



Student Veterans
Resource Center
Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



A Guide for Graduate Student Veterans



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UGA'S GRADUATE STUDENT VETERANS

GRADUATE STUDENT VETERANS



Our liaison networks and related resources are available to all student veterans including those enrolled in graduate and professional studies.

However, the bulk of our programs are focused on our undergraduate student veteran population. Nationally, only 54 percent of student veterans on the GI Bill complete their bachelor's degrees; at UGA, that number is over 80 percent.



Profile of UGA's Graduate Student Veterans

UGA's student veterans represent one of the most diverse and globally experienced populations on the University of Georgia campus.

Over the last few years, our student veterans have been almost equally divided between those pursuing graduate and undergraduate studies.

In the aggregate, our graduate student veterans are on average 34 years old, often work at least one part-time job, support one or more family members, and do so while striving to integrate into the university and the surrounding community.



Graduate MBA student Dan Phillips, with his family, threw the first pitch at a Georgia Bulldogs baseball game.

We want you to know that there is a wealth of resources on-campus to help you **succeed**, but it requires **action** on your part.

STUDENT VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

Mission To position students for success, the SVRC serves as the go-to location for sensemaking, wayfinding, and entry into an array of services provided by the University and community, while offering wide-ranging support and advocacy.



A Service Desk, a Robust Network of Liaisons, Newsletter, and Website

The Student Veterans Resource Center (SVRC) serves as the go-to location for wayfinding and entry into an array of services provided by UGA and our community partners. The Center's strength lies in its established relationships with almost every office at UGA and with many service organizations across the region. There are three ways to actively engage with the SVRC:

- Drop by the SVRC in room 481 of the Tate Student Center
- Call 706-542-7872/9629
- Email svrc@uga.edu

Additional SVRC services include:

- A service desk staffed by student veterans
- A dedicated Student Veterans Lounge with 72-inch television and video games
- Conference room, study kiosks, computers, printers, a microwave oven, and a refrigerator
- Regularly distributed SVRC email newsletter
- Annual Honor Cord Reception for graduating veterans
- Annual Veterans Day Reception and recognition ceremony at a UGA home football game



WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

While most of our programs are specifically designed to support undergraduates, full-time graduate students can, and should, take advantage of our office’s services. We may be able to help you with:

- Scholarship/financial aid opportunities
- Quick access to all UGA service providers
- Networking connections for internship/post-grad placements

Opportunities for you to get involved

Readiness Coaching

The SVRC employs a persistent coaching program for our undergraduate students to guide them from matriculation to graduation. As part of this program, our office relies on the volunteer support of graduate students to help our undergraduates construct their resumes and craft their personal brands.

Peer-to-Peer Networking (P2P)

As a complement to our Readiness Coaching program, P2P pairs graduate students and seasoned undergraduate students with new student veterans to ease their transition.

Interested in learning more? Email svrc@uga.edu.

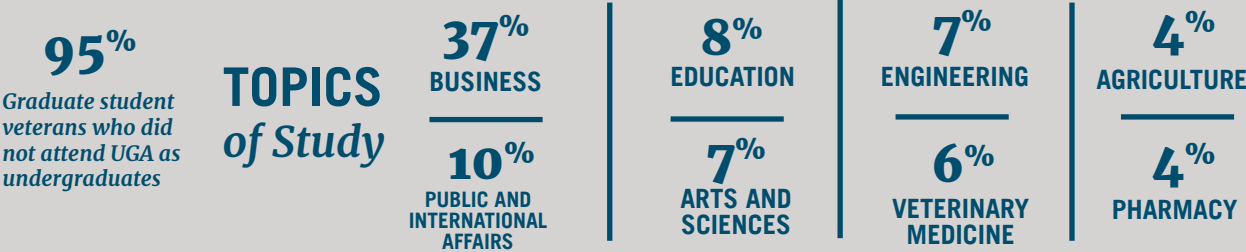
Student Veterans Association

The UGA chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA) was formed to establish a social and educational network for enrolled student veterans, reservists, guard, active duty service members, and their families. In doing so, the SVA strives to improve campus and community awareness through engagement, advocacy, and service. Meetings are typically held on the first Wednesday of each month.



Contact: ugasva@uga.edu

Profile of graduate student veterans



OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE



Graduate MIP student Ryan Mohnhey provides readiness coaching to an undergraduate student veteran.



Research suggests the more connections a student makes on campus, the more likely he/she will persist and succeed.

- Tinto 2006

Why is Engagement Critical?

Engagement matters, whether you are working as a paid graduate assistant, resident assistant, teaching assistant, or volunteer readiness coach/peer-to-peer coach. It particularly matters to our non-traditional undergraduates, who enter UGA with a strong sense of self-reliance. Frequently, this self-reliance is supported only by the student's military experience, which is often decoupled from their academic pursuits (see right).

NOTE: The SVRC works to address this issue through a variety of undergraduate programs loosely called Persistent Coaching, which includes orientation, transition coaching, and readiness coaching.

Additionally, at Tier One research institutions like UGA, incoming undergraduates will encounter a variety of stressors in their first semester. One such stressor, transfer shock, is the tendency of students transferring between institutions of higher education to experience a temporary dip in GPA during their first and second semesters. The issue is particularly problematic at Tier One institutions.

As a graduate student veteran, you can help smooth an undergraduate student veteran's transition to UGA or from UGA into the work force.

If you'd like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, email svrc@uga.edu.

Profile of undergraduate student veterans

Topics of Study

37%
ARTS AND
SCIENCES

20%
BUSINESS

9%
EDUCATION

7%
AGRICULTURE

6%
PUBLIC AND
INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS

11%
ALL OTHERS

RESOURCES

School Certifying Official (SCO)

All degree programs and majors at UGA have been approved by the VA as eligible for educational benefits. The SCO is responsible for monitoring each student veteran's enrollment status and academic progress.

To do so, student veterans submit initial certifications of enrollment to the SCO prior to the beginning of each term. You should report changes in your enrollment status that affect your VA educational benefits as they occur. The number of enrolled credit hours determines the level of benefit the student may receive. The University notifies the Department of Veterans Affairs through the electronic submission of VA Form 22-1999.

You must be either a degree-seeking student or a transient student seeking a degree at another institution to qualify for educational benefits at UGA. In addition to enrollment certifications, the SCO can help with a large number of veteran related issues including:

- Maintaining student records for recipients of VA benefits
- Completing transient letters
- Assisting with Georgia residency-related issues
- Providing support regarding schedule changes/withdrawal
- Processing fee waivers and readmission
- Certifying the use of VA funded academic tutors



You must recertify through the Registrar's Office each year.

Here are the general steps:

- 1) Apply for benefits online at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/apply.asp
- 2) When the VA approves your application, you will receive a VA Certificate of Eligibility (COE)
- 3) Once approved, you must provide a copy of the COE to the Registrar's Office your first semester

WHEN: After you register and no later than the Monday after drop/add

HOW: You will need to complete a UGA certification authorization form on your first semester

- Your certification will automatically be renewed each semester while in continual attendance at UGA (Fall & Spring).
- You must contact the Registrar's office if you wish to not use your benefits for any given term.
- If your attendance during a regular term changes, you will need to contact the Registrar's office to restart your benefits.

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Veterans Education Benefit Services

CONTACT:

Office of the Registrar
Room 106, Holmes/Hunter Academic Building
706-542-1842/9362
reg.uga.edu/veterans
va@uga.edu

RESOURCES



Financial Aid and Scholarships

The University of Georgia provides a variety of financial aid options to students. Federal Work Study, Federal Direct Student Loans, and scholarships are offered through individual colleges and schools, Financial Aid, and the SVRC. In order to receive financial aid, a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed.

For emergency situations, many UGA departments administer student funds, including the Graduate School, the Office of Financial Aid, Student Affairs, and the SVRC.

CONTACT: 706-542-2033
LOCATION: 220 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building
WEBSITE: osfa.uga.edu

NOTE: There are many non-profit organizations (i.e. SVA, VFM, ARC, American Legion, MOPH) and state services (GDVS, VLC) available to assist veterans. For more information, visit the SVRC or see our website.

Parking

You must find a lot and reserve it as early as possible.

How do I register for a permit?

Log into the UGA Parking Services website, follow the prompts, and save the information. Please review the priority system before choosing lots to ensure you receive an assignment. An assignment will be sent to your UGAMail when a permit is available to buy.

What is the cost of a permit?

Depending on the lot, the cost is \$20, \$30, or \$40 per month. Permits are sold for nine- or twelve-month periods.

CONTACT: 706-542-7275
LOCATION: 80 Carlton Street, Joe Frank Harris Commons
WEBSITE: tps.uga.edu/parking

Student Care and Outreach

Student Care and Outreach provides individualized assistance to students experiencing hardship circumstances, support to faculty and staff working with students in distress and guidance to parents/spouses seeking help and information. If as a student veteran you encounter any hardship (e.g. deployment, illness, injury, death in the family), Student Care and Outreach has the experience to help you navigate through the issue.

Lesson Learned: If you sense a situation is developing that may lead to a hardship, see Student Care and Outreach sooner rather than later.

CONTACT: 706-542-7774
LOCATION: 325 Tate Student Center
WEBSITE: sco.uga.edu

Equal Opportunity Office (EOO)

The Equal Opportunity Office (EOO) is responsible for ensuring that UGA complies with all applicable laws and policies regarding discrimination on the basis of race, sex (including sexual harassment and pregnancy), gender identity, sexual orientation, ethnicity or national origin, religion, age, genetic information, disability or veteran status. As part of EOO's mission, EOO administers and enforces the UGA Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy, which prohibits harassment and discrimination based on civil rights categories including veteran status.

CONTACT: 706-542-7912 or ugaeeo@uga.edu
LOCATION: 119 Holmes-Hunter Academic Building
WEBSITE: eeo.uga.edu

RESOURCES

UGA Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center offers a wide range of personalized academic accommodations and support services to include note takers, alternative texts, computer labs, tutorial referrals, low-stress test environment, access to scholarships, door-to-door transportation, and much more at no cost.

If you have a condition that potentially limits one of your major life activities (e.g. moving, speaking, hearing, seeing, focusing, learning, engaging with others), visit the center to explore the accommodations available.

CONTACT: 706-542-8719
LOCATION: 825 Lumpkin Street, Clark Howell Hall
WEBSITE: drc.uga.edu

Athens VA Outpatient Clinic

The Athens Outpatient Clinic is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The services provided by the Athens VA Outpatient Clinic include: Primary Care; Mental Health; Routine Labs and Immunizations; Patient and Pharmacy Education; Women’s Health Clinic; Social Work; Audiology

CONTACT: 706-227-4534
LOCATION: 9249 Highway 29, Athens, Ga 30601
WEBSITE: augusta.va.gov/locations/athens.asp

University Health Center

The University of Georgia Health Center offers a wide variety of services, including four primary care clinics, plus:

- Women’s Clinic
- Dental Clinic
- Vision Clinic
- Physical Therapy
- Massage Therapy
- Sports Medicine
- Allergy/Travel Medicine
- Urgent Care Clinic for after-hours care
- Counseling and Psychiatric services (CAPS)
- Supporting Services:
 - Pharmacy
 - Laboratory
 - Health promotions
 - Radiology departments

Students who are enrolled full time may pay a health fee, generally funded by the post 9-11 benefit, which covers primary care clinic visits. For combat veterans and reservists, this fee may be waived (see the school certifying official for more information). There is an extra charge for lab tests, x-rays, and in-office procedures. The specialty clinics (e.g. vision, dental, and physical therapy) are fee-for-service and are not covered by the 9-11 benefit.

CONTACT: 706-542-1162
LOCATION: 55 Carlton Street
WEBSITE: uhs.uga.edu



Healthy Vet Program

In 2015, the University Health Center established a Healthy Vet Program to encourage student veterans to more broadly use the UHC services. As an incentive for veterans to use UHC’s clinics, the Healthy Vet Program offers deeply discounted fees for many of the specialty clinics. These specialty clinics generally provide services that student veterans cannot easily access through the VA.

GENERAL INFORMATION

In-State Residency

Most student veterans pay in-state tuition. If you are considering paying out-of-state rates, contact UGA's Residency POC at 706-542-4748 and ask if you qualify for a waiver based on your situation.

Georgia Driver's License

If you need to transfer an out of state license to Georgia or obtain a new license, Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) maintains a "New to Georgia" website that lists instructions on requirements for obtaining a Georgia driver's license. The Athens Customer Service Center is located at 505 Highway 29 North. Their phone number is 706-542-9928.

Where to Live

Though most graduate students live off-campus, UGA Family & Graduate Housing maintains nearly 600 unfurnished apartment units available for rent. If you would prefer to live off campus or if you're unable to secure an apartment through them, consider using online classifieds, such as the *Athens Banner-Herald* or *Flagpole Magazine*, to identify potential properties or property management companies.

What to Eat

For those who don't want to cook, UGA offers a variety of meal plans including three different commuter meal plans. Commuter meal plans allow you have a number of set meals per semester at UGA's dining halls and retail restaurants. The plans range from approximately \$900 per semester to nearly \$1400.

Assistantships

Assistantships require a graduate student to work on campus from 13-20 hours per week, depending on semester and type of assignment. Applications for assistantships are made to your graduate coordinator's office. Assistantships carry a tuition waiver, reducing tuition to \$25/semester. However, all activity fees and health insurance must be paid by students. Assistantships also provide a monthly stipend.

Assistantships vary by department, assignment, type of work, and award. For more information, consult your academic department or the Graduate School Financial Assistance page (grad.uga.edu).

Off-Campus Employment

HANDSHAKE (career.uga.edu/handshake) is the University of Georgia Career Center's online job/internship posting and campus recruiting system. It contains listings posted by prospective employers both on campus and in the community. A student employment fair is held every semester at the Tate Student Center for students seeking part-time jobs both on and off campus.



REFERENCE PHONE NUMBERS



TRANSITION-RELATED SERVICES

Graduate Admissions	706-542-6300
Registrar	706-542-4040
School Certifying Official	706-542-1842
Residency Issues	706-542-4748
Tuition Assistance	706-542-6773
Transfer Credit	706-542-2112
Financial Aid	706-542-6147
Parking	706-542-7275
Housing	706-542-1421
Family Housing	706-542-1473
Meal Plan/Food Services	706-542-1256
My ID & Athena Assistance	706-542-3106

ON-CAMPUS HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

University Health Center	706-542-1162
Counseling/Psychiatric Services	706-542-2273
Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention	706-542-7233
Pharmacy	706-542-9979
Learning Disorders	706-542-4589
Disability Resource Center	706-542-8719
Aspire Clinic (Holistic Counseling)	706-542-4486
Child Care	706-227-5316
Ramsey Recreational Sports	706-542-5060
Intramural Sports	706-542-8648

MITIGATION SERVICES

Student Ombudsperson	706-542-7774
Equal Opportunity Office	706-542-7912
Student Care and Outreach (Deployments/Withdrawals)	706-542-7774
UGA Veterans Legal Clinic	706-542-5191

WORK AND CAREER SERVICES

Federal Work Study	706-542-6147
Part-time Work	706-583-5475
Career Center	706-542-3375
Volunteer UGA	706-583-8030

CO-CURRICULAR RESOURCES AND SERVICES

Student Veterans Association	706-542-7872
Student Organizations	706-542-8584
Academic Advising	Contact school or college
Tutoring	706-542-7575
Library Access Services	706 542-3256
Religious Life	706-542-3564
Center for Leadership & Service	706-583-0830
Greek Life	706-542-4612
LGBT Resource Center	706-542-4077
Women's Resource Center	706-542-2846
Multicultural Services and Programs	706-542-5773
University Union Student Programming Board	706-542-6396

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Police/Fire/Ambulance	911
Cottage Sexual Assault Center	706-353-1912
UGA Non-Emergency Police	706-542-2200
Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital	706-475-7000
St. Mary's Hospital	706-389-3000
UGA Parking Services	706-542-7275

VA-RELATED CONTACTS

VA Education Benefits	1-888-442-4551
GA Department of Veterans Services	706-369-5630
VA Outpatient Clinic	706-227-4534
VA Readjustment Center	404-728-4195
VA Crisis Line	800-273-8255
VA Hospital Augusta	706-733-0188
VA Hospital Atlanta	404-321-6111



Student Veterans Resource Center

Student Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

481 Tate Student Center | Athens, Georgia 30602