



GUIDE TO STUDENT CONSUMER INFORMATION

2009-2010

The University of Georgia (UGA) was chartered by the Georgia General Assembly in January 1785 to become America's first state university. Today UGA is recognized as one of the nation's leading public universities. We are proud of this distinction and welcome inquiries about our programs and services. In accordance with federal regulations set forth by the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, this guide is sent to all prospective and enrolled students to inform them of the availability of specific types of consumer information. This guide contains a brief description of important information about UGA, financial assistance, graduation rates, athletic participation, campus security, student rights and responsibilities, study abroad, voter registration, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Specific information about programs and services is available from the colleges and University departments. Printed copies of the information may be requested from the specific University department. This guide is available online through the Office of Student Financial Aid at www.uga.edu/osfa.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords students certain rights with respect to their educational records. They include the right to: 1) inspect and review these records; 2) request an amendment to the records; 3) consent to or restrict disclosures of personally identifiable information in the records; and 4) file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning the University's alleged failure to comply with FERPA. Copies of the complete policy may be obtained from the Registrar's Office at 102 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602. The UGA FERPA Policy Statement is available on the Office of Registrar's web site at www.reg.uga.edu/or.nsf/html/ferpa.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Applications for voter registration for Georgia residents are available at the Information Desk, 325 Tate Student Center, phone (706) 542-7774. Detailed voter information is also located at the Secretary of State web site www.sos.georgia.gov/Elections. Nonresident students may find voter information about their specific states through the U.S. Election Assistance Commission at www.eac.gov.

FINANCIAL AID

Descriptions of available federal, state, institutional, and private sources of student assistance, application procedures, eligibility criteria, recipient selection criteria and criteria to determine award amounts, methods of disbursement, terms and conditions of loans, employment opportunities, student rights and responsibilities, and satisfactory academic progress standards are available at the Office of Student Financial Aid, 220 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-6147; or at www.uga.edu/osfa.

A breakdown of the estimated cost of attendance used to determine student eligibility for federal student assistance is available at the Office of Student Financial Aid web site, www.uga.edu/osfa. The

Bursar's Office Division provides program-specific costs of tuition and fees on the calculator located at www.bursar.uga.edu.

Specific information about financial aid disbursements to student accounts, payment deadlines, enrollment requirements for regular and study abroad students, Federal Perkins and Federal Direct Student Loan entrance and exit counseling, student account refund calculators, the university refund policy, and the requirements for the return of Title IV grant or loan assistance by students who withdraw from the University is located at the Bursar's Office Division, Business Services Building, Athens, GA 30602, phone (706) 542-1625 or at www.bursar.uga.edu.

REFUND POLICIES

Tuition and Fee Refund Policy: Students who formally withdraw from the University receive a pro rata refund during the first 60% of the semester. Students who withdraw from the University when the calculated percentage of remaining days is 40% or less are not entitled to a refund of any portion of institutional charges.

Housing and Meal Plan Refund Policies: Refunds for Housing and Meal Plan charges are determined by the applicable University office and transmitted to the Student Account System for determination of deposit.

Financial Aid and the Refund Policy: Students who receive financial aid, complete registration, and subsequently reduce his/her enrollment status or withdraw are subject to the federal and state refunds and repayments regulations. The Office of Student Accounts determines if students who completely withdraw during a term have earned the money disbursed or owe a repayment. A summary of the Financial Aid and Refund Policy is located on the Bursar's web site and details the three refund policies listed here and their effect on student assistance. For additional information contact Student Accounts, Office of the Bursar, University of Georgia, Business Services Building, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-1625; or at www.bursar.uga.edu/refunds.html.

UNIVERSITY WITHDRAWAL POLICY

The official university policy on withdrawal from courses is contained in the online UGA Bulletin located at <http://bulletin.uga.edu/bulletin/ind/withdrawal1.html>. Students should contact their academic advisor with questions about the academic impact of their withdrawal. Recipients of veterans' education benefits must contact the Office of the Registrar, University of Georgia, 106 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-8771. Recipients of federal and/or state of Georgia financial aid should contact the Office of Student Financial Aid, 220 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-6147.

STUDENT LOAN DEFERMENTS FOR PERFORMED SERVICES

Borrowers in the Federal Direct Loan program may be eligible for deferred payment provisions for service in the Peace Corps, service under the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, or comparable service as a volunteer for a tax-exempt organization of demonstrated effectiveness in the field of community service. Information is available through the Bursar's Office Division, Business Services Building, Athens, GA 30602, phone (706) 542-1625 or at www.bursar.uga.edu.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE INSTITUTION

Descriptions of academic programs, degree offerings, instructional facilities and labs and instructional personnel are available from various schools/colleges and from the online UGA Bulletin at www.bulletin.uga.edu.

The University of Georgia is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, masters, specialist, and doctorate degrees. Special accreditations are also held by units within the university. Information about these accreditations is located in the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, University of Georgia, 203 Administration Building, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-2558, or at www.uga.edu/effectiveness.

Information regarding requirements for admission to an academic program, the transfer student application process and the criteria the University uses regarding transfer credits earned at another institution is available in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Terrell Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-8776; or at www.admissions.uga.edu.

Admissions information for programs in the Graduate School is available in Graduate Admissions, University of Georgia, 320 E. Clayton St., Suite 400, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-1739; or at www.grad.uga.edu.

Admissions information for the Law School is available in the University of Georgia School of Law, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-7060; or at www.law.uga.edu.

Admissions information for all PharmD Professional Programs is available in the College of Pharmacy, University of Georgia, Green Street, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-5278; or at www.rx.uga.edu/admissions.html.

Admissions information for Veterinary Medicine professional programs is available in the College of Veterinary Medicine, Office of

Academic Affairs, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-5728; or at www.vet.uga.edu/admissions/.

SERVICES AND FACILITIES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Disability Resource Center coordinates and provides various academic and support services to students with disabilities as defined by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Information is available at the Disability Resource Center, University of Georgia, 114 Clark Howell Hall, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-8719; or www.drc.uga.edu.

STUDY ABROAD

Students regularly enrolled in a University degree program who enroll in a UGA Study Abroad program or a non-UGA study abroad program (and have completed the University's "Study Abroad Credit Approval Form") may receive financial aid if they are otherwise eligible. Contact the following offices for more information about eligible study abroad programs: Office of International Education, 110 E. Clayton St., Bank of America Building, Suite 300, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 425-3274; www.uga.edu/oie. For financial aid information contact the Office of Student Financial Aid, 220 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-6147; or www.uga.edu/osfa.

RETENTION RATES

Retention rates of certificate or degree-seeking first-time full-time undergraduate students are located in the *UGA Fact Book* published by the Office of Institutional Research, 101 Clayton Street, Suite 505, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 425-3183; or www.uga.edu/oir.

GRADUATION RATES

Retention and graduation rates for first-time full-time freshman cohorts from 1998-2007 are available in the OIR Retention Report (98-07) from the Office of Institutional Research, 101 Clayton Street, Suite 505, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 425-3183; or www.uga.edu/oir/oirstdy.html.

GRADUATION RATES FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

This information must be provided to student athletes, their parents, high school coaches, and guidance counselors when an athletically-related student aid offer is made. The NCAA provides this information directly to high schools. For information contact the Athletic Department, Compliance Office, P.O. Box 1472, Athens, GA 30603; phone (706) 542-7955; or www.georgiadogs.com.

ATHLETIC PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The annual Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act Report that contains participation rates, financial support, and other information on men's and women's intercollegiate athletic programs is available in the Office of Public Affairs, Hodgson Oil Building, 286 Oconee Street, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-8090.

PLACEMENT INFORMATION

Information on placement of and types of employment obtained by graduates of the University of Georgia's degree programs is located in the *UGA Fact Book*. This also includes information about the top ten graduate and professional schools the graduating class plans to attend. For information contact the Office of Institutional Research,

101 Clayton Street, Suite 505, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 425-3183; or www.uga.edu/oir.

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

The Office of Information Security oversees the policies and sanctions related to copyright infringement and liabilities students may face for unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials. The Associate Provost and Chief Information Office is the designated agent to receive notifications of alleged copyright infringement at the University of Georgia. Under the Digital Millennium copyright Act (DMCA), the University reserves the right to terminate computing services of users who repeatedly infringe upon the rights of copyright owners. To access the policies, a copy of the DMCA, FAQs, and the student guide to downloading music and movies at the University of Georgia contact the Enterprise Information Technology Services (EITS) Help Desk at (706) 542-3106. Information about copyright infringement is available through the Office of Information Security, Computer Services Annex, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-0366; or at www.infosec.uga.edu/policies/dmca.php.

VACCINATIONS

Immunization requirements for students entering the University are listed on the University Health Center web site at www.uhs.uga.edu/appts_forms/immunizations.html. A copy of the Mandatory Certificate of Immunization and TB screening may be printed from this site. It must be completed, signed by the student's doctor and return to the Health Center before registering for classes. More information is available at the web site listed above or by contacting the University Health Center, University of Georgia, 370 River Road, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-1162.

INSTITUTIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

The University of Georgia Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs is published annually in the "Safe and Secure" guide. The University's student conduct regulations prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and other drugs by students and student organizations. Other alcohol-related misconduct is also prohibited. The University also does not tolerate employee misconduct related to alcohol or other drug abuse. Sanctions are detailed for students and staff who violate this policy. A copy may be found through the "Safe & Secure" guide at www.uga.edu/safeandsecure/ or by contacting the University of Georgia Police Department, 286 Oconee St., Suite 100, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-5813.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND EVACUATION PROCEDURES

Effective communication is one of the major challenges in emergency management. The University has a comprehensive emergency notification system including outdoor sirens, radio alerts, the UGAAlert emergency notification system, telephone trees, crawler messages on TVs subscribed to University Cablevision, loud speakers on UGA police vehicles, and campus-wide email system. Details about these methods of communication are available through the Office of Security and Emergency Preparedness, Hodgson Oil Building, Suite 200 South, 286 Oconee Street, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-5845; or at www.osep.uga.edu/other_systems/other_systems.html.

CAMPUS SAFETY AND CRIME

The primary concern of the University Police Department is the safety and security of all members of the campus community. In compliance with Federal law, the Police Department makes available campus safety and crime statistics and a daily log on its web site, www.police.uga.edu/. Other important information is available for current campus policies regarding procedures for students and others to report criminal actions or other emergencies occurring on campus, policies concerning security of and access to campus facilities, programs offered to inform students and employees about crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault, and other matters. The "Safe & Secure" guide is produced by the Police Department, Legal Affairs Office, the Student Affairs Division, and the University's Public Affairs Office. It includes policies and statistics required by law. Their web site contains complete on-campus crime statistics as well as crimes reported by the Athens-Clarke County Police at off-campus locations occupied or used primarily by students, and provides the number of reports of alcohol, drug and weapons violations referred to the UGA Student Judiciary during the three calendars covered in the annual report. For more information or to request a printed copy of the "Safe & Secure" guide, visit www.police.uga.edu or contact the University Police Department, 286 Oconee St., Suite 100, Athens, GA 30602; phone (706) 542-5813.

SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) web site contains important information for students and parents about scholarship scams. The FTC cautions the use of scholarship service agencies that say:

- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
- "We'll do all the work."
- "The scholarship will cost some money."
- "You've been selected by a 'national foundation' to receive a scholarship" or "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

If you believe you have been the victim of scholarship fraud, wish to file a complaint, or want more information, call 1(877) 382-4357 or see www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams.

The University of Georgia GUIDE TO STUDENT CONSUMER INFORMATION is produced by the Office of Student Financial Aid.

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