



Student Veterans
Resource Center

UGA Student Affairs

ENABLING A PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

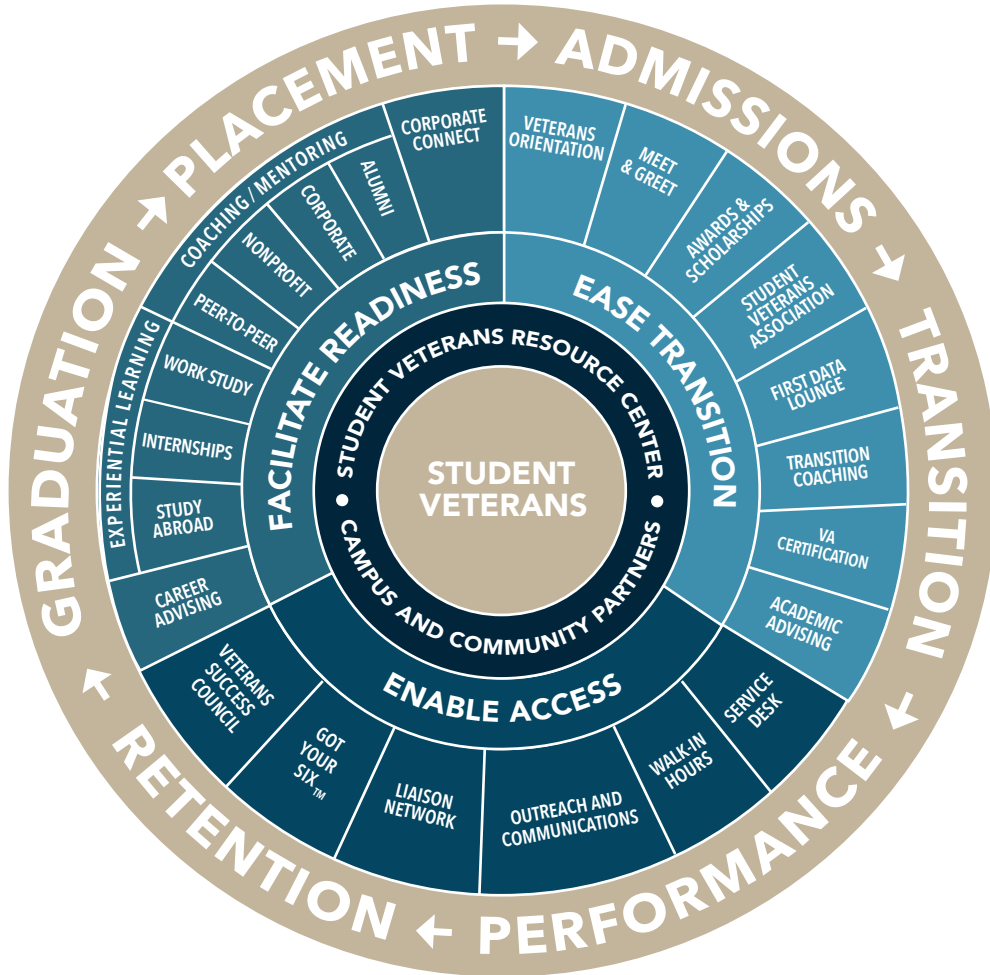
★ 10 LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2015-16 ★

- 1. BENEFITS:** stay on top of your educational benefits and resubmit them every semester to the certifying official (va@uga.Edu).
- 2. MENTORS:** Seek out mentorships with professionals in your field. The knowledge you can gain will significantly impact your experience at the University and throughout your life.
- 3. NETWORKING:** Veterans at UGA are high performing individuals. So are the majority of the other students. If you're not networking with everybody around you, you're doing yourself a disservice; they may be the future movers and shakers of the world, so network with them!
- 4. ADJUSTMENT:** Congratulations! As many before you, you likely just transferred from a much smaller college to a tier-one research university. There's an average eight-week adjustment period for the elevated levels of rigor and classwork, so plan accordingly. Be sure not to completely fill your plate your first semester here and take some time to fully adapt to the size and style of the classes and the campus itself.
- 5. INTERNSHIPS:** Be as proactive as possible in securing internships and training for future employment. Try to secure these even before you think you're "ready."
- 6. TIMING:** Employers typically recruit the majority of their interns and full-time employees for summer during fall semester of the previous year. Go to the career fairs and actively seek out opportunities. The time involved with this process is practically an additional class, so structure your schedule accordingly.
- 7. ENGAGEMENT:** The more you put into it, the more you'll get out of your college experience. Try to make time for some of the extracurricular activities on campus. With more than 800 clubs and organizations, there is literally something for everyone. You're never going to get some of the opportunities like this again – go join a debate team, learn to sail, further your knowledge in your field of study, support a cause, do something...
- 8. STUDENT VETERANS ASSOCIATION (SVA):** The SVA provides a strong base of seasoned student veterans. They've been in your exact same shoes with the exact same situations. Make time for the SVA meetings and functions and network with the fellow veterans.
- 9. CULTURE:** It's a different veteran culture here, and you're likely surrounded by fellow student veterans that are much more forward looking than many at smaller four-year colleges. Don't be surprised when your fellow vets don't want to sit back and swap "war stories." Their experiences are part of who they are, but it's typically not what they're putting their focus into becoming.
- 10. STUDENT VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER (SVRC):** There always seem to be interesting opportunities floating in and out of the office and there's significantly less military jabber than what people assume. Further, in a fast-paced academic environment, simple problems quickly compound into wickedly complex issues. Visit the SVRC at the first sign of trouble.

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VETERAN-FOCUSED FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



Whatever you do, the research is clear, the more **connections** a student makes on campus the more likely he or she will **persist** and **succeed**.

National Challenge Facing Student Veterans

Did you know?

- only 48 percent of student veterans on the GI Bill complete their bachelor's degrees
- those who do complete their degrees often take up to two years longer to do so
- student veterans are a greater risk for non-degree attainment than any other racial or ethnic minority group

Don't be a statistic! UGA far surpasses the national averages for student veteran-related performance, persistence and graduation rates. This is not by accident. Research suggests the more connections a student makes on campus, the more likely he/she will persist and succeed. If you need help navigating your pathway to success, the Student Veterans Resource Center and our campus/community partners stand ready to assist.

Note: Our most successful student veterans work to get plugged into the wealth of networks available at UGA, including social, financial, health, recreational, career and developmental.

Profile of UGA's 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 were almost equally divided between graduate and undergraduate studies. They are enrolled in all 17 schools and colleges, they carry a 12-14 credit hour course load and they perform on par with the larger UGA student body (GPA 3.21).

In the aggregate, our veterans are ten years older than their peers, often work a part-time job, support one or more family members, and do so while striving to integrate into the university and the surrounding community.



EASE
TRANSITION
TO UGA



ENABLE
ACCESS
TO SERVICES



FACILITATE
CAREER
READINESS



ENCOURAGE
PERFORMANCE,
RETENTION AND
GRADUATION



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



The SVRC Provides

- ★ A convenient point of contact
- ★ A Service Desk staffed by student veterans
- ★ A connection to other student veterans, a relaxing lounge and a range of diverse opportunities that enable you to meaningfully engage the university and the surrounding community.
- ★ An evolving network of partnerships working to improve services/programs.

CONTACT

706-542-SVRC or SVRC@uga.edu
SVRC Tate Student Center, Rm 481
First Data Student Veterans Lounge, Rm 484
svrc.uga.edu

Three Goals : Endless Opportunities

EASING THE TRANSITION INTO UGA

Veteran Orientation
Meet and Greet
First Data Student Veterans Lounge
Student Veterans Association
Transition Coaching / Mentoring
VA Certification of Benefits
Academic Advising

ENABLING ACCESS TO SERVICES

Service Desk
Walk-in Hours
Liaison Network
Outreach and Newsletter
Got Your Six™ Faculty, Staff and Community Program
Veterans Success Council

FACILITATING CAREER READINESS

Career Advising
Experiential Learning
Mentoring
Corporate Connect

Ease Transition



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 veteran student'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:

- *Certifying the use of VA funded academic tutors*
- *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*

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

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 each semester:

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

HOW: A UGA enrollment verification form will be emailed to you from the Registrar during registration; a second reminder will be sent five days before the semester starts.

- Fill the form out completely and return along with a screen shot of you COE to va@uga.edu.
- These two pieces of information verify that you wish to use your benefits, how many benefits you have remaining and how many credits you plan to pursue.
- The Registrar's Office will submit your certification to the VA

Contact:

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

Ease Transition



Academic Advising:

Academic Advisors are assigned to each of UGA's schools and colleges. Before registering for classes each semester, undergraduate students are required to meet with their academic advisor. The academic advisors assist in course selection, clarify understanding of major requirements and associated timelines to degree.



NOTE: Where possible, work with your advisor to align your educational plan with your VA benefits. If gaps are identified, you can pursue scholarships (see SVRC website) and/or Federal Grants and Loans (Contact UGA Financial Aid).

Advisors vary based on your major. Contact your school/ college to determine how to schedule an advising appointment. When working with an advisor, consider identifying yourself as a veteran and inform him/her of:

- Significant changes in your field of study or major
- Changes in schedule, withdrawals, additions and/or drops
- Any trouble you have enrolling in your key classes
- Intended graduation date
- Post-graduate aspirations
- Your benefits timeline



NOTE: Strive to build a positive relationship with your advisor. Advisors deal with hundreds of students and find themselves particularly busy in the weeks immediately leading up to registration. If you have a complex academic-related concern that needs to be discussed, meet with your advisor as early as possible.

Each school and college has identified a veteran-specific academic advisor. See svrc.uga.edu for the list.

Transition Coaching / Mentoring:

One of our undergraduate high impact programs is the Transition Coaching Program.

- Purpose: ease transition
- Setting: formal
- Mentees: transferring student veterans
- Mentors: experienced UGA Faculty/Staff
- Duration: one semester

Contacts:

Dr. Mike Friedline
mfriedline@uhs.uga.edu
University Health Center

Ted Barco
tbarco@uga.edu
SVRC

Student Veterans Association:

There are more than 800 registered student organizations at UGA, some of which – like the UGA Chapter of the Student Veterans of America – represent a strong voice for the UGA student veteran community. The SVA's core mission includes engagement, advocacy, and service.



Student Veterans Association @ UGA



UGA_Veterans

Contact: Kyle McReynolds
Email: ugasva@uga.edu
Location: SVRC

Enable Access



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 GA 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
- Email svrc@uga.edu

The SVRC will also work to engage with you through:

- Weekly walk-in hours with campus/community service providers
- Signature events like our annual Veterans Week and Honor Cord receptions
- Newsletters delivered via email roughly every 10 days
- Personal emails tied to opportunities in your specific area of study
- Periodic postings on the SVRC Facebook profile and Twitter feed
- Engagements with the Student Veterans Association

The newsletter is our primary source of communication.

Please take the opportunity to scan it so you are attuned to awards, scholarships, internships, and job openings.

 UGA Student Veterans Resource Center

 @UGA_SVRC



A full list of resources is provided on our website and a complete list of common phone numbers is available for your use at the back of this booklet.

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UGA 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.

Contact: 706-542-1162
Location: 55 Carlton Street
Website: uhs.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

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 ugaeoo@uga.edu
Location: 119 Holmes-Hunter Academic Building
Website: eoo.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.



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ACADEMIC TUTORING:

The Division of Academic Enhancement (DAE) offers tutoring in several locations for student convenience, including Milledge Hall, the Miller Learning Center, Aderhold Hall, the Boyd Science Library, Brumby Hall, Creswell Hall and the Russell Academic Center.

- **UNIV Courses:** Courses are offered in academic writing, critical thinking, data analysis, introductory math, problem solving, computer literacy, learning to learn and life skills.
- **Academic Specialists:** Graduate students and professional staff assist students with academic planning, time management, college level learning strategies and academic recovery.
- **Academic Counselors (Faculty):** Professional counselors help students with test anxiety, motivation, learning styles, career exploration and other issues that hinder academic performance.
- **Peer Tutoring:** Tutors are available by appointment (up to twice per week per class) and are also available via drop-in labs, test reviews and online.
- **Private Tutoring:** Although private tutoring is not part of the service offered through the Division of Academic Enhancement, this service can be funded by the VA. To learn more, visit the SVRC or the SCO.

Contact: 706-542-7575
Location: 131 Milledge Hall
Website: tutor.uga.edu/

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, priority registration 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: 114 Clark Howell Hall
Website: www.drc.uga.edu

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 on behalf of their students. 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 in an effective and efficient manner.

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: www.dos.uga.edu/

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FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

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

In addition, the SVRC hosts a growing number of scholarships each year.

Visit the SVRC site for additional scholarship information.

CAREER CENTER:

The UGA career consultants assist students with choosing a major, finding meaningful internships and landing a job. The center enables you to develop skills that prepare you for your next career through counseling, resume writing workshops, mock interview sessions, internship opportunities, part-time on/off campus jobs, and career fairs.



Research suggests that internships double your chances of employment.

Financial Aid Contact: 706-542-2033
Location: 220 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building
Website: osfa.uga.edu

Contact: 706-542-3375
Location: 2nd Floor, Clark Howell Hall
Website: career.uga.edu

Facilitate Readiness

Readiness Pathways

To compete in today's demanding job market, student veterans must effectively showcase their abilities through well-crafted resumes and engaging interviews while concurrently demonstrating their leadership skills. The UGA Career Center offers student veterans a variety of pathways to facilitate career readiness:

CAREER CONSULTANTS: Each of UGA's Schools and Colleges is assigned a career consultant who is responsible for helping students successfully navigate the job search. Upon arrival, student veterans should seek out their assigned consultant and work closely with him/her to establish a career strategy that includes participation in skill development workshops and access to gateway opportunities such as internships.

ARCH READY WORKSHOPS: For those who prefer to navigate on their own, the Career Center also offers the Arch Ready Programming Series. This Series offers an a la carte menu of workshops and events designed to equip you with the necessary skills to compete in today's job market.

INTEGRATED CAREER CLASSES: Many student veterans prefer a comprehensive class that covers all the basics; options for that class include ECHD 2050 and/or ECHD 3050. These two-hour credit classes, offered each fall and spring semester, help you develop the skills necessary for informed career decision making.

Contact: 706-542-3375

Location: 2nd Floor, Clark Howell Hall

Website: career.uga.edu



Experiential Learning

Recruiters, whether aligned with companies or graduate schools, are always looking for students that have had relevant hands-on experience that postures for them for success after graduation. Many student veterans believe their time in the Service checks that box; unfortunately, for most, it does not.

This year nearly 2,000,000 students will graduate with a bachelor's degree and thousands of those students may be pursuing a degree track similar to yours. While at UGA, work to differentiate yourself from your peers by complementing your military experience with a timely internship, a work-study position, a study abroad opportunity and/or membership in a professional organization that aligns with your academic plan, adds currency to your resume and helps to establish your future network.



Facilitate Readiness



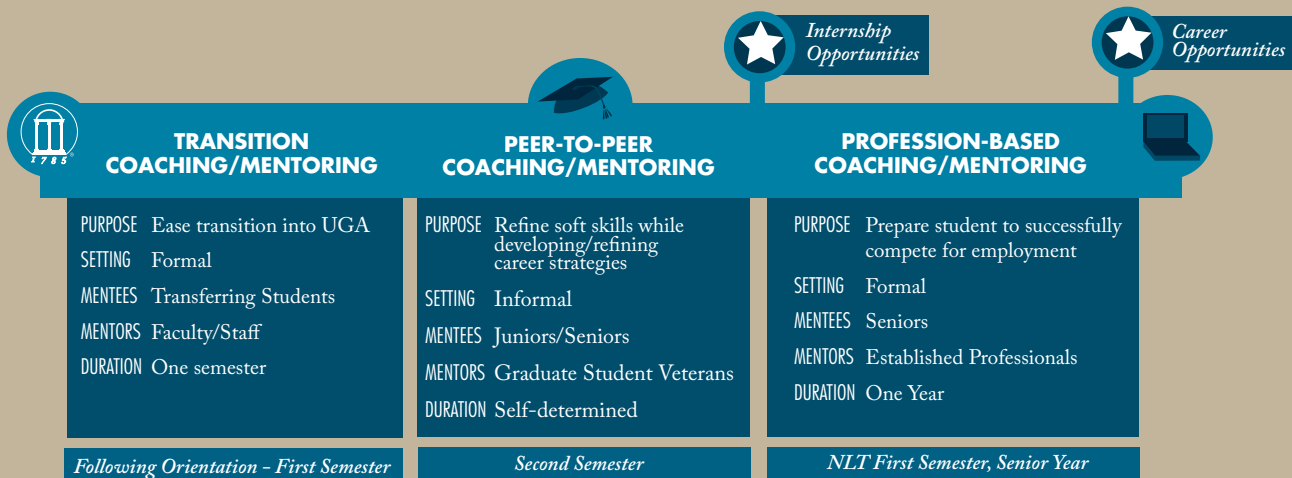
ACADEMIC CYCLE COACHING/MENTORING:

Transition Coaching/Mentoring gets you integrated into the university, but in order to persist and succeed within higher education, you may need to tap into many other available services, including academic cycle mentoring:

There is a strong chance that you have had a coach/mentor at some point in your life. Whether informal or formal, mentors can help you navigate through areas of life you may have never experienced. The SVRC suggests our undergraduate student veterans explore the three phases of mentoring as shown in the diagram below:

Mentoring reinforces your situational awareness and can assist you in navigating to your degree and onto either graduate school or a career. Use the following milestones to determine which program is best for you:

- **FIRST SEMESTER AT UGA:**
Sign up for the Transition Coaching/Mentoring Program
- **AFTER COMPLETION OF YOUR FIRST SEMESTER:**
Sign up for the Peer-to-Peer Veteran Coach/Mentor Program
- **SENIOR YEAR:**
Sign up to participate in one or more of our profession-based coaching/mentoring programs.



Reference Phone Numbers

TRANSITION-RELATED SERVICES

Admissions	706-542-2112
Registrar.....	706-542-4040
School Certifying Official	706-542-1842
VA Education Benefit	888-442-4551
Tuition Assistance	706-542-6773
Transfer Credit	706-542-2112
Financial Aid	706-542-6147
Housing	706-542-1421
Family Housing	706-542-1473
Meal Plan/Food Services	706-542-1256
My ID & Oasis 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

WORK AND CAREER SERVICES

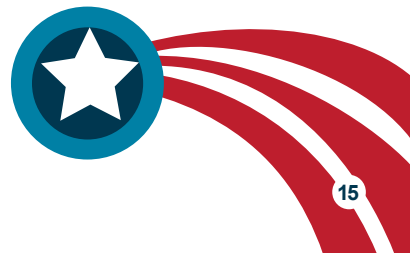
Federal Work Study	706-542-6147
Part-time Work	706-583-5475
Career Center	706-542-3375
Volunteer UGA	706-583-8030

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
VA Crisis Line	800-273-8255
Cottage Sexual Assault Center	706-353-1912
UGA Non-emergency Police	706-542-2200
Athens Regional Medical Center	706-475-7000
St. Mary's Hospital	706-389-3000
VA Clinic (Athens)	706-227-4534
VA Center (Lawrenceville)	404-728-4195
VA Hospital (Atlanta)	404-321-6111
VA Hospital (Augusta).....	706-733-0188
UGA Parking Services	706-542-7275





GOT YOUR SIX



UGA Student Affairs

Student Veterans
Resource Center

*481 Tate Student Center
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602
706-542-7872
svrc@uga.edu | svrc.uga.edu*