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Points of Pride

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Rankings & Recognition

Georgia Southern University's graduate programs in public health have been ranked 12th in the nation, according to the Spring 2015 Public Health Grad Rankings on [GraduatePrograms.com](#). The ranking was based on reviews from more than 70,000 students participating in more than 1,600 graduate programs nationwide.

In their recent publication, "[2015 Top Online Education Degrees](#)," the SR Education Group ranked Georgia Southern's online education graduate degree programs 12th in the nation among nonprofit colleges and universities offering online education undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs. The organization looked at 51 nonprofit institutions, analyzing such data as tuition, high satisfaction as reported by recently graduated students and degrees that lead to career advancement.

The Georgia Southern University College of Business Administration has been recognized as one of the top universities for professional sales education in the country by the Sales Education Foundation (SEF). The SEF said the program distinguished itself by offering a specialty area, participating in a sales competition, offering a sales lab for students and having a 100 percent job placement rate for students in the program.

The Georgia Southern University College of Business Administration was featured in [Newsweek's "Great Business Schools 2015"](#), which featured eight outstanding business programs from across the country. These schools were selected not only for their academic standards, but also for their ability to help their students find employment after graduation.

Georgia Southern's Garden of the Coastal Plain was listed among the "[50 Most Amazing University Botanical Gardens and Arboretums in the U.S.](#)" by *The Best Colleges*. Each location was ranked according a variety of criteria, including major awards and recognition, variety of species and presence of educational outreach programs.

The Georgia Southern University **WebMAcc program** has been ranked seventh by TopAccountingDegrees.org in its Top 20 Master of Accounting Online Degree Programs 2015. [Read more](#)

The Online MBA offered by the College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern University has been ranked 17th by BestColleges.com as a **Top Online MBA Program of 2015**. [Read more](#)

The College of Education earned a **top 75 ranking among schools offering online graduate education programs** in the 2015 [U.S. News & World Report “Best Online Graduate Education Programs.”](#)

Georgia Southern University’s online **M.Ed. in Higher Education** degree program has been ranked by TheBestSchools.org as one of “The 25 Best Online Master in Higher Education Degree Programs.”

For the third consecutive year, Georgia Southern has been named by *U.S. News & World Report* as a **Best Online Education Program**. Degrees on the annual list included graduate computer information technology, graduate education, graduate business and our online bachelor’s programs.

Georgia Southern University has been named a **military-friendly school** for the third year in a row by *Military Advanced Education* in its [2014 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges and Universities](#) and by *G.I. Jobs* in its [2015 Military Friendly Schools](#).

The University’s Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design program was named one of the **top fashion design schools** and one of the **top fashion merchandising schools** in the United States by [fashion-schools.org](#). The University was also ranked ninth on the list of Top 15 Fashion Schools in the South.

Georgia Southern’s Master of Business Administration (MBA) program was **ranked in the top 25 as one of the nation’s Top Online MBA** programs by *M* magazine ([mbaonline.com](#)), the number one online MBA magazine for students.

For the fourth consecutive year, Georgia Southern was named **one of the nation’s most environmentally responsible “green colleges”** by *The Princeton Review’s Guide to 353 Green Colleges*.

Academics

Eight colleges and schools offer 125 degree programs at the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral levels.

As of fall 2014, Georgia Southern’s **total enrollment stands at 20,517**, with students from 48 states and 88 countries.

Student-athletes continue to earn top honors in the classroom, as a total of **152 Eagles were named to the Sun Belt Conference's academic achievement lists in 2015**. The Academic Honor Roll recognized 80 Georgia Southern student-athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The Commissioner's List recognized 72 Georgia Southern student-athletes with a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Georgia Southern's Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering programs were all **awarded accreditation by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET)** in August of 2014, retroactive to October 2012 and active to September 2020.

Georgia Southern's Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology is now home to **the first undergraduate Manufacturing Engineering program in the state of Georgia**.

The College of Business Administration at Georgia Southern launched the **Eagles on Wall Street program, which allows 24 students to spend a week in lower Manhattan**, visiting Goldman Sachs, the Federal Reserve, the New York Mercantile Exchange, Bloomberg and several other locations around the city as part of a hands-on finance learning experience.

Competing against graduate law students from around the world, Georgia Southern's Mock Mediation Club, an undergraduate team, took **first place in the advocacy category of the International Law School Mediation Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa**.

Georgia Southern's Math Jeopardy Team placed **third out of 26 schools** in the Southeastern meeting of the Mathematical Association of America, hosted in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Athletics

In only their first year in the Sun Belt Conference, Georgia Southern took home **first place championships in football, golf** and narrowly missed the basketball championship by two points.

Current **expansion and construction at Allen E. Paulson Stadium** includes an additional 6,200 seats and a privately funded \$10 million Football Operations Center. The 50,000-square-foot facility will have state-of-the-art offices, locker rooms, workout facilities, meeting space and a Hall of Fame Exhibit.

Georgia Southern is building a **\$5.8 million Shooting Sports Education Center** that will have indoor archery and firing ranges, as well as an outdoor archery range.

The Georgia Southern University **Golf Course opened** in the fall 2013, giving students another recreational facility to use as they relax and take breaks from classwork.

Georgia Southern Football **Coach Willie Fritz was named the 2014 Sun Belt Coach of the Year** following the Eagles undefeated season in conference play and Sun Belt Championship.

Eagles Men's Basketball **Coach Mark Byington was named the Whack Hyder Coach of the Year** by the Atlanta Tipoff Club. In only his second year at Georgia Southern, Byington led the Eagles to a 22-9 season and a trip to the Sun Belt Championship game.

Georgia Southern men's golfer **Scott Wolfes has been named a PING Division I Honorable Mention All-American**. Wolfes was the Sun Belt Golfer of the Year and a first-team all-conference selection. He posted seven top-10 finishes in 11 tournaments this season.

The Georgia Southern University all-girl cheerleading squad secured its **fifth national championship at the 2015 National Cheerleading Association (NCA) Collegiate National Championships** held in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Facilities

The State of Georgia approved **\$9.5 million in state budget funds to construct a new, 32,000-square-foot Military Science Building** at Georgia Southern.

As part of the 2016 Georgia State Budget, Georgia Southern received **\$33.6 million in funding to build a new multidisciplinary classroom building** as well as an additional **\$1 million in operating budget funding for the new manufacturing engineering program**.

Georgia Southern recently completed an **\$8.65 million renovation of Sanford Hall, a former dormitory that was converted to the new Communication Arts building**. The renovations include structural improvements as well as multiple classrooms, office space, an advisement center, broadcast and film studios, the WVGS radio station, a converged media lab and a lecture hall that will be used for film screenings.

Georgia Southern University **Health Services has received accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)**. Among private and public colleges and universities in the state,

Georgia Southern is one of only three accredited by AAAHC. Health Services was also named a certified Patient Centered Medical Home.

Georgia Southern and the City of Statesboro have been awarded a grant of nearly \$1.1 million from the U.S. Economic Development Administration to **expand the University's City Campus to help entrepreneurs** design, build and release their products into the marketplace while creating new jobs.

Dining Commons (formerly Landrum), a new 1100-seat facility located adjacent to the University Store, opened with special dining stations for guests. The site also houses the Post Office, Eagle Print Shop and Eagle Card Center. Lakeside recently completed a year-long renovation and opened with expanded dining options as well as the capacity to seat 500 diners.

After a nearly two year construction, the **\$41 million Biological Sciences Building opened in August** — a 155,000-plus-square foot facility housing state-of-the-art labs and supporting research areas and classrooms.

Outreach

Since July 1, 2014, Georgia Southern students have logged **22,697 community service hours** (roughly 945 days).

Bureau for Business Research and Economic Development (BBRED) assists communities and businesses in developing projects that led to the **creation of 13,445 new jobs and added an estimated \$418 million in new economic output**.

Collaborating with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), Georgia Southern launched a **new Georgia Historical Markers smartphone application** that allows historians and visitors to easily locate and explore the state's more than 2,500 historical markers.

Georgia Southern recently announced the **creation of the National Youth-At-Risk (NYAR) Center** at the College of Education (COE) that trains educators to help boys and girls overcome bullying, violence and other challenges in their local schools.

Research

Dr. Antonio Gutierrez, COE faculty, is part of two newly funded grants from the National Science Foundation totaling \$950,000. Both grants concern issues surrounding different aspects of teaching and learning in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The **Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) has been awarded an \$85,000 federal grant** from the Health Resources and Services Administration to collaboratively form a new network focused on childhood obesity prevention in rural south Georgia.

Georgia Southern established a **new institute for interdisciplinary STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education (I²STEMe)** that supports thematic grant writing, research and outreach. The Institute is committed to excellence in primary, secondary and higher education STEM teaching and learning with a focus on rural and diverse populations.

Georgia Southern University's Herty Advanced Materials Development Center has **opened the first fully-integrated pilot pellet mill** in the United States. The new production line, located in Savannah, includes a nearly \$2 million investment in process equipment. The facility will provide a much-needed platform for innovation in process technology and pellet design in the U.S. and will help rising global demand for biomass pellets in Europe and North America.

Georgia Southern **mechanical engineering students and Valentin Soloiu, Ph.D., the Allen E. Paulson Chair of Renewable Energy, were awarded two grants totaling \$105,000** in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) People, Prosperity and the Planet (P3) Student Design Competition for Sustainability. The students' design used alcohol and biofuel to power a diesel engine and lower emissions. Soloiu was also awarded a \$360,000 Research for Undergraduates (REU) grant from the National Science Foundation, launching a program that will allow students to explore solutions to energy problems.

The University expanded its research activities with the addition of the **new asphalt research lab** within the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology (CEIT). The new lab will provide research services to a variety of state and private companies, including the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT).

Researchers from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) received two **grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for cervical cancer initiatives**. The first grant, in the amount of \$297,185, was awarded to refine and test a cervical cancer education program in the Hispanic/Latino community. Researchers from the JPHCOPH and Georgia Health Sciences University Gynecological Cancer Prevention Center were also awarded a second grant in the amount of \$143,912 to evaluate a large cervical cancer screening initiative in Cusco, Peru.

Georgia Southern was a recent recipient of a **two-year Race to the Top Innovation Fund grant by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal**. At approximately \$700,000, STEM award will fund a partnership between the University, seven area research institutes and six school districts covering 27 counties in south Georgia.

Georgia Southern's Rural Health Research Institute (RHRI) was awarded a **\$5.1 million grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH)** designating the RHRI as a Center of Excellence for the Elimination of Rural Health Disparities.

Physics Department Chair and **Professor Mark Edwards, Ph.D. was named a recipient of the Fuller E. Callaway Professorial Chair**, recognizing his professional accomplishments in classroom education. The distinguished award recognizes Edwards' professional accomplishments in classroom education, including undergraduate and graduate involvement in physics' research projects.

Georgia Southern has agreed to a **partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** to promote research, teaching, outreach, career development, and stewardship in environmental sciences, sustainability and engineering. The new cooperative is designed to provide additional opportunities for student training and internships, faculty research support, and environmental and public health initiatives.

College of Business Administration professor **Alan Mackelprang, Ph.D., was named the winner of the 2012 Elwood S. Buffa Doctoral Dissertation Award**. The internationally competitive award, which is co-sponsored by McGraw-Hill and the Decision Sciences Institute, recognizes the best dissertations written during the past year in the decision sciences. Mackelprang received the award for his doctoral dissertation "Beyond Firm Boundaries: Exploring the Interdependence between Supply Chain Partners."

In conjunction with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife archaeologists, Kennesaw State University, the University of Georgia, and the Lamar Institute, Georgia Southern University helped **locate the remains of the Camp Lawton stockade wall, establishing the site, and layout, of one of the Civil War's largest Prisoner of War (POW) camps**. The discovery was made at Magnolia Springs State Park in Millen, Georgia, and documented by the PBS television show "Time Team America."

Electrical engineering professor **Fernando Rios-Gutierrez was selected as the winner of the Joseph Biedenbach Outstanding Engineering Educator Award, from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)**. Rios-Gutierrez is the first faculty member from Georgia Southern to receive the national award. He was selected from more than 30,000 educators in Region 3, which includes the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Mississippi.

Hotel and Restaurant Management professor **Larry Stalcup, Ph.D.** was named a **Fulbright Scholar**. He worked with Payap University's International Hospitality Management program in Thailand.