Interact with GGU faculty who've directed professionals to global success



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



On-campus sessions with GGU students/alumni



Scheduled to be conducted twice a year



Network with a diverse group of learners from over 48 countries



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

Solve doubts through faculty members, teaching assistants and your peers across the world.



Silicon Valley Experts

Firsthand interactions with leaders from the part of the world that if it was a country, it would be among the richest countries in the world.



Affordable Fees

Through hybrid learning and reduced tuition, GGU aims to make master's degrees affordable and accessible to US students.



World Class Infrastructure

Graduates have walked out of the campus and into leading MNCs, Govt, Legal, and Political bodies.



Case Studies, Projects and More

Theory along with practical industry relevant knowledge that will get you ready to tackle real world business problems.

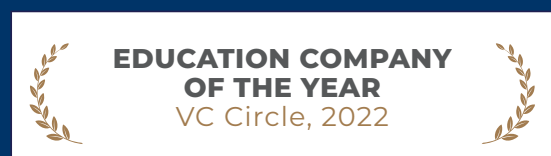
About upGrad

upGrad is a leading online education platform empowering professionals to reach their full potential through flexible, engaging learning experiences.

We partner with top global universities, including Golden Gate University, Edgewood University, ESGI International School of Management Paris, Liverpool Business School, Paris School of Business, Liverpool John Moores University, among others to offer a wide range of career-focused programs.

As professionals juggle demanding careers and personal commitments, traditional education often feels out of reach. upGrad bridges this gap by making high-quality learning accessible and practical, so education becomes an enabler, not a hindrance.

To date, upGrad has delivered over 20 million hours of learning, empowering thousands of learners worldwide with the knowledge and skills to advance their careers.



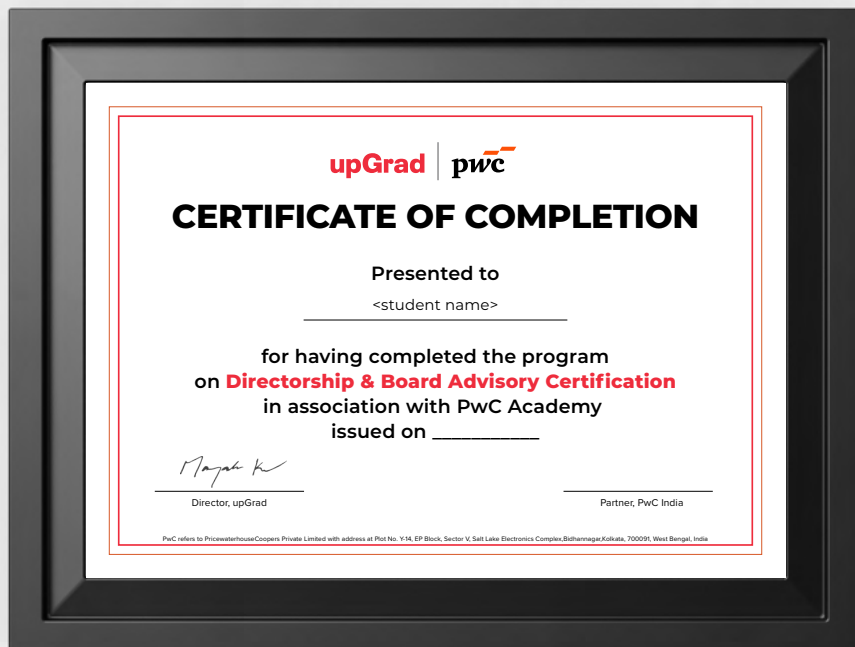
The upGrad Advantage:

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 a revered PwC Directorship and Board Advisory Certification, 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](#)

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

[Source](#)

Disruptive Innovation: Why Leading Companies Thrive or Fail

[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, at top 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.

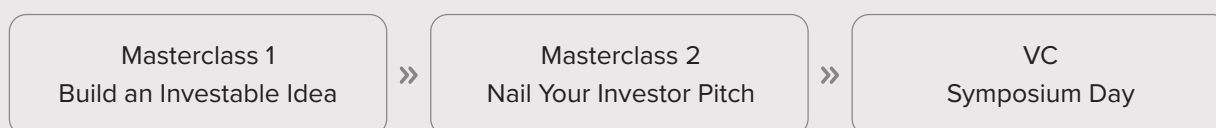
The upGrad advantage for Patent Grants



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



*Certain features may come at an additional cost

Faculty



Dr. Mickey P. McGee

Dr. McGee earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Davis, and his Master and Doctorate of Public Administration from Golden Gate University. He is a retired US Army Officer serving in various combat infantry and cavalry assignments around the world including command of infantry, airborne, recruiting, and armored cavalry units. His staff assignments include organizational effectiveness consultant; executive officer of an infantry battalion deployed to the Persian Gulf; personal staff assistant to General Colin L. Powell and chief of training.



Dr. Judith Lee

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.



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 Teaching Excellence (GGU, NUS, USF) awardee.



Dr. Anitha Manohar

Dr. Anitha Manohar received her PhD in Finance from the University of South Carolina in 2009. 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	• Finance • Logistics and Supply Chain Management • Leadership • Business Analytics • Marketing	12 12 12 12 12
General	• Learners can choose a combination of 3 courses from multiple concentrations	4
Dissertation		32
Total Credits		56

Note:

- Foundation courses to be completed within 6 months
- Foundation course will be followed by a qualifying examination
- Learners who pass the qualifying exam will be eligible to start the concentration courses
- Concentration courses will have to be completed within 6 months
- Each Concentration will have 3 courses of 4 credits each
- Any one concentration can be chosen as part of this program
- After successful completion of the Foundation + Concentration courses, learners will start with their Dissertation full fledged and complete it within the next 2 years



PwC Directorship & Board Advisory Certificate

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 Academy, 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:

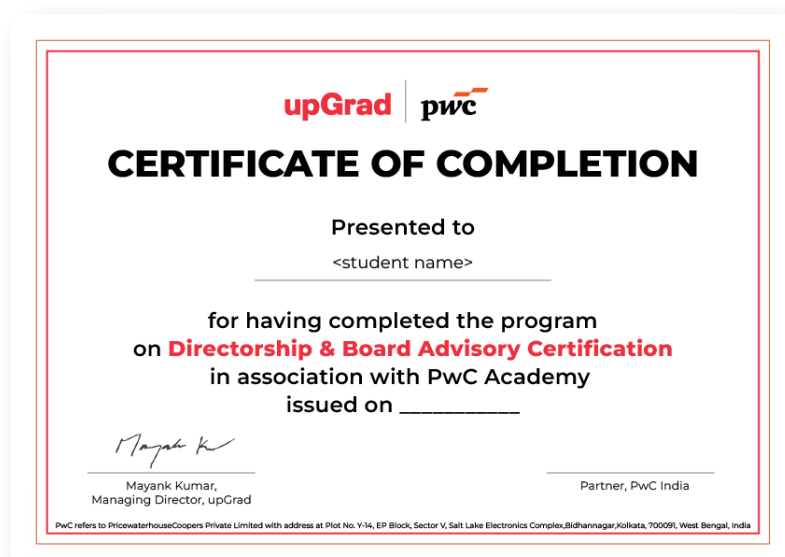
Develop boardroom fluency, strategic thinking, and key frameworks necessary for effective boardroom preparedness.

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.



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 corporate 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.

Where Research Meets Recognition: Patented Innovations by Our Learner.

At upGrad, we believe in cultivating not just academic research but real-world breakthroughs.

Why This Is Significant for You:



Academic to Applied: Move your research from theory to patent—demonstrating tangible industry relevance.



Mentorship for Impact: Benefit from guidance by faculty and industry experts who support you in publishing and protecting your intellectual property.



Inspiring Legacy: Your work could become the next highlighted patented innovation on our platform.

Dr. Venugopal Padmanabha, one of our DBA learners, successfully filed a patent on **“A Method for Impacting Leadership Style on Workforce Productivity in IT Captive Centers,”** published in the Indian Patent Journal (Feb 2024). The invention explores how leadership styles directly influence workforce efficiency in IT captive centers.

[Know More](#)

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 website for program fee



Eligibility

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





Technology Service Partner

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 upgrad.com

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