



2016 • PANTHER EXCELLENCE PROGRAM




CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR ACCEPTANCE

TO THE PANTHER EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

you're
ONE OF US

that's undeniable



GEORGIA STATE



Georgia State
University®



Your Uncommonly Bright Future Begins Today

The time has come to celebrate. The late nights and early mornings have all paid off, and you should be incredibly proud of yourself. But you know as well as we do that this is only the beginning. You've made it this far, but now it's time to make your mark on Georgia State, Atlanta and the world. Your college experience at Georgia State will be unlike anywhere else, and we can't wait to see all that you accomplish here.

TAKE ADVANTAGE

The Panther Excellence Program will provide you with a multitude of opportunities to help you make the most of your college education, including one-on-one academic coaching, leadership development, social opportunities and more.

SUCCESS RATES

Georgia State's Panther Excellence Program gives you a unique and exciting opportunity to establish yourself quickly at the university and set yourself up for academic and interpersonal success. Through the Panther Excellence Program, you will:

- *Develop strong study habits and academic skills*
- *Begin fulfilling degree requirements*
- *Increase your likelihood of attaining or maintaining HOPE Scholarship eligibility*
- *Learn about a wealth of resources for support and guidance*
- *Make enduring friendships*

PROGRAM BASICS

The Panther Excellence Program consists of activities and services that work together – and with you – to put you on the path to college success:

- *Individualized study skills and learning-style assessments*
- *Academic skills workshops on managing your time, cultivating your memory and powers of concentration, reading textbooks and talking to professors*
- *Peer mentoring*
- *Academic coaching*
- *Introduction to key faculty and staff*
- *Individualized guidance and support from Financial Aid, University Advisement Center, Scholarship Resource Center and more*
- *Residential Living-Learning Community (optional)*



ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The fall semester consists of 12-13 credit hours. Spring semester credit hours will be determined by fall GPA. All credit hours count toward the 120 hours required to graduate. See below for requirements:

- *Students earning a GPA of 2.5 or higher in the fall will take a full course load of 12-13 hours in the spring*
- *Students earning a GPA lower than 2.5 after the fall semester may have registration restrictions in the spring semester*

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Success in college takes commitment and engagement – in the classroom and out – so the Panther Excellence Program requires your full participation in a range of specific programs and activities:

- *Mandatory attendance at select academic and co-curricular events throughout the year*
- *Commitment to enroll in designated core curriculum classes in fall 2016 and spring 2017 (all core courses will count toward your major, regardless of major)*





LET'S MAKE THIS OFFICIAL

you're accepted

to the Panther Excellence Program and ready to get started. Be sure to follow these next steps so you'll be ready to hit the ground running on the first day of the fall semester.

STEPS TO *enroll*

1 Submit your Intent to Enroll by June 1, 2016 — You can find this at success.students.gsu.edu/pep-intent-to-enroll.

2 Activate your Campus ID — Your Campus ID will be the account name you'll use to log in to just about everything.

3 Set up Panther Access to Web Services (PAWS) — PAWS will be your online portal to student accounts, housing, orientation information and more.

First, go to paws.gsu.edu, and log in using the Campus ID you've just activated.

While you're there, check out the *Welcome, New Panthers* channel. Click on the *Enrollment* tab for student records, and take a look at the *Campus Resources* tab for important housing information.

4 Set up PantherMail — Head over to panthermail.gsu.edu to get your official Georgia State email address, which you'll use for all communications with the university. Check your email at least once a week over the summer for valuable information.

5 Submit your FAFSA — Panther Excellence Program students are required to complete a 2016-2017 FAFSA. Apply early. Visit sfs.gsu.edu/applying-for-aid to get more information.

6 Register for the Panther Excellence Program Incept — Incept is our uncommon name for orientation, where you'll learn everything else you need to know about your transition to Georgia State, make new friends and get ready to blaze your own trail in Atlanta.

7 Sign up for math and/or chemistry placement tests — If testing is required for your major, you'll be notified by email. Visit incept.gsu.edu/placement-exams for more information. You should complete any placement exams prior to attending Incept.

8 Submit your immunization records — Turn in proof of your immunizations to the Student Health Clinic before registering for classes. For submission information, visit health.gsu.edu/immunization-information.

9 Verify your citizenship — The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia requires all students applying to Georgia State to provide verification of their legal presence in the United States before their admission can be finalized. Submit your documents to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and you'll be all set. If you have any questions, head to admissions.gsu.edu/lawful-presence.

10 Send your final high school transcripts — You can ask your high school counselor to submit transcripts electronically through the Common Application or GACollege411 or by mail to:

THE OFFICE OF
UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
Georgia State University
P.O. Box 4009
Atlanta, GA 30302-4009

incept

Get to know us better at our new student orientation

You're driven to earn much more than a degree. For you, it's about blazing your own trail. You're seeking the uncommon path, and you're ready to conquer it. Georgia State is the first step in your journey, and we're here to help you navigate through this new chapter with **Incept**, our new student orientation.

At Incept, you'll:

- Explore campus life, student activities and downtown Atlanta
- Learn the basics about various departments and degree programs
- Receive your PantherCard
- Meet new classmates, faculty and staff
- Learn more about enrollment and financial aid
- Receive academic advisement and register for classes

Incept allows you to discover the unique world of Georgia State, and you'll leave prepared to make the most of your time here inside and outside the classroom. It's required for all Panther Excellence Program participants, so here's how to register:

1 Log in to PAWS with your new Campus ID and password. Under the *Enrollment* tab, look for the **New Student** menu in the middle column.

2 Register for math and chemistry placement tests (if needed) by clicking on each link individually.

3 Choose *Incept: New Student Orientation*, and review each link. When you're finished, click the link to complete your registration. One Incept session has been reserved for Panther Excellence Program students:
Friday, July 1, 2016

First day of classes: **Monday, August 22**

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Learn more at incept.gsu.edu

EXPERIENCING GEORGIA STATE

We asked four students for their thoughts on Georgia State. Here are their responses.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE GEORGIA STATE?

Anthony: It wasn't hard choosing Georgia State. It's in a major city, has people from all walks of life, and has everything I've ever wanted from a college—affordability, opportunity and a social life where I can fit in by being me.

Brian: I'm originally from New York, so an urban campus was very appealing to a city kid like me. It was also close to everything like home and work, so it was definitely a win-win.

Cody: I knew all through high school I wanted to go to college in the city. When I visited Georgia State, I felt at home. The campus had a certain energy about it that drew me.

Dee: I chose Georgia State because I fell in love with the people and opportunities on campus. I could pair my foreign language interests with international business while also pursuing a minor in hospitality. Georgia State fits my interests and who I am as an individual.



Anthony Nguyen

CLASS OF 2018 | BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Brian Gil

CLASS OF 2016 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE



WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPOT ON CAMPUS?

Anthony: Library South, the Student Government Association and anything with a view of the city. I love being able to look out the window and admire the atmosphere of Atlanta.

Cody: I like the wooden swings behind the Student Center when I need some peace and quiet, but my favorite place is Library Plaza because I can always count on seeing my friends there.

Dee: Centennial Hall. Whether I'm in the Honors College kitchen, chilling on the couches in the lobby or visiting my coworkers in the Welcome Center, this building is my home away from home. I am most productive sitting on the floor in a corner of the lobby where the walls are made of glass. The great lighting and beautiful landscape inspire me when I hit a mental block.

DO YOU BELONG TO ANY CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS?

Brian: I helped start the largest Latino fraternity on campus called La Unidad Latina Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity, Inc. I'm also a scholarship cadet with the Army ROTC, a tour guide with the Welcome Center and a volunteer at the Latin American Student Association.

Cody: I'm a presidential ambassador in The 1913 Society. I also serve as treasurer on the Infinite Appeal executive board. In the past, I have participated in intramural sports such as soccer, dodgeball and flag football.

WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO HANG OUT IN ATLANTA?

Brian: The city is my stomping ground. I love every inch of it. However, if I had to pick one particular area, I'd go with Midtown.

Cody: Any concert venue. The music scene in Atlanta is growing every day so much that it has become a part of me.

Dee: Around Ponce de Leon Avenue right along the Beltline and near Piedmont Park. I love all of the cute restaurants and shops there.



Cody Stapleton

CLASS OF 2016 | ACTUARIAL SCIENCE



Dee Parker

CLASS OF 2017 | SPANISH AND INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS



DISCOVER A CAMPUS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES

With a campus in the heart of downtown Atlanta, Georgia State is where the conventional and the unconventional come together. Here, you'll define your own success and get the best of both worlds as you take advantage of the city's attractions, most of which are within walking distance of campus or just a short MARTA ride away.

LIVE IN LUXURY HOUSING WITH AMAZING VIEWS

With the best parts of city life close to campus, you'll be in the center of everything, experiencing it all with your classmates and friends.

On-campus housing is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve your space, please submit your housing application and deposit at myhousing.gsu.edu as soon as possible.

Panther Excellence Housing Options

- Patton Hall — Traditional suite-style housing for 325 freshmen
- Piedmont North — Two-building complex housing 1,100 students
- University Commons — Two- and four-bedroom apartments for 2,000 students
(for freshmen in the Honors College or Living-Learning Communities only)
- New Freshman Residence Hall – Two-bedroom apartments for 1,100 students (opening fall 2016)

Living-Learning Communities

Register for one of our Living-Learning Community, and live on the same floor with other students who share your interests. Living-Learning Community students get to participate in programs unique to their areas of study while building friendships with their hallmates. For details, visit myhousing.gsu.edu/living-learning-communities.

GET AROUND CAMPUS WITH EASE

Car: Yes, freshmen are allowed to have cars on campus. Commuting students and residents can park in covered lots around campus, as well as lots at Turner Field, home of the Atlanta Braves.

Public Transit: MARTA – Atlanta's rail and bus system – is one of the best ways to get around the city. There are three stations close to campus, and we even offer discounted MARTA cards.

Panther Express: Our shuttle has daily routes with stops at off-campus parking lots, student residences and several other spots around campus.

EAT WELL ON A STUDENT BUDGET

Diversity at Georgia State isn't just about our student population. It's also about great food.

Our affordable meal plans provide everything from cheesesteaks to sushi while more than 300 restaurants featuring cuisine from every corner of the globe pepper the streets of downtown.

dining.gsu.edu



THERE'S VALUE IN NUMBERS

We know paying for college can seem overwhelming, but Georgia State is dedicated to providing the financial aid tools and resources you need to help make your dreams a reality. In fact, over 92% of Georgia State students receive some form of tuition assistance based on financial need, academic merit or both.

It Starts With FAFSA

FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. FAFSA will help determine what financial aid options you may be eligible for, whether the HOPE Scholarship, grants, loans or student work programs. Deadlines are very crucial, so don't delay.

Panther Excellence Program students need to complete the 2016-2017 FAFSA. To submit your FAFSA, go to fafsa.ed.gov.

- 1 Submit the FAFSA at fafsa.ed.gov starting in January.
- 2 Submit verification documents if needed.
- 3 Check PAWS and email account for award notice.
- 4 Complete Master Promissory Note.
- 5 Complete online Entrance Loan Counseling.

Priority Deadline

April 1 (fall semester)





Get Help with HOPE

The HOPE Scholarship is available to students who have graduated from a Georgia high school as a HOPE Scholar and are seeking their first undergraduate degree. HOPE pays 81.68% of tuition for students who have a 3.0 core high school GPA and maintain a 3.0 college GPA.

The HOPE Scholarship does not cover fees and books. For more information about the HOPE Scholarship, visit gacollege411.org.

Pay with Ease and Convenience

We offer several billing options and financial services to make paying for your student's education easy.

PantherPay is Georgia State's web-based billing and payment system that students and parents can use to pay for tuition and fees not covered by financial aid. PantherPay accepts electronic checks and credit cards. sfs.gsu.edu/pantherpay

The Georgia State Payment Plan allows students to defer payment for up to 50% of the current term's tuition and fees or 50% of their account balance — whichever is less. sfs.gsu.edu/georgia-state-payment-plan

Even More Ways to Save

Once you've completed your FAFSA, you may be eligible for the following:

Pell Grants

- Availability limited to students working toward their first bachelor's degree
- Eligibility and award amount determined by the student's Expected Family Contribution and enrollment status each semester

Loans

There are three different types of loans to choose from:

- Federal Subsidized Loan
- Federal Unsubsidized Loan
- Federal Plus Loan

Student Employment Programs

- Provide jobs to undergraduate and graduate students with financial need
- Allow you to earn money for education expenses
- Encourage community service and work related to your course of study

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To learn more about Georgia State's financial assistance offerings, visit sfs.gsu.edu/applying-for-aid.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

You've taken the first steps towards fulfilling your uncommon future, but there is still a lot of work to be done. Stay on the lookout for emails from Georgia State letting you know where we go from here. In the meantime, work through these important items on this checklist to keep the momentum moving.

- ☐ *Fill out your Intent to Enroll form at success.students.gsu.edu/pep-intent-to-enroll.*
- ☐ *Set up your Campus ID for access to your PAWS Account and PantherMail.*
- ☐ *Complete your FAFSA for 2016-2017.*
- ☐ *Submit your Housing application for fall 2016.*
- ☐ *Sign up to attend the Panther Excellence Program Reception.*
- ☐ *Register for the PEP Incept, our new student orientation.*
- ☐ *Sign up for placement exams if you're required to do so.*
- ☐ *Verify your citizenship.*
- ☐ *Turn in your immunization records to the Student Health Clinic.*
- ☐ *Send your final high school transcript to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.*





LET'S MEET FACE TO FACE

*Here's where you
can find us:*

GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY
WELCOME CENTER
100 Auburn Ave NE, 1st Floor
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-413-2063
Email: tourguide@gsu.edu
Web: welcome.gsu.edu

Contact Information

ADMISSIONS

Sparks Hall, Room 200
33 Gilmer Street SE
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Phone: 404-413-2032
Email: pantherexcellence@gsu.edu
Web: [success.students.gsu.edu/
panther-excellence](http://success.students.gsu.edu/panther-excellence)

FINANCIAL AID


Sparks Hall, Rooms 227/228
33 Gilmer Street SE
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-413-2600
TTY: 404-413-2281
(Hearing-impaired students only)
Web: sfs.gsu.edu

UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

25 Park Place NE
Suite 1400
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-413-2052
Web: success.students.gsu.edu

UNIVERSITY HOUSING

75 Piedmont Avenue NE
Suite 110
Atlanta, GA 30303
Phone: 404-413-1800
Email: housing@gsu.edu
Web: myhousing.gsu.edu



Campus looks even better in person.
Join us for an Information Session to
learn more about everything Georgia
State has to offer. Schedule a visit at
welcome.gsu.edu/campus-visits, and keep
tabs on your incoming email. Registration
information for our Panther Excellence
Program reception will be arriving soon.

Panther Excellence Program Reception
Wednesday, April 27, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

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 [@GeorgiaStateU](https://twitter.com/GeorgiaStateU)

 [@georgiastateuniversity](https://www.instagram.com/georgiastateuniversity)

 gsustatement.wordpress.com

