



Student Veterans
Resource Center
Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



A Guide for Graduate Student Veterans



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UGA'S GRADUATE STUDENT VETERANS

GRADUATE STUDENT VETERANS

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

Historically, our programs and services were resourced to focus on the needs of our nation's most at-risk student veterans; the undergraduates. Though that will always be our focus, as our undergraduate programs mature we are beginning to offer incrementally tailored support to our full-time enrolled military-affiliated students (active, guard, reserve and veterans) at all levels of study (professional, graduate, and undergraduate) attending most every physical campus and, where possible, online. This guide will describe those programs and resources.

NOTE: To be eligible for any military affiliated program/service, you must first contact the UGA School Certifying Official and formally self-identify as a military-affiliated student – bring your Military ID Card or DD-214. For those using VA benefits, this is part of the certification process. For those not using VA benefits you will need to contact the SCO at 706-542-9362 to set up an appointment.



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

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

STUDENT VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

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



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

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

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

Additional SVRC services include:

- A service desk staffed by student veterans
- A dedicated Student Veterans Lounge
- Conference room, study kiosks, computers, printers, a microwave oven, and a refrigerator
- Responsive referral network
- Career readiness program
- Access to awards, scholarships, and grants
- Annual Honor Cord Reception for graduating veterans
- Annual Veterans Day Reception and recognition at a UGA home football game



WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

While some of our programs are specifically designed to support our transitioning undergraduates, full-time graduate students can, and should, take advantage of our office's services, including:

SVRC Programming	Description
VETConnect	Offers initial and recurring engagements between the SVRC and students
Awards and Scholarships	Provides awards and scholarships exclusively for UGA's student veterans
Readiness Coaching	Facilitates a focus on resume development, networking, and branding
Referral Network	Provides ready access to dozens of on-campus service providers
Peer2Peer	Facilitates access to other veterans (undergraduate, graduate, professional)
Quick Look Series	Hosts organizations looking to connect w/ UGA's student veterans
Fall and Spring Receptions	Funds social gathering w/ students, faculty, staff, and SVRC award donors
Student Veteran Newsletters	Publishes recurring newsletters released approximately every 2-weeks
Partner Programs	Description
Career Center's SUIT-UP	Slashes the cost a veteran would pay to purchase new professional attire
Special Collection's Veteran Histories	Preserves oral histories – for research – in UGA's Special Collection Library
Health Center's Healthy Veterans	Broadens veteran access while offsetting the cost of UHC's specialty care
Student Financial Aid Emergency Funds	Mitigates student veteran financial insecurity
Student Affairs Let All the Big Dogs Eat Scholarship	Mitigates student veteran food insecurity



Profile of graduate student veterans

95%
Graduate student veterans who did not attend UGA as undergraduates

TOPICS of Study

37%
BUSINESS

10%
PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

8%
EDUCATION

7%
ARTS AND SCIENCES

7%
ENGINEERING

6%
VETERINARY MEDICINE

4%
AGRICULTURE

4%
PHARMACY

OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE



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

- Tinto 2006

Why is Engagement Critical?

Engagement matters, whether you are working as a paid graduate assistant, resident assistant, teaching assistant, or volunteer SVRC peer-to-peer coach.

Research suggests only 10 percent of student veterans pursue studies that are very similar to the profession they held in the military. Translated, this means the other 90 percent of veterans will arguably need to build a new body of knowledge supported by emerging relationships and networks tied to their academic field of study. Ultimately, this suggests students must purposefully engage to integrate and rebrand.

Rebranding can be challenging particularly for those veterans who enter UGA with a very strong sense of self-reliance or worse “hubris.” The SVRC can help you rebrand through at least two programs we’ll discuss shortly; Peer2Peer Networking and Readiness Coaching.



As a graduate student veteran, you may also want to use your prior experience to help smooth an undergraduate student veteran's transition to UGA or from UGA into the work force.

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



Three Goals: Endless Opportunities

1 EASE Transition into UGA

Student Veterans Association

The UGA Chapter of Student Veterans of America (SVA) was formed to establish a social and educational network for enrolled student veterans, reservists, guard, and active duty service members. Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month.



Contact: ugasva@uga.edu



SVRC Kiosks & Conference Room

Three computer kiosks with free printing and conference room that can be reserved

Fiserv Student Veterans Lounge

A relaxing lounge, in Tate 484, with sofas, chairs, and large-screen TV

Certification of VA Benefits

Based in the Registrar's Office, the School Certifying Official is responsible for receiving and processing all VA-administered educational benefits.

Financial Assistance

SVRC is positioned to provide emergency funds, awards, and scholarships. A current FAFSA is required and applications open in early fall and spring.

VETConnect

A program that systematically connects SVRC staff with our military-affiliated students

Peer2Peer (P2P)

To enhance relationship-building and networking, military-affiliated students have the opportunity to connect through the SVRC to one or more volunteer graduate student veterans.

Oral History

The SVRC leads higher education in facilitating student veteran oral histories collected for research and stored in UGA's Special Collection Libraries. Grants up to of \$100 may be available to participants.



Three Goals: Endless Opportunities



2 ENABLE

Access to Services

SVRC Service Desk

An information desk staffed by student veterans from 8am-4pm weekdays with open access from 8am-9pm to a study room, computers, printing, refrigerator, and microwave

SVRC Referral Network

The SVRC's network of faculty, staff, community, non-profit, and corporate professionals who liaise with the SVRC in support of our student veterans

Outreach and Communications

A newsletter and inputs to social media that aim to keep student veterans connected with ongoing opportunities, resources, and events



3 FACILITATE

Career Readiness

Readiness Coaching

A multi-semester SVRC-facilitated effort focused on career preparation through timely goal-setting, resume preparation, networking, and branding

Corporate Connect

SVRC-facilitated meetings exclusively between student veterans and employers. These complement similar UGA-wide opportunities through your college, school or Career Center.

FACILITATE READINESS

Readiness Coaching

As you move from the first to the second semester, you have the opportunity to work with a readiness coach. Together, you will build a tailored development plan (DP). The DP is a road map to your individual success. It highlights your career or graduate school interests, identifies geographic locations where you would like to work/study, and spotlights companies or graduate schools you are interested in pursuing.

RESUME BUILDING: Building off this approach, you and your readiness coach will work together with other campus and community resources to develop your resume. Once your resume is complete, the next step is networking and branding.

NETWORKING: This step focuses on finding, building, and leveraging a mentor network within your field of study. Networking is critical as you shape connections around your career interests. These connections will help you navigate the job search and, when the time comes, provide meaningful references to hiring and/or graduate school admissions managers. As you build a network, you will recognize the need to rebrand.

BRANDING: Branding is an essential part of your professional development as you pivot from the military to a new career. Your brand is made up of many facets, including your resume, social media, everyday interactions, and dress. In support of your college/school, the SVRC can leverage its partners to help you build your brand.

INTERNSHIP: An internship is the next critical step in your career development. Through internships you can determine if you are on the right career path, highlight new relevant experiences, expand your network, and build a bridge to your new profession. In the Readiness Coaching Program, you are encouraged to participate in multiple internships during your time at UGA.



Our nationally recognized readiness coaching program complements your curriculum and is an important addition to your new tool bag; take advantage of it!



Contact:
svrc@uga.edu



LOCKHEED MARTIN

Lockheed Martin provides a generous grant to recognize those student veterans who actively participate in this program each year.

RESOURCES



Financial Aid and Scholarships

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

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

CONTACT: 706-542-2033

LOCATION: 220 Holmes/Hunter Academic Building

WEBSITE: osfa.uga.edu

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

Parking

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

How do I register for a permit?

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

What is the cost of a permit?

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

CONTACT: 706-542-7275

LOCATION: 80 Carlton Street, Joe Frank Harris Commons

WEBSITE: tps.uga.edu/parking

Student Care and Outreach

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

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

CONTACT: 706-542-7774

LOCATION: 325 Tate Student Center

WEBSITE: sco.uga.edu

Equal Opportunity Office (EEO)

The Equal Opportunity Office (EEO) 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 EEO's mission, EEO 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

RESOURCES

School Certifying Official (SCO)

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

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

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

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
- Assisting with Georgia residency-related issues
- Providing support regarding schedule changes/withdrawal
- Processing fee waivers and readmission

Military-affiliated students must self-identify through the SCO to access SVRC programs and services. This only needs to be done once and can be accomplished by presenting to the SCO either a current Military ID (Active Duty, Guard, Reserve) or DD-214 (veterans).



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

Here are the general steps:

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

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

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

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



Veterans Education Benefit Services

CONTACT:

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

RESOURCES

UGA Disability Resource Center (DRC)

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

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

CONTACT: 706-542-8719

LOCATION: 825 Lumpkin Street, Clark Howell Hall

WEBSITE: drc.uga.edu

Athens VA Outpatient Clinic

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

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

CONTACT: 706-227-4534

LOCATION: 9249 Highway 29, Athens, Ga 30601

WEBSITE: augusta.va.gov/locations/athens.asp

University Health Center

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

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

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

CONTACT: 706-542-1162

LOCATION: 55 Carlton Street

WEBSITE: uhs.uga.edu



Healthy Veteran Program

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

In-State Residency

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

Georgia Driver's License

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

Where to Live

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

What to Eat

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

Assistantships

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

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

Off-Campus Employment

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



RECOMMENDED MILESTONES



- Complete your FAFSA – it opens up opportunities for potential awards, scholarships, and aid
- Attend the UGA Graduate Orientation and, if offered, the SVRC Veterans Orientation
- Visit the SVRC table at the Graduate Student Resource Fair
- Self-Identify through the Office of the Registrar’s School Certifying Official
- Stay connected through the SVRC Newsletter and the VETConnect program
- If you sense you need assistance, contact the SVRC at the first sign (*SVRC@uga.edu*)
- Identify 2-3 UGA faculty and/or staff to join your professional network
- As needed, engage with the SVRC Readiness Coach
- Establish membership in a group tied to your future profession
- Complement your wardrobe by applying for a UGA Suit-Up Award
- Network with a mentor within your profession (your department has many options, the SVRC has a few uniquely associated with student veterans; consider both)



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

– Harris, 2006 and Tinto, 2004



REFERENCE PHONE NUMBERS



TRANSITION-RELATED SERVICES

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

ON-CAMPUS HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

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

MITIGATION SERVICES

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

WORK AND CAREER SERVICES

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

CO-CURRICULAR RESOURCES AND SERVICES

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

SAFETY AND SECURITY

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

VA-RELATED CONTACTS

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



Student Veterans Resource Center

Student Affairs

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

481 Tate Student Center | Athens, Georgia 30602