At a Glance: Georgia Southern University

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An Overview

Through more than 100 years, Georgia Southern, a Carnegie Doctoral-Research University, has stayed true to one purpose: to advance the educational and economic aspirations of Georgians. Today, it is one of the state’s premier universities with nearly 20,000 students, and during the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the University had a total economic impact of $795.3 million on nine counties in southeast Georgia. A member of the University System of Georgia, it is also one of the top choices in the state for new freshmen and HOPE scholars, and was named the fourth most popular university in the country by U.S. News and World Report.

Located just an hour from historic Savannah, Hilton Head Island and the Atlantic coast, Georgia Southern’s nearly 700-acre campus is nestled in the classic Main Street community of Statesboro. The city’s host county of Bulloch continues to grow along with the University and is home to more than 69,000 residents.

Georgia Southern’s traditional residential campus includes three original 100-year-old red brick and white columned buildings anchoring a “historic district” that transitions into contemporary academic and residential buildings - many of which were completed or begun during the past decade’s nearly $300 million in construction and renovation projects.
Students

Georgia Southern hosts students from nearly every state and more than 100 nations. The average SAT scores for freshman classes exceed both state and national averages.

University students are engaged in community volunteerism, campus theatre productions, academic organizations and recreational athletics. They can choose from more than 200 campus organizations, including 29 social sororities and fraternities, plus honor societies, religious, political and service groups.

Academic Programs

Georgia Southern offers more than 115 degree programs in eight colleges specializing in Business Administration, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Information Technology, Liberal Arts & Social Sciences, Public Health, Science & Technology and Graduate Studies and Research.

The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, while individual programs and departments hold special accreditations from professional and academic associations that set standards in their fields.

Georgia Southern’s University Honors Program attracts high-achieving students to its reserved classes, seminars and programs. The Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement encourages students to make leadership a part of their college résumés and a life-enriching skill.

Faculty

Georgia Southern’s faculty is committed to a student-centered learning environment, engaging students in academic research and cultural and community activities.

At Georgia Southern, professors not only teach classes, but advise majors and encourage a personal learning environment where students regularly co-present research at regional and national conferences with their faculty mentors. With small classes, students have the opportunity to get to know their professors.

Alumni

Georgia Southern alumni – nearly 70,000 strong – are spread around the globe and are engaged in virtually every profession. The University hosts Eagle Clubs in Georgia, Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, and in Washington, D.C. More clubs are being added each year.
Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology

Named in honor of aviation innovator Allen E. Paulson, the founder of Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., the College offers highly regarded and nationally recognized degree programs in biology, chemistry, mathematics, statistics, geology, geography and engineering technology. This fall, the University will offer three new engineering degrees in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering.

College of Business Administration

The College's degree programs are consistently ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News and World Report and The Princeton Review. New courses of study are developed to meet the needs of global business. The School of Economic Development is the only one of its kind in the Southeast, and Georgia Southern is one of only a handful of American universities to offer a program in forensic accounting.

College of Education

The College of Education offers undergraduate and graduate programs and supports two centers focusing on educational improvement: The Center for International Schooling coordinates the activities of the International Learning Community (ILC) through a partnership with universities in the United Kingdom. The Georgia Center for Educational Renewal conducts research to contribute to education reform.

College of Health and Human Sciences

Graduates of the College of Health and Human Sciences assume leadership roles in “hands on” professions of hospitality, tourism, sport management, family and consumer sciences, fashion, health and kinesiology, and nursing. The Family Nurse Practitioner program consistently ranks among the top programs in the nation according to U.S. News and World Report.
GEORGIA SOUTHERN OFFERS FLEXIBLE ONLINE UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREE PROGRAMS IN BUSINESS, EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE FOR BUSY PROFESSIONALS MANAGING A CAREER AND A FAMILY.

College of Information Technology

The College of Information Technology offers three degree programs in computer science, information technology and information systems. The College was one of the first in the world to teach virtualization as a VMware Academy and was named one of the top 50 Game Design programs in the U.S. and Canada by The Princeton Review.

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

Encompassing the humanities, social sciences, languages, and the arts, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences promotes critical and creative thinking skills, effective communication, intellectual curiosity, appreciation for the power of the arts, leadership, and citizenship.

Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies

The Averitt College of Graduate Studies offers more than 40 graduate degree programs in seven colleges through both campus and online delivery. Graduate students partner with and assist faculty in research, while taking advantage of academic resources and a supportive environment to earn advanced training in their fields of discipline.

Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

The first school of public health in the state, the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health offers Master of Health Services Administration, Master of Public Health, and Doctor of Public Health degrees. The College oversees four centers as part of its mission: the Center for Rural Health and Research, Center for Survey Research and Health Information, Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics, and Center for Addiction Recovery.
Eagle Athletics

Georgia Southern fields 15 NCAA teams with a storied program that has achieved national accolades on and off the field. In addition to six national football championship flags flying at Allen E. Paulson Stadium, Georgia Southern teams and individuals regularly compete for conference and national honors.

Athletics teams include: football, men’s and women’s basketball, baseball, volleyball, golf, men’s and women’s tennis, track and field, cross country, swimming and diving, softball, and men's and women's soccer. Visit georgiasoutherneagles.com for more information about athletics programs.

Recreation Activity Center

In addition to offering all the amenities of a gym membership, the Recreation Activity Center houses intramural sports and Southern Adventures, an outdoor adventure service. A bandshell and picnic pavilion for hosting concerts and events are included on the spacious grounds.
ASCEND, A SCULPTURE SYMBOLIC OF ARTISTRY, NATURE AND PRIDE, WELCOMES VISITORS TO GEORGIA SOUTHERN'S CENTER FOR ART & THEATRE. UNIVERSITY ART PROFESSOR MARC MOULTON DESIGNED AND CREATED THE PIECE.

Center for Art & Theatre

The Center for Art and Theatre provides new opportunities for students, faculty, and the public through the visual and performing arts. One of its three galleries is the permanent home for The Georgia Artists Collection, a continuously expanding gift of pieces established and curated by Betty Foy Sanders, Bulloch County native and wife of former Georgia Gov. Carl Sanders. Other galleries feature scheduled exhibitions of private, student, and faculty works. The Center also hosts a 150-seat Black Box Theatre for student performances.

Planetarium

Georgia Southern’s Planetarium, located in the Math-Physics Building, features a 30-foot dome and Spitz A4 star projector. During the fall and spring semesters, the Planetarium offers free educational presentations for school groups and the public, accommodating up to 75 visitors for each session.

Symphony

The Georgia Southern Symphony contributes to the cultural environment of the larger Statesboro and Coastal Georgia communities. The group performs a broad range of classical and popular compositions through its annual concert series.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN SPONSORS THE ANNUAL ARTS FEST FOR THE COMMUNITY EVERY SPRING. THE EVENT FEATURES MUSIC, INTERACTIVE EXHIBITS, AND CRAFTS FOR ALL AGES.
Division of Continuing Education and Public Services

The Division of Continuing Education and Public Services offers programs to improve the education and skills of the region’s workforce, to enhance the cultural offerings of the area, and to promote personal development and facilitate the constructive use of leisure time.

In addition to professional development, the Division’s home, the state-of-the-art Nessmith-Lane Continuing Education Building, hosts short courses and seminars ranging from dance to dog training and from party planning to summer learning camps for kids.

Visit georgiasouthern.edu/conted for more information.

Zach S. Henderson Library

Zach S. Henderson Library serves more than 4,000 people daily with resources that support a comprehensive array of degrees, disciplines, research activity, and lifelong learning. With 300+ hard-wired computer work stations, access to archives of data and information, and an innovative storage solution, the Henderson Library ranks as one of the most technologically advanced in the Southeast.

The Library was designed for both independent and collaborative learning and includes group study rooms, presentation practice rooms, and a Learning Commons equipped with stations for standard and multi-media applications. The facility houses more than one million books, periodicals, and other documents. Behind the scenes, the Automated Retrieval Collection (ARC) allows for the efficient and compact storage of hundreds of thousands of current resources and future acquisitions.
Center for Wildlife Education
and Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center

Located in the heart of the Georgia Southern campus, the Center for Wildlife Education and Lamar Q Ball, Jr. Raptor Center is a living laboratory of forest and wetland creatures and the habitat in which they live. The Center has become a top destination for families and tourists, drawing thousands each year. The diverse native habitats are home to four American bald eagles and several species of birds of prey including hawks, owls, and falcons. Visit georgiasouthern.edu/wildlife for more information.

Botanical Garden

Centered on the early 20th-century farmstead of Dan and Catharine Bland, the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden offers visitors a unique view of the heritage of the southeastern Coastal Plain. Established to promote knowledge and appreciation of native plants and animals, the 11-acre Garden connects people of all ages to the natural resources of the region and inspires environmentally responsible behavior. Visit georgiasouthern.edu/garden for more information.
Georgia Southern University Museum

For more than two decades, the University Museum has showcased artifacts of the natural and cultural history of the region, as well as offered visiting exhibits from U.S. and international museums. The only accredited museum of its kind in the coastal region, both its permanent and traveling educational programs appeal to a wide range of interests and ages and include interactive and hands-on programs for children, adults, families, and teachers. Visit georgiasouthern.edu/museum for more information.

Performing Arts Center

The Performing Arts Center is home to world-class touring shows, renowned lecturers, and programs for cultural outreach. The 825-seat theatre features an orchestra pit and shell, a full-sized stage and state-of-the-art technology for lighting, sound, and production. Visit georgiasouthern.edu/pac for more information.
\textbf{Points of Pride}

\textit{U.S. News and World Report} named Georgia Southern one of “America’s Best Colleges” and also listed the business and nursing graduate programs as among the nation’s Best Graduate Schools.

The University was ranked by \textit{Forbes Magazine} as one of the top ten schools in the U.S. for minorities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

Georgia Southern established a Rural Health Research Institute in an effort to close the health care gap that compromises the well-being of thousands of people in southeast Georgia. The Institute is made up of current researchers and new faculty hires from various fields who will find ways to reduce health disparities and improve the outcome of patients in rural areas.

Archaeology students discovered Camp Lawton, the Confederate prison camp just outside of Millen, Ga., previously thought lost to time. The prison, evacuated in the middle of the night in advance of General Sherman’s March to the Sea, yielded a treasure trove of Civil War artifacts.

The University is a participant in the “Georgians Experience Astronomy Research In Schools” (GEARS) project. As part of the project, a $1 million NASA grant will fund the development of a curriculum that will change the way astronomy is taught in Georgia’s public high schools.

The College of Education has attained accreditation by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) in the three specialty areas of community counseling, school counseling and student affairs. Georgia Southern is the only institution in the state to be CACREP accredited in the area of student affairs, and the only one in southeast Georgia CACREP accredited in community counseling and school counseling.

The University is a leader in the record number of University System of Georgia (USG) students studying abroad. Its most popular programs take students to Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, China, Japan and Mexico.

The University’s School of Nursing has been awarded a three-year grant in the amount of $792,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, complementing the college’s online Doctor of Nursing Practice degree program. Georgia Southern has also received a three year, nearly $1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NCMHD) to fund the Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) program within the school.

Georgia Southern received a $2.3 million National Science Foundation K-12 grant that will benefit the University’s biology graduate students as well as local high school students and teachers.

Students volunteered more than 26,000 service hours during the 2010-2011 school year. Students logged 13,777 hours of community service working with local non-profits, and 12,237 hours of University service, assisting with programs such as the Residence Hall Association, Southern Ambassadors and Eagle Entertainment. Faculty, staff and students join the community in staffing the Hearts and Hands Clinic, a medical care facility for low income residents, which was founded by a University student.

For the second year in a row, Georgia Southern’s Army ROTC program has been named one of the best in the nation by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation. The Eagle Battalion was honored with the MacArthur Award, given to only eight ROTC battalions nationwide every year.
The City of Statesboro

Statesboro and Georgia Southern enjoy a longstanding cooperative relationship which has worked to their mutual benefit.

The University’s economic and educational influence has helped to give Statesboro some of the highest quality of life in the region. Conversely, Statesboro embraces students with its comfortable blend of small-town friendliness while assuming a life of its own as a regional retail and health care hub.

A Main Street community, Statesboro’s charm, coupled with cultural opportunities, rivals metropolitan areas. The addition of new businesses and activities makes it a unique place to live, work, and learn. Visit visitstatesboroga.com for more information.