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. A member of the University System of Georgia, it is one of the state's premier universities with more than 20,000 students, and is also one of the top choices in the state for new freshmen and HOPE scholars. Georgia Southern is the only college or university in the state to earn recognition as one of the top 10 most popular universities in the country by U.S. News & World Report.

Located just an hour from historic Savannah, Hilton Head Island and the Atlantic coast, Georgia Southern’s 900-plus 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 70,000 residents.

The University’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 of 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 300 campus organizations, including 33 social sororities and fraternities, plus honor societies, religious, political and service groups.

Academic Programs

Georgia Southern offers more than 120 degree programs in eight colleges specializing in Business Administration, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Engineering and Information Technology, Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, Public Health, Science and Mathematics and Graduate Studies.

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 resumés 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

Alumni Networks offer support to the University by providing scholarships for qualified students, assist in recruiting the best and brightest students and by supporting the academic excellence, best interests and traditions of Georgia Southern University. They provide opportunities for Alumni to network, socialize and cheer on the Eagles with other fellow Georgia Southern Alumni. Alumni Networks are an affiliate of the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association and serve as the University’s representative across the Eagle Nation.
Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology

Named in honor of aviation innovator Allen E. Paulson, the founder of Gulfstream Aerospace Corp., the College combines high-demand degree programs in engineering and IT to meet the needs for a technical workforce in the state, region and country. These programs include B.S. degrees in mechanical, electrical and civil engineering as well as information technology and computer sciences. The College also offers M.S. degrees as well as graduate certificates in engineering and IT.

College of Business Administration

The College’s degree programs are consistently ranked among the best in the nation by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review. Our bachelors, masters and doctoral programs of study are designed to prepare students to meet the challenges of a constantly changing business environment.

College of Education

The College continues to offer the University’s oldest professional degree, preparing future educators and leaders through diverse, intensive field experiences, cutting edge technology and research-based instruction. The College is a regional leader in online graduate programs and consistently prepares the highest number of doctoral students at the University. The College’s newly named Goizueta Distinguished Chair in Hispanic/Latino Education, and leadership in the University’s new Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education, reinforce its commitment to these important areas of national need.

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.
Georgia Southern offers fully online undergraduate and graduate degree programs in business, education, healthcare and more.

College of Health and Human Sciences

The College of Health and Human Sciences focuses on the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities with degree programs in the School of Nursing, School of Human Ecology and Department of Health and Kinesiology. The Family Nurse Practitioner program consistently ranks among the top programs in the nation according to U.S. News & World Report.

College of Science and Mathematics

The College of Science and Mathematics offers nationally recognized degree programs in biology, chemistry, geology and geography, mathematical sciences and physics. The College also offers outstanding pre-professional training, support, and advisement for students planning to enter medical, dental, veterinary, optometry and pharmacy schools. Additionally, the College supports one of the top Military Science programs in the country.

The College ushered in a new era of research and teaching technology with the groundbreaking of a new $41 million LEED-certified Biological Sciences Building, scheduled to open in summer 2013.

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 Administration, Master of Public Health and Doctor of Public Health degrees. The College is one of only 48 colleges or schools of public health worldwide to receive accreditation and oversees three centers as part of its mission: the Center for Rural Health and Research, the Karl E. Peace Center for Biostatistics and Survey Research, and the Center for Addiction Recovery.

Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies

The Averitt College of Graduate Studies provides administrative oversight for more than 50 graduate degree programs in seven colleges through both campus and online delivery. Guided by accomplished faculty mentors, graduate students earn advanced training in their discipline by engaging in scholarship, teaching and professional service activities characteristic of a challenging and vibrant curriculum in a supportive environment.
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.

Recreation Activity Center

The state of the art Recreation Activity Center (RAC) has everything you need to stay active including a fitness center, basketball courts, climbing wall and more! Located within M. C. Anderson Park with 74 acres of lighted playing fields, band shell and pavilion for all of campus to enjoy. The RAC is home to Campus Recreation & Intramurals which offers unique ways to be active and involved through seven program areas including Aquatics, Club Sports, Fitness, Intramural Sports, Southern Adventures, University Wellness and Informal Recreation.
The Center for Art and Theatre offers public exhibitions of visual art created by contemporary professional artists and students, and a Black Box Theatre where students, faculty and the public can enjoy performing arts. The Center for Art and Theatre houses four galleries: the Betty Foy Sanders 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; the family-friendly Smith Banks Folk Art Collection, which features two- and three-dimensional pieces of artworks representing the folk art tradition of Georgia; and the Contemporary and University galleries, which feature revolving exhibitions of works by contemporary and emerging artists.

**Symphony**

The Georgia Southern Symphony performs a series of free concerts comprising a wide range of classical and popular compositions for the entertainment and enlightenment of the people of Statesboro and Coastal Georgia communities.

**Planetarium**

Georgia Southern’s Planetarium, located in the Math-Physics Building, features a new Digistar 4 digital planetarium system. Visitors will enjoy the night sky display, 360-degree full-dome movies with surround sound, and real-time tours of the solar system and our galaxy, while exploring the universe beyond. The Planetarium also features the ability to display real-time data from satellites and a NASA feed to watch live events. During the fall and spring semesters, the Planetarium offers free educational presentations for school and public groups.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art transforms Sweetheart Circle every spring to host the community ArtsFest. The event features music, interactive exhibits, local artists, vendors and crafts for all ages.

“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.

The state-of-the-art Foy Building provides quality learning experiences for music students with a music technology lab, expanded classrooms and rehearsal halls. A variety of musical performances are held in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, located within the facility.

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The 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 over 400 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.

Division of Continuing Education & Public Services

The Division of Continuing Education provides non-traditional students and lifelong learners throughout the region, state and the global community with access to educational resources and programs designed to improve the education and skills of the workforce. The Division’s diverse course offerings also include classes designed to promote personal and cultural development. They also provide businesses and corporations with innovative, mobile and agile learning solutions to meet their professional and workforce development needs.

The Nessmith-Lane Conference Center is a popular choice for meetings and events and hosts a variety of conferences, seminars and summer camps. The Division serves as home to the University’s Military Resource Center and Center for Online Learning. The Division also manages Coastal Georgia Center which is located in historic Savannah.
The Wetland Preserve is a 12-acre oasis within the Wildlife Center that includes a beaver lodge, cypress pond and a waterfowl pond that provides a home for herons, egrets and ducks.

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 three American bald eagles, one golden eagle and several species of birds of prey including hawks, owls and falcons.

Located at the Garden of the Coastal Plain, the Oak Grove School is a restored one-room schoolhouse from Tattnall County that once served rural students from the late 19th- to mid-20th century.

**Garden of the Coastal Plain**

Centered on the early 20th-century farmstead of Dan and Catharine Bland, the Garden of the Coastal Plain 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 and cultural richness of the region and inspires environmentally responsible behavior.

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**Museum**

For more than three decades, the University Museum has showcased artifacts of the natural and cultural history of the region. Changing exhibits interpret the research and work of University faculty and present traveling exhibits from U.S. and international museums. The only accredited museum of its kind in the coastal region, its exhibits and educational programs appeal to a wide range of interests and ages and include interactive and hands-on programs for children, adults, families, teachers and University students.

**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.
Georgia Southern's diverse student population celebrated a milestone this academic year with a record enrollment of more than 20,000 students from 49 U.S. states and more than 100 nations.

Construction is underway on a new $41 million Biological Sciences Building, scheduled to open in spring 2013. The LEED-certified building design includes modern lab and research spaces, as well as space for group work and cooperative learning activities.

The University established the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology, combining high-demand degree programs in mechanical, electrical and civil engineering with information technology and computer sciences to create a unique educational environment in the region.

Georgia Southern was named one of the top 10 most popular universities in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, the only college or university in the state of Georgia and in the southeast to earn this recognition. The University was also named one of “America's Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report and Forbes.

The University earned the fourth spot in the nation for graduating African-Americans majoring in the physical sciences by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

Georgia Southern’s Rural Health Research Institute was awarded a $450,000 federal grant to promote diabetes education in rural areas. The Institute is made up of current researchers and new faculty hires from various fields who are finding ways to reduce health disparities and improve the outcome of patients in rural areas.

University researchers have been awarded a $385,000 grant by the National Institutes of Health to study the immediate and long-term effects of concussions. The research will help treat student athletes who suffer the head injury.

The University joined forces with the Adopt-A-Soldier program to collect “Snacks for Soldiers” serving overseas. Through snack drives on campus and at home football games, students have collected more than 5,200 snacks for troops serving in Afghanistan. Georgia Southern was also recognized as one of the most military friendly universities in the nation in Military Advanced Education’s 2012 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities.

Georgia Southern received a $913,000 grant from The Goizeuta Foundation to establish and support Hispanic/Latino student recruitment and retention.

The Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) is one of only 48 schools or colleges of public health worldwide to receive accreditation. The College has also received a $100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to help improve public health services around the state for at-risk citizens.

The University’s online graduate programs in business, education, information technology and nursing have been ranked among the nation’s best in the first-ever edition of Top Online Education Program rankings by U.S. News & World Report. The Master of Science in Nursing - Family Nurse Practitioner program was also ranked in the top 20 nationally from the publication.

Georgia Southern’s team of student and faculty archaeologists received the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Partners in Conservation award for their work in discovering Camp Lawton, a long-lost Civil War prison camp.

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 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.

The Eagles football team reached the FCS semifinals for the second-straight year in 2011, nearly reaching the national championship game for the ninth time, and Georgia Southern’s female cheerleading squad won their third NCA National Championship in 2012. Last fall, Georgia Southern Athletics’ 15 varsity programs posted the highest GPA in program history.

History professor Robert Batchelor uncovered centuries-old Chinese trade routes that have been hidden for nearly 400 years while researching maps in Oxford University’s Bodleian Library.

The University has partnered with Herty Labs to form the Georgia Southern University Herty Advanced Materials Development Center, furthering research in the areas of transportation, building materials, forestry and the environment.
The City of Statesboro

Statesboro and Georgia Southern enjoy a longstanding cooperative relationship which has worked to their mutual benefit. Their collaboration includes the opening of City Campus, a site enhancing entrepreneurial activity in the community with classrooms and meeting space for business professionals.

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.