Over the last few years, the University of Georgia has sought to dramatically transform the undergraduate experience and ensure that our students have the best opportunities to grow and succeed. From changes to advising, experiential learning, faculty support programs, or the development of new academic programs and pathways, these changes have helped set new highs for us — from record high retention and graduation rates, to success in career outcomes, to national recognitions and improvement in various rankings.

Each program is built upon the trials and errors of others. As an example, the launch of a few SCALE-UP classrooms allowed broader conversations on active learning, while the implementation of the “small class initiative” helped take active learning on a broader scale. Similarly, changes to our academic advising were critical to helping launch the Experiential Learning and the Double Dawgs programs. And each of these programs continue to serve as the building blocks for the next round of enhancements.

Several groups have worked diligently behind the scenes over the last year to implement the recommendations of the President’s Task Force on Student Learning and Success. Our Active Learning Initiative is perhaps the most visible success, with 32 faculty participating in an Active Learning Summer Institute in 2018 and another 24 faculty in 2019. The initial cohort of courses have already transformed the learning experience for more than 8,600 students in its first year alone! We have also successfully renovated many classrooms, implemented academic support programs for under-represented students such as the ALL Georgia Program for rural students, the 1st at the First Program and the Early Start | Early Success for first-generation students, and completely redesigned the Freshman College Summer Experience to meet the needs of our students today. Most recently, we have appointed a Transfer Student Services director and created partnerships to collectively support transfer students.

These programs succeed only because we have had great support and collaboration from the many offices across the UGA enterprise — from the faculty and staff in each college, to people in the Division of Student Affairs, Public Service and Outreach, and many others. Our success as an institution results from our dedicated faculty and staff who work tirelessly for the success of our students. I am deeply grateful to our faculty and staff for their time, energy, and genuine regard for student learning and success at UGA.

Rahul Shrivastav
Vice President for Instruction
TRANSFORMING THE UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENCE

In the past five years, the University of Georgia has transformed the undergraduate experience with 20 new initiatives to enhance the learning environment, advising support, and academic programs for students. These initiatives directly benefit students and help them graduate and be better prepared for the future.

2013

- SCALE-UP CLASSROOMS
  - Flipped classroom, team-based learning
- SMALL CLASS SIZE
  - More individualized instruction
- DERS
  - Affordable online textbooks provide cost savings
- ADVISING INITIATIVE #1
  - 25 additional advisors for more personalized help
- ADVISING INITIATIVE #2
  - 10 additional advisors and Advising Director

2018

- EXPLORATORY CENTER
  - 13 advisors for students exploring unspecified or intended business & journalism majors
- SAGE ONLINE ADVISING TOOL
  - Easier access to advising resources
- EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING (EL)
  - Easier access to real-world experience
- DEGREEWORKS PLANS
  - Helps students to graduate on time
- PRE-PROFESSIONAL ADVISING
  - Pre-Law & Pre-Health Offices combined for greater service
- DOUBLE Dawgs PROGRAM
  - Students earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years or less
- SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS
  - Georgia Commitment, ALL Georgia, McNair TRIO
- ACADEMIC COACHING
  - Personalized academic guidance
- EL AND SERVICE-LEARNING ENGAGE ONLINE TOOL
  - Links EL requirements to a transcript
- FRESHMAN COLLEGE SUMMER EXPERIENCE
  - Helps first-year students transition to college
- ACTIVE LEARNING
  - Engages students in learning process for knowledge retention
- LIVING LEARNING COMMUNITIES
  - In-depth, focused experience
- LEARNING & SUCCESS
  - Improves first-year and transfer student experience
  - Develops writing, data, and critical thinking skills
FRESHMAN CLASS 2018-2019

TOTAL APPLICATIONS 26,448  TOTAL ADMITTED 12,724  TOTAL ENROLLED 5,750

FIRST-YEAR PROFILE  FALL 2018

CORE COURSES GPA Middle 50% Core 3.97-4.21
AP/IB/Dual Enrollment Total Courses Middle 50% 6-11
SAT Middle 50% of Admitted First-Year Students 1320-1490
ACT Middle 50% of Admitted First-Year Students 28-33

HONORS CLASS PROFILE

Total Honors Class Enrolled 745
CORE COURSES GPA Average Core of Admitted Honors Students 4.12
SAT Average of Admitted Honors Students 1530
ACT Average of Admitted Honors Students 34

STUDENTS FROM ALL 50 STATES AND 7% INTERNATIONALLY BORN

43% MALE  57% FEMALE
**UPDATE**

**PRESIDENT’S TASK FORCE ON STUDENT LEARNING AND SUCCESS**

In the past 16 months, great progress has been made on the dozen recommendations from the university’s Task Force on Student Learning and Success in its December 2017 report.

The recommendations seek to advance the institution’s longstanding commitment to excellence in undergraduate education. The task force was co-chaired by Vice President for Instruction Rahul Shrivastav and Vice President for Student Affairs Victor K. Wilson. The group consisted of 20 senior faculty and administrators from a number of schools, colleges and units.

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1. **EMPHASIZE WRITING SKILLS IN THE CURRICULUM**
   
   A faculty committee has developed a proposal that includes learning requirements for students, as well as rubrics to determine how to meet the requirements. Town Hall meetings for faculty input were held early in 2019, and the proposal will be presented to the University Curriculum Committee (UCC) later this year.

2. **MAKE DATA LITERACY A CORE PART OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION**
   
   A faculty committee has developed student learning outcomes for data literacy and determined how students will meet the requirements. Faculty input was gathered at a fall 2018 campus information session, and a revised proposal will be presented to the UCC later this year.

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3. **DEVELOP A PROGRAM TO EXPLORE THE GRAND CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME**
   
   A working group of faculty, staff and students, led by Vice President for Public Service and Outreach Jennifer Frum, was assembled to develop program ideas to explore grand challenge areas. The group submitted its final recommendations in fall 2018, and new programs related to those recommendations are now under development.

4. **UPDATE ORGANIZATION OF GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM; DEVELOP AREA-SPECIFIC CURRICULAR MAPS**
   
   The General Education Subcommittee of the UCC has been discussing meaningful ways to fold various university-wide requirements into the general education curriculum, including meeting with the USG Council on General Education. Currently a proposal is being prepared that will be submitted to the UCC.

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5. **DEVELOP A PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO WORK IN TEAMS TO SOLVE REAL-WORLD PROBLEMS**
   
   The Honors Program has launched a new seminar course where multidisciplinary teams of Honors students work with partners representing different sectors through a partnership with Envision Athens, which represents nonprofits, government and business entities.

6. **TRANSFORM COURSES AND CLASSROOMS TO ACTIVELY ENGAGE STUDENTS**
   
   The Center for Teaching and Learning developed the Active Learning Summer Institute in 2018 for 32 faculty, who met for six weeks to redesign courses and implement evidence-based instruction. More than 8,600 students benefited from full or partial redesigns of courses in the 2018 fall semester. Another 24 faculty have been selected for the second ALSI scheduled for this summer.

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7. **STRENGTHEN SYSTEMS TO DOCUMENT AND PROMOTE EFFECTIVE TEACHING**
   
   A joint working committee from Faculty Affairs and the UCC is working on a plan for using multiple methods of evaluating teaching effectiveness, including institutionalizing peer evaluation.

8. **INCREASE THE PROPORTION OF SMALLER CLASSES**
   
   This has been an ongoing initiative since 2015, with support coming from the latest faculty hiring initiative in 2018 that will bring 23 new faculty members to campus.

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9. **ENHANCE THE FRESHMAN COLLEGE SUMMER EXPERIENCE**
   
   Early Start I Early Success debuted in summer 2018, enabling first generation students to participate in the Freshman College Summer Experience (FCSE) and receive holistic support. As part of FCSE, they enrolled in three courses including a discipline-based course taught by innovative faculty, a service-learning course that fulfills the experiential learning requirement for most majors, and a literacy seminar focused on disciplinary learning. They also formed academic and social networks, equipping them to succeed.

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10. **DEVELOP COHORT-BASED SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR UNDERSERVED STUDENTS**

   The ALL Georgia scholarship program debuted in fall 2018 to help increase graduation rates for students from rural areas. The program provides resources and programs to help students succeed. Beyond the selected scholarship recipients, 4,200 plus students from rural areas of Georgia receive sustained, curated information to assist them in their sense of belonging in the university community. The 1st at the First program was introduced as a pilot program in fall 2018 for first-generation students. Early adopters will be 1st at the First Leaders, serving as peer mentors to incoming first-generation students this fall.

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11. **ESTABLISH A CAMPUS-WIDE COUNCIL ON THE FIRST-YEAR EXPERIENCE**

   The Council on the First-Year Experience was established in February 2018 and meets monthly. The council has created an inventory of first-year programming and is developing a cohesive plan to coordinate communication to students and parents about campus opportunities.

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12. **EXPAND RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS TO ACCLIMATE AND SUPPORT TRANSFER STUDENTS**

   The Transfer Working Group was formed in February 2018 and has been meeting monthly to study issues that impact transfer students. Recommendations from this group have been implemented, including improving the transfer equivalency process, offering transfer-student tailored academic workshops and seminars and walk-in hours in the Exploratory Center and creating partnerships between academic and Student Affairs units to develop programs and connect students to campus resources. A new transfer student coordinator was appointed to help direct transfer student programming.
ACTIVE LEARNING

The University of Georgia seeks to assist faculty in transforming undergraduate courses to actively engage students in their learning by using innovative, evidence-based instructional practices. The Office of Instruction assists schools and colleges to enhance various instructional spaces across campus to further support active engagement of students. We strive to provide our students with a rich, meaningful classroom experience that provides a long-term impact.

ovpi.uga.edu/initiatives/active-learning
news.uga.edu/please-dont-lecture-me

ACTIVE LEARNING SNAPSHOT

OUT OF OVER 400 FACULTY SURVEY RESPONDENTS,

45% FOCUSED ON ACTIVE LEARNING TIME IN CLASS INSTEAD OF LECTURES

INVESTED

$250,000 TO TRAIN FACULTY

+ $1 MILLION TO TRANSFORM CLASSROOMS INTO ACTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS
To help ensure that physical spaces on campus enable active learning, President Morehead created a $1 million fund to transform select traditional classrooms with fixed chairs and tables into active learning spaces. These spaces have been allocated and are currently in the process of being developed.

**ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS**

BEFORE

AFTER

**CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS**

9 CLASSROOMS RENOVATED IN 2018-19

APPROXIMATELY 3,600 STUDENTS IMPACTED BY CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS IN 2018-19
The Early Start | Early Success program was developed as part of the Freshman College Summer Experience for first-generation students to provide holistic support throughout their academic careers. The program provides services, coaching and gateway courses, which are small classes taught by UGA’s most innovative faculty members. A required service-learning course will help students in most majors fulfill their experiential-learning requirements during their first semester so they become knowledgable about the university and Athens communities.

ovpi.uga.edu/news/go-providing-for-all

### FRESHMAN COLLEGE STATISTICS

- **Approximately** 300 first-year students enroll each year.
- **6 credit hours**: 3-HR core course + 2-HR service learning course + 1-HR credit in STEM, humanities or social sciences.
The 1st at the First Leaders' Institute was piloted in fall 2018 to bring together first-in-the-family students at the first state-chartered university in America to share their concerns, get their questions answered and develop campus confidence and knowledge. It provided an opportunity to train students as 1st at the First Ambassadors, ready to lead and mentor the next class of first in the family students.

ovpi.uga.edu/news/go-providing-for-all

1ST AT THE FIRST STATISTICS

3,400 students classified as first-generation

400 students participated in our inaugural Scholars' Success Day in 2018
The **ALL Georgia scholarship program** debuted in fall 2018 to help increase graduation rates for students from rural areas. The program provides resources and programs to help students succeed. Beyond the selected scholarship recipients, 4,200+ students from rural areas of Georgia receive sustained, curated information to assist them in their sense of belonging in the university community.

[ovpi.uga.edu/news/go-providing-for-all](ovpi.uga.edu/news/go-providing-for-all)

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**The ALL Georgia Program**

- **Scholarships for up to 24 students from rural Georgia (6 per year)**
- **Scholarship renewable for up to 8 semesters**
- **Summer learning opportunities, special activities to help transition into UGA, and service leadership opportunities**
- **15% of our students are from rural Georgia**
- **As Georgia's land-grant, flagship institution, we strive to ensure the success of all students with an inclusive, robust, and innovative two-path program called ALL Georgia.**
- **Programs and resources to facilitate connections within the university community**

**Network of partnerships with Office of Instruction, Division of Student Affairs, and Public Service Outreach**

**dae.uga.edu**

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**OVER 4,200 STUDENTS FROM RURAL GEORGIA**

**IN 2018-19 35 UNIQUE WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES, AND EVENTS WERE SHARED WITH ALL GEORGIA STUDENTS**
Each year, the ALL Georgia Scholarship Program provides six outstanding students matriculating to UGA from rural Georgia areas with financial aid and access to a variety of programs and resources that ensure success and facilitate connections in the University community.

Summer learning opportunities to facilitate adjustment to college life and flourish in UGA’s unique learning environment:
- Freshman College Summer Experience
- Dawg Camp (Center for Leadership and Service, Division of Student Affairs)

ALL Georgia Program housing community

Scholar Success Days for targeted preparation for success in the first semester

Cohort-based experience through an innovative UNIV course to assist with the transition into higher education

Coaching and summer internships (Division of Academic Enhancement)

Leadership and service opportunities (Office of Public Service & Outreach)

Networking, academic, and co-curricular opportunities

Robust connections among peers, citizens of Georgia and home communities

Student-to-student mentoring

Housing RA positions (ALL Georgia Program housing community)

Immersive service-learning projects, such as IMPACT spring break

Year-long leadership program and mentoring (Student Affairs)

In addition to a renewable scholarship (up to four years), ALL Georgia Scholars have access to:

For more information about the program: dae.uga.edu/initiatives/all-georgia-program/
TRANSFER STUDENT EXPERIENCE

In December 2017, the President’s Task Force on Student Learning and Success submitted seven recommendations for working with students prior to transfer and twelve recommendations for working with transfer students post-admission. In February 2018, the Transfer Working Group was formed and charged with further studying these recommendations. A transfer student coordinator was hired in February 2019 to be responsible for the implementation of various services and programs identified by the Transfer Student Working Group as being essential for the success of transfer students. A new website was launched this year geared solely toward transfer students.

transfer.uga.edu
Launched fall of 2017, the Double Dawgs program was created to help University of Georgia students save time and money by enabling them to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in five years or less. The program offered just over 100 dual degree pathways at its inception, but that number has since grown to exceed 150, with faculty members and department heads continuing to propose new linked-degree programs. The Double Dawgs program helps students deepen their knowledge and create meaningful connections among separate but related fields.

news.uga.edu/double-dawgs-milestone/
EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

The University of Georgia is the largest public university in the nation to require each of its approximately 28,000 undergraduate students to engage in experiential learning prior to graduation. The Experiential Learning scholarship is open to undergraduate students, including transfer students with at least one semester of UGA coursework who are pursuing experiential learning courses or non-credit activities aligned with the UGA Experiential Learning Requirement. These include UGA-approved study abroad and domestic field schools; service-learning courses; internships for academic credit; faculty-mentored research through CURO; and other hands-on learning opportunities.

el.uga.edu

PROFILES

JESSICA DEWBERRY

Third-year advertising major Jessica Dewberry took a huge risk and moved to Nashville, Tenn., to pursue her dream of working in the music industry. A student in UGA’s Music Business Certificate Program, Jessica landed a radio and marketing internship at Capitol Christian Music Group, a record label under Universal Music Group, that will pave her way to success beyond the arch.

HEDAYA WEBER

During Maymester in 2018, third-year International Affairs and Economics major Hedaya Weber got the opportunity of a lifetime. Thanks in large part to a University of Georgia Experiential Learning scholarship, Directional Sign Hedaya travelled to Stellenbosch, South Africa, for a four-week intensive experience directed by UGA’s Center for the Study of Global Issues (GLOBIS) and hosted by Stellenbosch University.
WREN BALLOU

Senior education major Wren Ballou had an experience of a lifetime in May 2018 in Modena, Italy, with UGA’s College of Education. Wren gained a new perspective on education through student teaching in an Italian school, where she discovered a genuine passion for education that she hopes to one day channel into her teaching career.

CELESTE NORTON

When third-year political science major Celeste Norton became an ambassador for Experience UGA, she was looking for a fun, hands-on way to give back to the Athens community while satisfying her Experiential Learning requirement. She had hoped to make a positive impact on the Athens-Clare County students participating in the Experience UGA program, but was surprised to find that the students made a bigger impact on her.

BAILEY DICKINSON

For as long as he could remember, political science and communication studies senior Bailey Dickinson pictured himself in a suit and tie, working alongside the nation’s leaders in Washington, D.C. As a legislative intern for Senior Senator Johnny Isakson, Bailey satisfied his Experiential Learning requirement while getting a head start on his career in public policy through UGA’s Washington Semester Program.
The Exploratory Center opened in fall 2016 in response to the more than 3,375 undergraduate students who changed majors and likely took unnecessary courses, delaying their time for graduation. The Exploratory Center is a collaboration between the Office of Academic Advising Services in the Office of Instruction and the Career Center. Eighteen advisors meet with intended-business majors, intended-journalism majors, exploring students—those who are undecided about a major or considering making a major change, and transfer students.

From 2016–18, Exploratory Center advisors held over 24,000 scheduled or walk-in meetings with students, including orientation appointments, requiring the expansion of opportunities and modes of contact through additional scheduled and walk-in meetings, online referral responses and email correspondence, as well as group discussions with Career Center counselors.

explore.uga.edu
When it comes to STEM education, UGA instructors and researchers aren't just employing best practices, they are establishing how to make those practices even better. Faculty in introductory STEM classes are exploring the use of peer mentors to enhance classroom activities in a three-year grant from the University System of Georgia. Ultimately, the university's enhancements in STEM education parallel its overall approach to preparing students for an evolving world.

news.uga.edu/uga-prepares-stem-students/

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**STEM EDUCATION STATISTICS**

- **UGA students in STEM disciplines has risen 20% over the past five years.**

- **In Fall 2018, 40% of undergraduate students declared a STEM major.**

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**Undergraduates with STEM majors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FALL TERM</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Students</td>
<td>9,479</td>
<td>10,242</td>
<td>10,984</td>
<td>11,483</td>
<td>11,832</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: OIR Course Data
ACADEMIC INITIATIVES

INVIGORATING STEM EDUCATION

STEM Employment Prospects

Between 2017 & 2027, the number of STEM jobs is projected to grow 13%, compared to 9% for non-STEM jobs. Positions in computing, engineering, and advanced manufacturing will lead the way.

AVERAGE SALARIES

93%

of STEM occupations have higher annual salaries than the national average salary

$45,700

$87,510

MEDIAN HOURLY WAGE

$19.30

$38.85

STEM related jobs pay exceptionally well compared to the average median earning for all other types of jobs in the U.S.

Source: idtech.com/blog/stem-education-statistics

UGA STEM Opportunities: Working Together for Collective Impact

EVENTS

ART OF STEM
Dec. 1 - Feb. 15 (students)

STEM INSTITUTE
March 27 (faculty, staff, corporate/community partners)

STEMZONE
November (for public)

PROGRAMS

Active Learning Summer Institute
Peach State LSAMP
Peer Learning Assistants
TRIO McNair Scholars

ose.uga.edu

Office of STEM Education
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Committed to transforming the academic experience.

Our Units:

Academic Honesty & Integrity
Air Force ROTC
Army ROTC
Center for Teaching and Learning
Division of Academic Enhancement
Office of Academic Advising Services
Office of Online Learning
Pre-Professional Advising Office
Office of the Registrar and Curriculum Systems
Office of Service-Learning
Office of STEM Education
Office of Student Financial Aid
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
Office of University Experiential Learning
Washington Semester Program

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