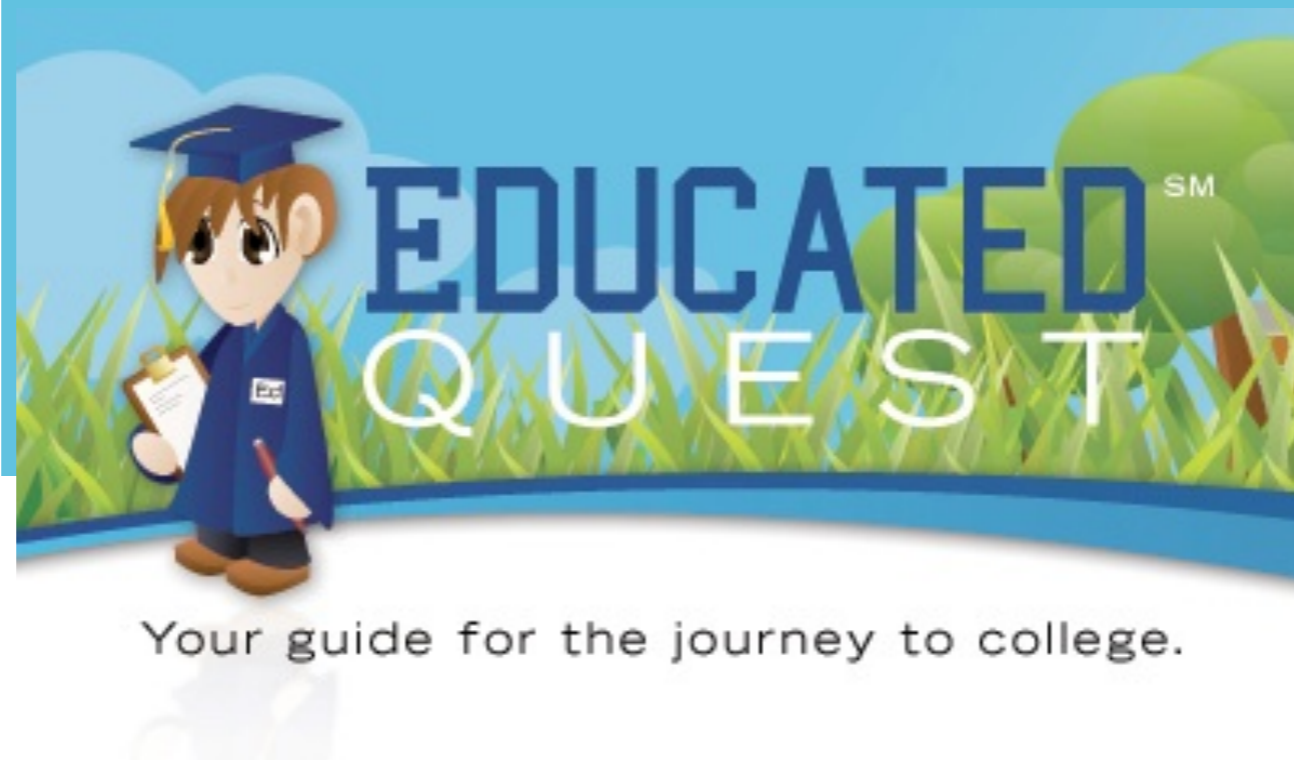


Profile: University of Georgia



Background

Introduction to UGA

Background

Fast Facts

1. **In January, 1785 the University of Georgia (UGA) became the nation's first state-chartered university.**
2. **Through strategic investments and the state's HOPE Scholarship program, UGA has risen into the ranks of the top 25 national research universities in *U.S. News and World Report's Best College's Guide*.**
3. **Perhaps the most important investment UGA has made over the past five years has been the Miller Learning Center.**
4. **Georgia residents who are Zell Miller Scholars are likely to form the largest bloc of UGA's applicant pool in the near future.**

About the University of Georgia

In January, 1785 the University of Georgia (UGA) became the nation's first state-chartered university; it was founded before the ratification of the U.S. Constitution. In 1801 John Milledge, later a governor of the state, purchased and gave to the board of trustees the chosen tract of 633 acres on the banks of the Oconee River where the university is located today.. Founded as a liberal arts school, UGA is Georgia's Land Grant and Sea Grant university. Although UGA has offered agricultural and mechanical science education since 1859, it did not formally establish a College of Engineering until last year. Athens, also known as the Classic City, grew around the university's development.

UGA is blessed through connections. Twenty-five Georgia governors have graduated from the university as have both of the state's U.S. Senators, Saxby Chambliss and Johnny Isakson. Other alumni include television hosts Alton Brown and Deborah Norville as well as actor Kyle Chandler (Early Edition, Friday Night Lights).

UGA has risen into the ranks of the top 25 national research universities in *U.S. News and World Report's Best College's Guide*. It has bounced in and out of the magazine's top 20 over the past five years. One testimony to the university's success is

that the incoming president, Dr. Jere Morehead, has been promoted from within. A former U.S Attorney and law professor, Morehead previously led the university's Honors Program as well as many other initiatives that advanced the academic program and diversity on campus.

Perhaps the most important investment UGA has made over the past five years has been the Miller Learning Center. Named for former governor and alumnus Zell Miller, and run by the university's library system and located in the heart of the West Campus, the Miller Center was designed to encourage collaborative learning among students. The center has 96 private study rooms, among many features.

Launched in 1993 and funded through the Georgia Lottery, the Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) Scholarship program has helped to improve the quality of applicants from Georgia. HOPE Scholars who graduate high school with a 3.0 (B) average are eligible to receive scholarships equal to 90 percent of in-state tuition. Recipients must maintain a 3.0 grade point average after 30, 60 and 90 credit hours to maintain their scholarship. Beginning in 2011, Zell Miller Scholarships have been awarded to Georgia residents who have a 3.7 grade point average or higher as well as a minimum score of 1200 (out of 1600) on the Critical Reading and Math sections of the SAT. These scholarships, worth 100 percent of in-state tuition, require the recipient to maintain a 3.3 grade point average after

30, 60 and 90 credit hours. The scholarship program is written into Georgia's state constitution. However, the recent decisions regarding HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships indicate that policy changes can always be made, especially when lottery receipts are down or the state's economy has declined.

While the Zell Miller Scholarship has only been awarded over the past two years, the recipients are likely to form a very large part of UGA's future applicant pool. These students enter UGA by taking more risks than the bright people who entered before them. It is harder to maintain a 3.3 than a 3.0 in college.. However, facilities such as the Miller Learning Center and future learning environments such as a Business Learning Community and a Science Learning Center, both part of UGA's 2020 Strategic Plan, will serve to aid student success.

While UGA's best and brightest from Georgia will need to work harder to maintain their scholarships, this university still remains a place where people have fun. UGA also borders a business community that amply supports culture as well as college sports. UGA become more like the University of Virginia or the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill from the standpoint of attracting and retaining the excellent student. However, the university has more students and a larger football crowd to handle within a smaller space.

Competition



**What does it take to get in?
Who decides to go?
What other schools do
applicants consider?**

Competition

Fast Facts

- 1. Last year UGA received approximately 18,500 applications for 4,900 places in the freshman class.**
- 2. The SAT range for the middle 50 percent of the entering class was between 1140 and 1330 (out of 1600) for the Critical Reading and Math sections of the test.**
- 3. Interestingly, while 86 percent of accepted students submitted SAT scores, sixty percent submitted ACT scores.**
- 4. As of this date UGA has received more than 21,000 applications for the 2013-14 academic year.**
- 5. UGA is likely to become even more selective as Zell Miller Scholarship recipients will make up a larger percentage of the applicant pool.**

What It Takes to Get In

Last year UGA received approximately 18,500 applications for 4,900 places in the freshman class according to the university's [2012-13 Common Data Set](#). Just under 10,400 were accepted. Among these only 158 were admitted off the waiting list. Just over 1,100 applicants were wait-listed; just under 750 accepted a place on the list, hoping to be admitted. "Approximately 1 out of every 20 high school graduates in Georgia get in," says Nancy McDuff, associate vice president for admissions and enrollment management.

The SAT range for the middle 50 percent of the entering class was between 1140 and 1330 (out of 1600) for the Critical Reading and Math sections of the test, high for a state university. Fifty-eight percent scored 600 or higher on the Critical Reading section of the test while around two-thirds scored 600 or higher on the Math. This suggests that applicants will need at least one score of 600 or higher to receive the most serious consideration for admission.

Interestingly, while 86 percent of accepted students submitted SAT scores, sixty percent submitted ACT scores. This suggests that students either took both tests or chose the one that would help make their application more competitive. The middle 50 percent for the ACT composite ranged between 26 and 30, equal to a SAT range between 1170 and 1350. Twenty-nine percent of applicants who took the ACT had a composite score of 30 or higher, also high for a state school.

As of this date UGA has received nearly 21,000 applications for the 2013-14 academic year. The incoming freshman class is not going to be significantly larger. Not only will UGA become more selective, its student population may slightly change. In 2011, the policies governing the HOPE Scholarship program were changed. Beginning with the students who entered in 2011, students with SATs of 1,200 or higher or ACT composite scores of 26 or higher combined with a high school grade point average of 3.7 or higher were designated for Zell Miller Scholarships. These scholarships pay 100 percent of tuition, but not mandatory fees. Georgia residents who do not qualify for these scholarships, but have maintained a 3.0 or better in their college-prep curriculum receive 90 percent of tuition.

As college costs rise, the percentage of applicants who qualify for the Zell Miller Scholarships is likely to rise, too. This will likely raise the middle 50 percent and the median for the test scores among the accepted students. At the same time, applicants who might have gotten into UGA during the past two admissions cycles are more likely to be denied admission going forward.

Georgia's scholarships have driven UGA's yield rate among accepted residents past 60 percent, very high for a state university. Few private schools or public universities outside of would attempt to match UGA's sticker price, a reasonable \$9,800, let alone discount to the level of the HOPE or Zell Miller Scholarships. Unless they want the students at the very top of the applicant pool.

One-third of the applicants to UGA come from outside of Georgia. The yield rate for these applicants is approximately 20 to 25 percent

says Nancy McDuff. While UGA has its attractions, as well as a fairly reasonable out-of-state tuition, other flagship universities in the South charge the same or less to attract residents from their states. A student from Alabama, for example, who would rank in the middle of the applicant pool at UGA, would pay \$7,700 (\$9,200 less a \$1,500 scholarship) in tuition to stay home and attend the University of Alabama.

Since the bar has been raised by the scholarship programs, UGA students have considered not only Georgia Tech, where they are also eligible for the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships but also Emory University (The HOPE program provides Georgia residents with a small discount), Vanderbilt, the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Auburn and Alabama have become stronger competitors as well. Duke and Vanderbilt are popular private university options.

UGA does not use the Common Application, though it accepts a common form shared with Georgia's other state schools. Neither legacy status--about 20 to 25 percent of applicants are children of alumni--nor choice of major impact upon an application. Only Honors students are offered direct admission to the school that offers their potential major.

Completion

3

Freshman Retention Rate
Graduation Rates

Completion

Fast Facts

- 1. In recent years UGA has retained 94 percent of entering freshmen and graduated more than 83 percent of them within six years.**
- 2. While U.S News' proprietary formula predicted that 77 percent of the UGA students who entered in 2006 would graduate within six years, 83 percent did.**
- 3. UGA also has a more generous Advanced Placement policy than many leading public or private schools.**
- 4. In recent years 75 percent of HOPE Scholarship recipients at UGA retained their award all through college.**
- 5. The best option for incoming students who rank high in the applicant pool is to accept an invitation into the Honors Program.**

The Path to Graduation

In recent years UGA has retained 94 percent of entering freshmen and graduated more than 83 percent of them within six years. Fifty-five percent of the class that entered in 2006 finished within four years. All of these measures are quite good for a flagship state school. Within the Southeast, UGA's performance ranks below only sports arch-rival Florida.

UGA's "efficacy," in *U.S. News*, the difference between a Predicted Graduation Rate and the school's Actual Graduation Rate, was plus-6. While the magazine's proprietary formula predicted that 77 percent of the UGA students who entered in 2006 would graduate within six years, 83 percent did. This is a very positive reflection on the admissions process--the university admitted a class that could succeed and wanted to stay at UGA--as well as the various student success programs on campus.

UGA also has a more generous Advanced Placement policy than many leading public or private schools. While the academic departments set their own policies 26 academic departments award introductory course credit for a score of '3' or better on the AP exams. Eight departments will also award credits based on high scores on SAT II achievements tests, a rare practice for a leading state school.

The HOPE Scholarships have helped to retain students. Between 97 and 99 percent of in-state students enter UGA with a HOPE award says Nancy McDuff, associate vice president for admissions and enrollment management. In recent years 75 percent of HOPE recipients at UGA retain their award, she adds, the highest percentage among Georgia universities. The awards are clearly a worthwhile incentive to perform, however, changes in the award policies are going to make that more difficult.

Academic advising is divided between faculty members and professional advisors depending on the school within the university. Unlike most large universities academic advisors have their own coordinating counsel. Twenty-five new advisors participate each year in a university-run certification program. Undecided students are initially assigned to the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences. From there they may stay or move on to any of the other 13 undergraduate colleges after they have decided on a major. The university has established a Center for STEM Education that promotes best practices and provides grants to faculty engaged in the improvement of science, technology, engineering and mathematics courses.

In addition, as part of first-year student engagement, career consultants from the Office of Career Services conduct student sessions and parent sessions during the summer orientations. Consultants are assigned to support students as well as faculty in

the individual colleges as well as the most subscribed majors. The Terry School of Business alone has four consultants. Undecided majors have a dedicated consultant, too. The consultants become experts in the academic programs as well as the needs of employers who recruit for the specific major. Career consultants work closely with academic advisors. They can help students in the process of changing a major. Consultants also proactively and reactively promote services and programs to the college council, student organizations, faculty gatherings and selected classes.

Costs

4

Tuition and Fees
Scholarships
Net Prices
Debt

Costs

Fast Facts

- 1. Most UGa students who are Georgia residents pay between \$1,100 and \$2,000 in tuition and fees, exceptionally low for any college, public or private, because of the HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships.**
- 2. UGa's out-of-state sticker price is lower than the out-of-state sticker price for most top-performing state universities.**
- 3. There are generous merit-based awards that reduce costs even further.**
- 4. Over half of 2011 graduates had no student loan debt at all.**
- 5. Of those who graduated with debt, the average amount borrowed was less than \$19,000.**

Paying for School

For Georgia residents [flat-rate tuition is approximately \\$7,650](#); the HOPE and Zell Miller scholarships do not cover approximately \$2,200 in mandatory student fees. The Zell Miller Scholarship, awarded to high school students with a 3.7 GPA or higher as well as a 1200 (out of 1600) on the Critical Reading and Math sections of the SAT or a 26 or higher on the ACT, will cover the full \$7,650. The HOPE will cover 90% of tuition or \$6,885. Most UGa students who are Georgia residents thus pay between \$1,100 and \$2,000 in tuition and fees, exceptionally low for any college, public or private.

Room and board costs, with a 7-day meal plan, the most expensive option, are just below \$9,000, reasonable for a flagship state university. Books and incidentals would bring the total cost of attendance for the current school year to around \$24,000.

For students at the very top of the pool, it is difficult to pass on the Foundation Fellowship which provides an additional \$10,500 stipend each year which is likely to cover room and board as well as books. However, such students who enter UGA with advanced placement credits and SAT scores in excess of 1400 are also likely to qualify for similar fellowships from UVa. or the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. A student admitted to all three schools as a fellow has a very difficult decision to make. The Bernard Ramsey Scholarship carries a stipend of \$5,250; it is awarded to candidates interviewed, but not selected to be Foundation Fellows. UGA has

numerous other merit-based scholarships that range between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per year that further reduce the cost of attendance. While leading private schools such as Duke, Emory, Vanderbilt and Wake Forest might be able to match most or all of the benefits received by Foundation Fellows or Ramsey Scholarships, such schools are not likely to discount below UGA's costs (less a state-funded scholarship) for a bread-and-butter UGA student.

But renewals of the Zell Miller and HOPE Scholarships are tied to academic performance in college. The Zell Miller awards are harder to maintain because they require a 3.3 GPA or higher. The HOPE requires a 3.0, which is more attainable. While it is not likely that students at the very top of the pool will lose their merit aid, several excellent students further down enter UGA taking that risk. UGA would still remain a "least-cost" option for these students. Even with a tuition increase tuition and fees would likely run below \$11,000 in 2013-14. The total cost of attendance would be around \$26,000. Among Southern universities, however, only the University of South Carolina charges more.

Out of state students are charged just a sticker price of just over \$28,000 in tuition and mandatory fees, about the same as the University of Florida and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill but also below those of other top-performing state universities such as U.Va, William and Mary, UC-Berkeley, UCLA, Michigan, Illinois and Penn State that have similar or higher retention and graduation rates. Only the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ohio State University and the University of Maryland-College Park, all similarly-

performing schools, carry lower sticker prices for out-of-state students than UGA

Out of state students are eligible for Foundation Fellowships. They receive a waiver of the out-of-state tuition charges (equal to just over \$18,000) as well as a \$17,200 stipend; in effect the costs for a Georgia resident Fellow and a on-resident Fellow are equal. The Ramsey Scholarship also carries a waiver of out-of-state tuition as well as a stipend of \$8,450; in effect the costs for a Georgia resident Ramsey Scholar and a on-resident Ramsey Scholar are equal. Such students, however, will also qualify for similar merit-based awards from the other top-performing state schools. The decision becomes one based on fit as opposed to costs.

Other scholarships are available that combine full or half-waivers of the additional out-of-state tuition charges with smaller stipends or no stipend. *Essentially any out-of-state student who ranks in the upper tenth of the pool will, at worst, pay just over \$11,000 in tuition and fees to UGA*

Because of the various scholarship programs as well as a high percentage of students (18 percent) who qualified for the need-based Federal Pell Grant, the average indebtedness of UGA graduates in 2011 was around \$18,600 according to the Project on Student Debt managed by The Institute for College Success, a non-partisan, non-profit organization based in Oakland, California. According to this source, more than half of UGA's 2011 graduates *had no debt at all*. Only 11 percent of student borrowers took out a loan from any source other than the Federal Government. By comparison student

borrowers who graduated from Emory University, also in Georgia, owed around \$10,000 more, Duke graduates owed around \$5,000 more while Vanderbilt graduates, ironically owed about the same.

Parent borrowers who took out Parent PLUS Loans borrowed less than \$9,500 in 2011, [according to the Chronicle of Higher Education](#), an exceptionally low amount for any college, public or private. However, these figures come just before state policies changed the HOPE scholarships. It is quite possible that parent debts will rise because the Zell Miller awards will be more difficult to retain and both the HOPE and Zell Miller awards no longer cover student fees. The average parent borrowers of students at Duke, Emory and Vanderbilt borrowed in excess of \$20,000 in 2011. It is possible for UGA parents of students who lose a Zell Miller award to become similarly in debt.

As of March 2012, UGA had an endowment of around \$750 million, lower than aspirant schools such as U.Va. (\$4.7 billion) and UNC-Chapel Hill (\$2.3 billion) and according to the [National Association of College and University Business Officers](#). This has serious concerns, since UGA has approximately 10,000 more students than U.Va. and 7,000 more than Chapel Hill while the State of Georgia has made the HOPE Scholarship program less generous than in prior years. In addition, Congress has debated caps as well as reductions in the largest amount of the Federal Pell Grant. Nearly a fifth of UGA students are Pell-eligible, though they do not all qualify for the maximum award of over \$5,000.

UGA is faced with the challenges of replacing possible losses in state and Federal assistance for students. While the HOPE Scholarship program is written into Georgia's constitution, the individual awards are subject to economic conditions as well as the whims of state politicians. Future cuts in the HOPE programs will be very difficult for families as well as the university to make up through savings or aggressive fundraising. Tying the Zell Miller awards to a fairly high minimum grade point average also means that students might either compete harder or "strategize" by choosing easier courses to maintain their aid.

UGa also faces competition from the universities in neighboring states which offer scholarships well-suited to students who might not qualify to be Foundation Fellows or Ramsey Scholars. [The University of South Carolina](#), for example, offers McKissick Scholarships that carry a \$2,000 stipend and in-state tuition for non-residents (around \$10,400) for students with SAT between 1360 and 1440. Scholarships with smaller stipends and tuition reductions are also available for students who might be in the middle of UGa's class. [Non-resident UA Scholars at the University of Alabama](#) may receive a waiver of two-thirds of the out-of-state tuition; this reduces the rate to approximately \$7,800. More than 30 percent of the student bodies at both of these schools come from out of state versus less than a fifth of the student body at UGA So it is reasonable to expect the flagship schools in the neighboring states to aggressively pursue prospective UGA students who fall somewhere between the middle of the class and Ramsey Scholars.

Comforts

5

On-Campus Housing
Local Housing Market

Comforts

Fast Facts

- 1. UGA imposes a first-year live-on requirements on all entering freshmen, unless they live in the immediate vicinity.**
- 2. Approximately 3,700 beds are made available in nine freshmen-only residence halls, the rest are in halls where upper-class students also reside.**
- 3. All residence halls and apartments are air conditioned and Wi-Fi enabled.**
- 4. Fraternities and sororities are more popular at UGA than at many other flagship state universities.**
- 5. An over-built housing market has made apartment living relatively inexpensive in Athens.**

Settling In

UGA imposes a first-year live-on requirements on all entering freshmen, unless they live in the immediate vicinity. Two-thirds of the freshmen who could reasonably commute opt to live on campus anyway. Approximately 3,700 beds are made available in nine freshmen-only residence halls; more than 2,800 are in the three high-rise halls on the West Campus: Brumby (which is all-female), Creswell and Russell. Freshmen may also request to live in one of four suite-style halls with upper-class students: Mary Lyndon, Myers, Olgethorpe or Rutherford, a new 260-bed hall that will open this coming fall. However, freshmen are most likely to live on the West Campus because the upper-class students choose their housing first. One advantage: these units have their own parking deck, so freshmen may park their cars near their residence hall, a rare privilege at a state university.

Upper-class students may also live in a suite-style hall as well as apartments in the modern East Campus Village, which opened in 2004. Prior to the opening of the Village, UGA had not constructed new housing since 1967.

Altogether the university has 7,500 beds, just over 1,200 in apartments, all air conditioned and Wi-Fi enabled. There are enough beds to accommodate all of the freshmen who need

housing as well as most of the sophomores who are likely to request it. However, the total number beds equals about 30 percent of the undergraduate student body.

UGA has eight freshman learning communities in the residence halls, each with 20 students and academic coursework in the fall and spring semesters. Themes for learning communities opening in 2013-14 include: Business, Climate and Sports, Global Engagement, Life Sciences (two communities), Mass Communication, Music and Pre-Law. While the offerings within these communities are comprehensive, the overall number of communities and participants is small compared to other leading state universities. The University of Maryland-College Park, for example has about the same number of undergraduates as UGA, though it has 15 learning communities, seven designated for Honors students. However, that university also has over 4,500 more beds for undergraduates.

All freshmen must carry either a 5-day or 7-day “all you care to eat” meal plan. The university does not limit the number of meals students may eat on a given day, though no Sunday dinner is served in the dining halls. These plans are sold under the slogan “Let the Big Dawg Eat.” UGA was the first university to open a 24-hour dining hall (Snelling) on weekdays, while menus have won first-place awards from the National Association of College and University Food Services and *Restaurants and Institutions* magazine. In addition to four dining halls: Bol-

ton, Ogletree, Snelling and Village Summit, there are four campus cafes and eight smaller eateries where cash and “Bulldog Bucks” may be used to purchase food and drink.

The Greek organizations are a popular option for those who move out of on-campus housing. Thirty percent of the men and just over one third of the women pledge during their freshman year, according to UGA’s most recent [Common Data Set](#). Overall, 21 percent of all male students are members of fraternities, 28 percent of all females students are in sororities. These are very high percentages among flagship state schools.

Students who opt not to live on-campus nor in Greek housing have economical options. The apartment market in Athens is over-built. It is quite possible to share two or three-bedroom apartments within a short bus ride from campus for around \$300 per month plus utilities, inexpensive for a major college town. UGA students and the university share the costs of mass transit. Students present their ID and pay no charges when they board a bus.

Community

6

Campus
Environs
School Spirit

Community

Fast Facts

- 1. UGA has not only managed to protect its history, in some cases it has managed to reconstruct it.**
- 2. UGa's entire campus, around 750 acres, is about the same size as the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. But although UGa serves around 7,000 more students, the hills and steps between the North and South Campus make it feel less crowded.**
- 3. Athens, a community of just over 100,000 residents, is one of the most vibrant college towns in the country.**
- 4. While football dominants fall weekends, gymnastics is the sport that captures the most attention in the spring semester.**

Life On and Off Campus

UGA has not only managed to protect its history, in some cases it has managed to reconstruct it. The original campus, called the North Campus, has been exceptionally well maintained. Originally designed to be academic, administrative and residential campus for the liberal arts college, the North Campus is dominated by 19th century southern architecture styles, much like the University of Virginia or the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Moore Hall, which faces downtown Athens, was selected as the offices for the Honor's College and funded undergraduate research, showcasing a priority placed on academic achievement. Herty Field, the dominant green space, was the host for UGa's first home football game in 1891, a 50-0 victory over Mercer University. The Arch, the symbol of the university, is the main gate between the North Campus and downtown Athens. Tradition holds that students should not walk under the Arch until they have received their degree. To walk prematurely means bad luck. You will not graduate.

UGa's entire campus, around 750 acres, is about the same size as the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. But although UGa serves around 7,000 more students, the hills and steps between the North and South Campus make it feel less crowded. While UGA, like most state universities, expanded during the 1960's and 1970's with buildings that do not represent a high-water mark for campus architecture, the more recently built facilities, including the Miller Learning Center and East Campus Village, follow 19th century Southern designs.

One problem with the campus, however, is fast-paced roads, particularly Sanford Drive, Field Street and East Campus Road, all of which run past the football stadium. However, these roads make it easier for university po-

lice to patrol. But because the campus is compact opportunities for serenity are harder to find than in most large universities. Broad Street, which separates the campus from downtown Athens is also a wide and fast street for the heart of a college town.

Athens, a community of just over 100,000 residents, is one of the most vibrant college towns in the country. The music scene is one of the nation's best with the Georgia Theatre and 40 Watt Club. R.E.M. and the B-52's launched their careers here, as did Widespread Panic. Bars and restaurants of all price ranges are downtown, as are the college-town staples: spirit stores, used book shops and comic book stores and coffee shops, among other options. Since 1996 the city has hosted AthFest, a non-profit music and arts festival. On Football Sundays, Athens expands by more than 150,000 people, not all of them coming to watch the game in person. The Old Campus is a popular tailgate spot while downtown bars are packed. In prior years football crowds and poorly-maintained student-inhabited residences caused tensions between town and gown. A Neighborhood Relations Roundtable resolved concerns to the point where the Roundtable no longer needs to meet, says Patrick Allen, the university's director of community relations. He adds that the university community contributes more than \$400 million each year to the local economy.

As the case with most universities, the largest number of campus crimes are alcohol and drug-related. In 2012 there were 548 alcohol and drug related offenses, according to the [campus police crime reports](#). Around 400 of these offenses were DUI arrests or for underage possession of alcohol. These numbers are actually low for a university community with more than 35,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students in a fairly compact community. However, there were also 11 reported arrests for weapons violations, 182 reported incidents of criminal damage to property, eight reported incidents of rape and six reported incidents of sexual battery. These are serious, although the campus is amply lit and has the network of blue

safety lights common on campuses across the country. In addition university police notify parents whenever students have committed a second offense

With over 92,000 seats to fill, football is by far the dominant sport on campus. Students pay only \$5 per game on a season ticket, a bargain considering the Bulldogs play in the Southeastern Conference (SEC), the most competitive in the country. [Nearly 18,000 students tickets are available, but just less than 16,000 are claimed.](#) While the Bulldogs have won only two national championships (1942 and 1980) they have also won 14 conference titles. UGA's most prominent football alumnus is Hershel Walker, the 1982 Heisman Trophy winner who led the Bulldogs to a national championship his freshman year as well as to the title game, a loss to Penn State, as a junior. Walker left the university after his junior year to sign a contract with the New Jersey Generals of the defunct United States Football League. His decision to leave college early prompted the NFL to allow juniors to declare for its annual draft. In most seasons Bulldogs hear their name called on the draft's first day. Champ Bailey (Broncos), Richard Seymour (Raiders), Matthew Stafford (Lions) and A.J. Green (Bengals) are among the Bulldogs who have been recently selected as a team's top pick.

While UGA is not noted as a men's basketball school, the women's team have been quite successful. But the most successful winter sport is gymnastics. Ten-time national champions, UGA's Gym Dogs regularly sell out Stegman Coliseum; men's basketball attendance, by contrast, ranks near the bottom of the Southeastern Conference. Like the football team, they have an enthusiastic student fan base, including painted fans in the front row. Overall, UGA competes in 21 varsity sports and has won 37 national championships.

Curriculum

Academics

Honors Programs

Experiential Learning

Curriculum

Fast Facts

1. All first-year students take a [Freshman Odyssey](#) course which may be taken in the Fall or the Spring.
2. General Education Requirements cover approximately one third of the courses required to complete a degree, leaving plenty of room for double majors or minors.
3. UGA is best known for Business, Genetics, Journalism and Performing Arts though Biological Sciences and Psychology are also very popular majors.
4. UGA's new College of Engineering will enroll approximately 700 undergraduates next year offering personalized instruction within a large university.

Academic Opportunities and Options

UGA's General Education Requirements are not especially cumbersome. They include:

- Eight credits of Foundations, English and Mathematics courses dependent on competence as well as the student's intended major
- Seven to eight hours of Natural or Physical Sciences, one of which must be a laboratory course
- Three to four hours in Quantitative Reasoning, through courses in Computer Science, Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics and Statistics, among other subjects
- Twelve hours in World Languages and Culture, Humanities and the Arts
- Nine hours in Social Sciences. In addition, a passing grade on an examination on the history of the United States and Georgia is required to satisfy the United States and Georgia History Requirement for all persons receiving a baccalaureate degree from the University, This can be fulfilled through a class or through examination.

All first-year students also take a [Freshman Odyssey](#) course which may be taken in the Fall or the Spring. Freshman Odyssey courses are available with a choice of over 300 topics, each taught by a tenured or tenure-track faculty member in a class of 18 students or less. Each of these courses is graded, not pass-fail, and is worth one credit.

UGA offers 145 majors. It is most noted for genetics--it is the only school in Georgia and one of the few in the country that offer the major--Business and Journalism although Biological Sciences and Psychology are also popular choices. The university is one of the few that has its own veterinary school; pre-vet is a popular objective. Performing arts are also a major strongpoint.

The university also reorganized its engineering offerings, previously in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and added majors to create a new College of Engineering. Current offerings include Agricultural Engineering, Biological Engineering and BioChemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Systems Engineering and Environmental Engineering. Programs in Electrical & Electronics Engineering and Mechanical Engineering will be offered for the first time this fall. UGA had [last offered a comprehensive engineering program from the beginnings of the 20th century through the Depression](#). State officials had made engineering education the domain of Georgia Tech, one of the nation's leading engineering schools. But UGA Currently there are 600 undergraduate engineering stu-

dents at UGA, with 100 more to be enrolled in the fall of 2013, compared to more than 9,000 engineering undergraduates at Georgia Tech. UGa students are likely to receive a more personalized engineering education within a larger university. The new engineering school will also offer cooperative education, alternate periods of school and work between the second through fourth years of the degree program, as Georgia Tech does now.

Aside from cooperative education, which will be an optional program, internship and other experiential learning courses for credit are handled through the schools and/or academic departments. The Terry College of Business, for example, has a for-credit internship course with every major. Students also have numerous opportunities for credit-based, paid and funded research, including an Apprentice Program that matches upper-class students with faculty mentors

The best option for incoming students who rank high in the applicant pool is to accept an invitation into the Honors Program. It offers smaller classes (average size 17 students), honors housing, access to funded research, graduate courses and Honors Internships in New York, Savannah and Washington D.C. Honors students avoid "gatekeeper" courses, large lecture courses in the more popular subjects such as Biology, Economics and Psychology that are extremely competitive while they involve more contact with graduate students than faculty. Hon-

ors students must maintain a 3.4 or higher in a minimum of nine Honors sections to graduate with Honors.

While the GPA required to graduate with honors is slightly higher than the GPA required to retain the Zell Miller Scholarship, an excellent student has a better chance of academic success when surrounded by high achievers. Further, honors students have the opportunity to work more closely with academic advisors and they have priority registration for courses. It is fair to say that Foundation Fellowship recipients and Ramsey Scholars are treated better than student-athletes. Their awards cover more of the total cost of attendance than athletic scholarships do.

In 2008, according to UGA admissions materials, the university had recipients of the Rhodes, Truman, Goldwater and Udall Scholarships. Only Columbia, Stanford and Yale matched this accomplishment. Over the past decade UGA students have won more than 50 of these and similar awards.

UGA students have rated their faculty highly, giving them a 3.81 out of a possible 5 points on RateMyProfessors.com, about the same as students at the University of Virginia (3.82) rated their faculty and the very same as students at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. They showed higher regard for their teachers than students at the University of South Carolina (3.76) but lower than students at the University of Alabama (3.86). UGA students also showed higher regard for their professors than

students at Duke (3.78) and Vanderbilt (3.77), but lower than students at Emory (3.86) and Wake Forest (3.86).

UGA reported a student-faculty ratio of 18 to 1, according to the university's most recent [Common Data Set](#), same as the University of Texas-Austin and the University of Maryland-College Park. However, it is higher than the University of Virginia (16 to 1) and the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (14 to 1). This ratio is derived by counting all of the full-time faculty and one-third of those who teach part time.

The more telling statistic is class size. Thirty-nine percent of undergraduate courses at UGA had fewer than 20 students (excluding recitation sections) while 19 percent had more than 40. While the University of Virginia and the University of North Carolina have a lower student-faculty ratio, neither school offers as many academic options as UGA.

Connections

Alumni Relations
Career Services



Connections

Fast Facts

- 1. UGA has approximately 280,000 living alumni.**
- 2. The Atlanta area, by far, has the largest concentration of UGA alumni--over 103,000 live here.**
- 3. UGA's 3,000 member Student-Alumni Association is one of the largest student organizations on campus.**
- 4. The G Book, resurrected after a 50-year absence, maintains the university's traditions.**
- 5. Last year, 660 employers recruited on campus through scheduled interviews and job fairs.**

Building a Network

UGA has approximately 280,000 living alumni; around 177,000 live in Georgia. The alumni association has 110 chapters worldwide, with Germany have the largest representation outside of the United States.

While the Atlanta area, by far, has the largest concentration of UGA alumni--over 103,000 live here--the Athens area immediately surrounding campus ranks second with just over 18,000. Augusta and Savannah are the next most popular areas within the Peachtree State. Outside of Georgia, the four largest concentrations of alumni are in Washington D.C. (over 4,500), Chattanooga (around 3,600), New York City (around 3,500) and Charlotte (just over 3,400). Florida is the most popular state outside of Georgia, followed by North and South Carolina. "We're seeing more and more former alumni become chapter leaders in cities like Nashville, Dallas, Birmingham, Washington D.C. and Charleston where we have had a relationship with them as students--and they're eager to maintain a connection after leaving," says Deborah Dietzler. "We're seeing chapters do more community service work. That attracts young alumni looking for an alternative to game watching." Community service projects, for example, in the Metro Atlanta area have included adoption of a portion of the Atlanta BeltLine, Georgia Public Television donor drives and the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

UGA takes interesting steps to recognize alumni. The BULLDOG 100 Committee recognizes the 100 fastest-growing businesses owned or operated by UGA alumni. The BULLDOG 100 are located in 12 states as well as Washington D.C., with 82 being in Georgia. The total revenue of these companies exceeds \$2.6 billion. For the past two years the university has also recognized 40 prominent alumni under 40. "More alumni from the classes of 40 Under 40 are hosting dinners for students," says Deborah Dietzler, Executive Director of

the Alumni Association. “They are not only coming back to campus; they are connecting in real ways with students monthly.”

Next season, approximately 2,000 more football tickets will be made available to young alumni; students take less than 16,000 of the nearly 18,000 seats made available to them in recent years. While these tickets will sell for \$40 a game (instead of the \$5 paid by students) no seat license fee will be required for new ticket holders in 2013. A \$250 fee will be charged during the second year; the fee goes up to \$500 for the third.

Additionally, the UGA Alumni Association partners with Undergraduate Admissions to involve alumni in information sessions, to serve as liaisons to their high schools, and trains them to represent the university at college fairs. Partnerships with Career Services include programs and seminars such as “The 2-Hour Job Search,” “How to Make the Most of LinkedIn,” “Find a Job You Love,” and “Self-Marketing Make Over.” Female alumni in the Atlanta area also serve as mentors to recent female graduates.

UGA also does a better job of engaging parents than most flagship state universities. It helps that around a fifth of the students have parents who are also alumni. The university hosts a Parents Weekend around a home football game every season, and distributes 600 tickets for that game. An academic event is scheduled for the day before. The Parents and Families Association partners with the Alumni Association to co-host Freshman Send-Offs in 30 cities. It also produces a parent’s guide and a monthly e-newsletter. Most significantly, the Parents and Families Association oversees a grants program. It recently it distributed \$125,000 in awards ranging from \$500 to \$20,000 to university offices and organizations for student-focused programming.

The Alumni Association’s LinkedIn network has nearly 23,000 members while the university’s Facebook page has received more than 132,000 ‘likes.’ The university has nearly 16,000 Twitter followers.

UGA’s 3,000 member Student-Alumni Association is one of the largest student organizations on campus. In addition to expanding on alumni programs, the organization resurrected the G Book, the official traditions handbook for the university. According to the current version of the book, from 1915 through the late 1950’s, the G Book existed as a guide to students about all things Georgia. Men were actually required to carry the book in their left front pocket, an interesting contrast to today when UGA’s undergraduate enrollment is 58 percent women. The G Book is the main book of cheers and songs that establish Georgia pride and lists “musts” to do as well as visit. Students can become official UGA Tradition Keepers. Those who complete 20 traditions receive a lapel pin. Those who complete 40 receive a personalized plaque. “Dawg Camp” part of the freshman orientation also reinforces the traditions.

UGA has centralized career services; students in all majors work with a single office. Consultants (discussed previously under Completion) are assigned to students by major or by college of enrollment. Last year, career center attracted 660 unique employers through on-campus recruitment and job fairs who conducted more than 3,900 interviews. In addition to large Fall and Spring job fairs, the office runs “boutique” events for majors in high demand: Education, Pharmacy and Risk Management. The most recent Fall Job Fair attracted 206 employers. “It was the first time in 12 years that employers had to be turned away” said Scott Williams, the university’s Director of Career Services. In addition to on-campus events, nearly 2,800 jobs and internships were posted on DawgLink, the university’s job board. The office also provides an Internship Clearing House as well as an Intern For a Day career exploration program which more than 300 students participate.

Atlanta is the most popular metropolitan area for recent graduates to find employment, including the city and the surrounding suburbs of Alpharetta, Duluth and Marietta. Outside of Georgia other popular destinations include Boston, Charleston (SC), Charlotte, Chicago, Houston, Miami, Nashville, New York City and Winston-Salem.

Conclusions

Summing up



Conclusions

UGA is one of the best values and strongest brands in higher education, and it is located in one of America's best college towns.

It's very difficult for Georgia residents to find a better value, unless they preferred to attend Georgia Tech or they are more interested in a smaller college. The HOPE and Zell Miller Scholarships, especially when combined with the university's awards make the flagship state university a very attractive buy. However, the academic culture could become more competitive due to the higher GPA requirements tied to the Zell Miller awards. However, UGA's future abilities to continue to attract the very good students are married to the future of the state scholarships. The endowment is not large enough to make up for losses in scholarship assistance that could befall the "bread and butter" student.

UGA is a great value for non-residents, especially for those who receive Foundation Fellowships or Ramsey Scholarships. However, it must be noted that the students who qualify are of the same profile as those who qualify for similar benefits at UVa. or UNC-Chapel Hill. The choice is likely to be one of fit as well as academics. Not to mention that other state universities in the South make it expensive for their very good and excellent students to stay home.

Like UVa. and UNC-Chapel Hill, UGA places its emphasis on a liberal arts education, though it offers more majors through the professional schools. But UGA has a different culture due in large part to football. Neither UVa. nor UNC has managed to produce teams that have achieved at UGA's level of success nor do they manage a stadium of similar size. These schools do not do as much as UGA to ingratiate the student body into the traditions behind their team. While you do not need to be a football fan to appreciate fall at UGA, it certainly helps you enjoy the experience. Unless you love music more than sports. You have to go to college in a city like Austin, Nashville or New York to find a better music scene than you'll find in the Classic City.

The scholarship programs, state and university-based, combined with the very high quality of life in the campus community has helped UGA emerge as a very attractive public option. With more than 2,600 undergraduate Honors students, the academic culture is becoming stronger. The future of the Bulldog brand is in great hands.

Ed Quest's Report Card						
University of Georgia						
Four-Year/ Six-Year Grad Rates	Freshman Retention	Costs	Comforts	Community	Curriculum	Connections
B+/A	A	A	B+	A	A	A
Strengths			Weaknesses			
Residents can't beat the price, especially when they're on scholarship			Academic culture is likely to be more competitive due to changes in the HOPE Scholarship programs			
Attractive, fun college town with many entertainment options for all ages			The on-campus housing options have not quite caught up to the growth in the student population			
Football success fuels local economy more than most college towns			Danger of being perceived as an "elite" school as applicant pool grows and Miller Scholarship recipients become a larger part of the pool			
University adds to quality of life that has attracted employers and retirees			Sports culture may not be for every serious student.			
Proximity to Atlanta, economic capital of the Southeast			Small number of students in learning communities considering the size of the undergraduate student body and the numbers of honors students.			
Honors and scholarship options for the best and brightest			Engineering program must compete against Georgia Tech for students, employers, recognition and resources.			
Over-built apartment market has kept on-campus and off-campus options more affordable than in most other college towns			Small endowment for a university of this size that is located in a more prosperous state than most			
Strong alumni network, especially in Georgia politics and the greater business community						
Major investments in learning (Miller Center) as well as quality of life (dining services)						

The End

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