



## Postsecondary Sustainability Award Nominee Presentation Form

### ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

#### College or University Certifications

The signature of college or university President (or equivalent) on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the institution’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority’s jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the college or university concluding that the nominated college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the college or university has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution’s equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings by Federal Student Aid of violations in respect to the administration of Title IV student aid funds.
6. The college or university is in good standing with its regional or national accreditor.
7. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

### U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability Award

Public 4-Year     Public 2-Year     Private Non-Profit

Name of President/Chancellor: Dr. Steve M. Dorman  
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official College or University Name: Georgia College & State University  
(As it should appear on an award)

College or University Street  
Mailing Address: 231 W Hancock St, Milledgeville, GA 31061  
(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Baldwin    IPEDS Number\*: 139861

Telephone: 478-445-4444    Fax: 478-445-2510

Web site/URL: <http://www.gcsu.edu>    E-mail: [president@gcsu.edu](mailto:president@gcsu.edu)

\*Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Steve M. Dorman  
(President’s/Chancellor’s Signature)



**Nominating Authority’s Certifications**

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the college or university’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority’s knowledge.

1. The college or university has been evaluated and selected from among institutions within the Nominating Authority’s jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The college or university meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: Georgia College & State University - Office of Sustainability

Name of Nominating Authority: Ms. Lori Strawder  
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Date: 2.4.19

(Nominating Authority’s Signature)

**SUBMISSION**

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509  
Expiration Date: March 31, 2021

**Public Burden Statement**

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

**US Department of Education – Green Ribbon Schools Award Nomination**  
**Georgia College & State University**  
**Summary Narrative – Nomination Packet**

Georgia College & State University (GC) is committed to the stewardship of energy and material resources and exploring ways to enhance the sustainability of the campus and community. In doing so, GC has implemented initiatives, projects, and procedures that promote achievement toward this effort.

The Office of Sustainability (OOS) is responsible for the campus sustainability initiatives, promoting education & outreach and offering opportunities for paid/unpaid internships, volunteering, service learning and community service. The OOS has provided over 30 internships with over 10,000 hours of service. The Internship program provides opportunities for experiential learning, leadership and professional development while making a positive and tangible impact within the campus community. Partners of sustainability include the Sustainability Council, the Sustainability Fee Program (SFP), the Campus Kitchen at Georgia College (CKGCSU), the Gardening Club and the Environmental Science Club.

Through the Georgia Power Energy Efficiency Incentive Rebate Program, 42 projects have resulted in over \$200,000.00 in rebate awards and saving 3 million kilowatts per hour (kWh). Projects include LED conversions, reflective roof installations, heating and air optimization as well as occupancy sensor installations. LED conversions contributed to a savings of over 2 million kWh. These installations have continued in an effort to have 100% of the entire campus in LEDs by the year 2020.

Through the SFP, competitive grants are available to current GC undergraduate and graduate students to implement projects that advance sustainability through education, research, service and campus operations. Successful projects have addressed waste reduction, responsible use of resources, educating the campus community, addressing behavior change and providing research data. The program has provided over \$600,000 to fund 106 student led-projects, which include, but are not limited to:

A rooftop solar array, installed in 2016, generates 4 kWh to the existing building. Retrofitting electric golf carts for solar is another project. Other ideas are being developed with discussions on the possibility of a 20 kWh array installation. The Recycling Initiative, which began in 2013, with a recycling rate at 3% (3 tons), has seen a slow increase to 23% (47 tons). Efforts divert plastics #1 & #2, paper, paperboard, cardboard, and metal cans from the landfill. In 2011, refill retrofit kits were added to water fountains with 14 Brita filters and 11 hydration stations to allow refilling of reusable bottles and glass containers. 2,500 reusable bottles were distributed to campus and their use is continually encouraged. The campus community garden, established in 2016, provides a place where students, faculty and staff and community can interact, learn about gardening, harvest produce and/or simply relax. For 20+ years, lawn material collected, has been used for compost and returned to the grounds/landscape on campus. In 2016, the Compost Program began processing post-consumer food waste from the dining hall into usable compost. The compost is made available for the campus garden and grounds/landscaping. Within the last year, Compost Interns converted 20,000 pounds of food waste reducing landfill costs.

CKGCSU, launched in 2018, recovers food designated for disposal and contributes it as a supplement to meals provided to those in need. The Life Enrichment Center, a private non-profit supporting intellectually challenged individuals, is the current CKGCSU community partner with more partners to come in the next year. Combining the efforts of the compost program with CKGCSU, GC expects to reduce food waste to the landfill by 50%.

A Sustainability Certificate, implemented fall 2017, provides students the ability to describe the global manifestations of sustainability across culturally diverse regions; examine specific applications of social, environmental, and economic policies and their impacts on human societies; model the world, including ecosystems, economic systems, and socio-political systems; evaluate individual and collective lifestyle impacts and identify political and ethical variations; characterize energy and material systematics from physical, ethical, and economic viewpoints; assess campus and community sustainability strategies and actions; describe issues of sustainability within the geographies of contested spaces; explore the campus and community through service learning and community outreach; and demonstrate and advocate environmental responsibility in a human context.

Programs exist for faculty, staff and students to promote healthier choices and wellbeing, which include but are not limited to:

Gaining the 2015 Bronze level, Bicycle Friendly University award, GC provides bike stations and shuttles with bike racks. Shuttle services and TapRide (similar to Uber) accommodate residents and commuters to on-campus facilities and off-campus conveniences, such as, the Green Farmer's Market, Walmart, Kroger and the Mall for shopping and food needs. The Wellness & Recreation Center, a LEED Silver certified building, is home to resources for students to get fit or stay in shape with a walking track, basketball courts, exercise equipment, climbing wall and an indoor pool. GC's Continuing Education Office also offers programs encouraging exercise from a variety of dance classes to yoga. The Puppy Time Program is available to students during finals week, in which, students are able to distress by interacting with puppies on campus.

Since 2009, Live Healthy Baldwin, GC being the lead agency, is a community-wide initiative, with a goal of reversing the childhood obesity epidemic. Their purpose is to increase opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity by providing access to healthy and affordable foods and bicycles for children. Off-campus programs have been developed with community partners such as local farms, the Harrisburg Community Garden, the Life Enrichment Center, the Boys & Girls Club and Milledgeville Cares to encourage engagement of students, faculty and staff with the community.

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety and Fire Safety (EHS&FS) is the point of contact for all environmental health and safety compliance issues. For indoor air quality, the application of chemicals is kept to a minimum through an Integrated Pest Management Plan. A local pest control partner treats each building as-needed instead of multiple times a year. As a conditionally exempt small quantity generator, GC manages universal waste through proper disposal of pesticides and recycling of used oil, mercury containing lamps and equipment, batteries, and non-PCB containing ballasts eliminating this waste from the landfill.

The EHS&FS developed an internship program using the knowledge gained within the Environmental Science degree program, in a real world application concerning regulatory compliance with the rules and standards. Training and a state license is provided to senior level students in the field of Erosion and Sediment Control.

Social Media presence for sustainability include:

<https://www.facebook.com/GCgogreen/>  
<http://www.gcsu.edu/green>  
<https://gogreen.wordpress.com/>  
[https://twitter.com/GC\\_Go\\_Green](https://twitter.com/GC_Go_Green)  
[https://www.instagram.com/gc\\_go\\_green/](https://www.instagram.com/gc_go_green/)



## Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



Thank you for your interest in completing this application for nomination to U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools (ED-GRS). You will need to collect data about your college or university's facility, health, physical education and safety policies; food service; and environmental and sustainability curriculum. It might be helpful to assemble a team to complete the application. This team might include: a facilities manager, physical education director, food services director, curriculum director, finance department representatives, faculty, and students.

You should consult the Green Strides [Resources Page](#) and [Webinar Series](#) for standards, programs and grants related to each Pillar, Element and question. We are particularly interested in how your efforts to go green have reduced tuition costs, increased retention and/or completion rates, and led to robust civic skills among graduates.

Becoming a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School is a two-step process. The first step is to complete and submit this form to be selected as a nominee. If your institution is selected as a nominee, the second step of the process requires signatures for the Nomination Presentation Form that will be sent to the U.S. Department of Education (ED) along with your application.

ED selects honorees from those presented by eligible nominating authorities nationwide. Selection will be based on documentation of the applicant's high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars:

**Pillar I: Reduce environmental impact and costs.**

**Pillar II: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff.**

**Pillar III: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.**

**Applications are due by Jan 15, 2019 to [sheres.johnson@usg.edu](mailto:sheres.johnson@usg.edu).** The nominated institution will be notified by January 31, 2019.

### Contact Information:

College/University Name: Georgia College & State University

Street Address: 231 W Hancock St

City: Milledgeville State: GA Zip: 31061

Lead Applicant Name: Lori Strawder

Lead Applicant Email: [lori.strawder@gcsu.edu](mailto:lori.strawder@gcsu.edu) Phone Number: 478.445.7016

1. Is your college or university participating in a local, state or national program which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

(X) Yes ( ) No Program(s) and level(s) achieved:

Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE) Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) – Bronze Level,  
Georgia Power Energy Efficiency Incentives Rebate Program – 2013-2018 – 45 projects –  
2,531,790.83 kwh saved,



# Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



National Campus Safety Summit – Safe Campuses 2016 – Ranked #17,  
Safe Campuses for Women – 2015 – campuscircle.com – Ranked #2,  
Auxiliary Services Conference of Georgia

2. Has your college or university received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

(X) Yes ( ) No Award(s) and year(s)

Sustainability Award for Environmental Stewardship, 2016,  
AASHE STARS – Bronze, 2016-2018,  
BFU – Bronze, 2015-2018,  
LEED - Wellness and Recreation Center – Silver, 2012 ,  
LEED - Ennis Hall – Silver, 2013,  
Georgia’s Energy Challenge, 2013,  
Chancellor’s Service Excellence Awards for Public Safety – 2015 – Bronze, Outstanding Process Improvement,  
Increase Services to Students Award – No Bobcat Left Behind Initiative – 2015  
Tree Campus USA, 2016

**Summary Narrative:** Provide a narrative describing your institution’s efforts to reduce environmental impact and costs; improve student and staff health; and provide effective environmental and sustainability education. Focus on unique and innovative, yet replicable, practices and partnerships. Be sure to cover every ED-GRS Pillar and Element.

## **Summary Narrative – GC**

Georgia College & State University (GC) has committed to the stewardship of energy and material resources and exploring ways to enhance the sustainability of the campus and community. In doing so, GC has implemented initiatives, projects, and policies that promote achievement in all three of the ED-GRS Pillars.

### *Reduce Environmental Impact and Cost*

GC has focused efforts on energy efficiency and waste reduction. Energy efficiency measures, which have been implemented and planned for the future, include LED conversions, low-flow fixture and solar panel installations. Waste improvement efforts include the commencement of a Recycling Initiative in 2013 and a Compost Program in 2016. In addition, efforts have involved installing hydration stations, providing reusable water bottles to campus, and managing all hazardous and universal waste in accordance with local, state, and federal regulations. While GC has many stakeholders engaged in these efforts on campus, a number of them have been funded through the Sustainability Fee Program, a student activity fee, thus providing a valuable research outlet for students.

### *Improve Student and Staff Health*

GC strives to reduce exposures to potential health hazards as well as promote healthy living throughout campus. Notably, GC works to reduce the application of chemicals to our facilities through the Integrated Pest Management Plan and also addresses every complaint and concern over indoor air quality through



# Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



the Office of Environmental Health & Safety and Fire Safety. GC encourages the use of alternative transportation with shuttle services and TapRide (similar to Uber) accommodations; partners with Sodexo, a champion of sustainability and healthy choices to provide dining services; and provides a LEED Silver certified Wellness and Recreation Center. In addition, many other on-campus programs, such as gardening, intramural sports, and community engagement activities provide further enrichment for faculty, staff and students.

## *Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education*

To provide effective environmental and sustainability education, GC's curriculum offers several courses with a sustainability component. A Sustainability Certificate was implemented and was effective beginning fall 2017. To promote education and outreach of campus sustainability initiatives, GC's Office of Sustainability is housed within the Facilities Department and offers many opportunities for engagement such as paid/unpaid internships as well as volunteer, service learning and community service opportunities. The Office of Environmental Health & Safety and Fire Safety provides a point of contact for all environmental health and safety compliance issues, as well as an internship program and student and staff training.

GC is proud of the work already accomplished to become a greener campus and will continue to strive to be a leader in sustainability in the future.

## **Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs**

*Narrative:* Describe how your college or university is reducing environmental impact and costs by reducing or eliminating greenhouse gas emissions; improving water quality, efficiency, and conservation; reducing waste production; and using alternative transportation. Identify your institution's energy-efficient facilities and practices, ecologically beneficial uses of grounds, and methods of disposal for solid and hazardous wastes.

### **Environmental Impact and Costs at GC**

GC is leading the way in sustainability with initiatives in energy efficiency and waste reduction. Most of the projects developed and implemented with GC's Office of Sustainability are student driven/led projects funded through the Sustainability Fee Program, a student activity fee. These projects are encouraged to have a research component and can be used as class credit. Primary initiatives of focus include LED conversions, solar installation, electric vehicle charging, hydration station installation as well as recycling, composting and gardening. Through the effective planning by the Departments of Facilities Planning and Facilities Operations, energy efficiency implementations began long before GC developed an Office of Sustainability.

#### *Energy Efficiency*

The Office of Sustainability, in taking advantage of the Georgia Power Energy Efficiency Incentive Rebate Program, has successfully completed applications for forty (40) LED conversion projects resulting in over 2 million kilowatts per hour saved. GC has continued installation of LED lights across campus in an effort to have 100% of the entire campus, including parking lots, with LED lights by the year 2020. In addition to energy efficiency, GC has implemented a solar project, involving the installation of a rooftop



## Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



solar array generating 4 kilowatts per hour to an existing building. Other solar project ideas are being developed in order to be implemented in the next few years. Discussions continue on the possibility of a 20 kilowatt per hour array installation. In keeping with the energy efficiency strategy, GC has and will continue to install low-flow fixtures in restrooms and kitchen or lounge areas, thereby reducing water consumption.

### Waste Improvement Program

Waste reduction is a process of constant change, research, education and reeducation to determine best practices. As stated previously, the largest initiatives in this area are recycling and composting. A large push for the Recycling Initiative began in 2013 with a campus-wide recycling program, which had never been attempted prior. Through trial and error, the program, recycling at 1%, has seen a slow increase in the recycling rate, now at 11 tons, an increase from the prior years' 3 tons. Recycling diverts plastics #1 and #2, paper, paperboard, cardboard, and metal cans from the landfill. In an effort to reduce plastic bottles to the landfill, refill retrofit kits were added to water fountains to allow for filling of reusable bottles and glass containers. In addition, 14 Brita hydration water stations have been placed throughout campus. Along with the refill stations and kits, 2,500 reusable bottles were distributed to campus and are continually encouraged.

Additionally, GC has made every attempt to consolidate residential waste stream and eliminate the need for an overabundance of industrial style roll-off containers. In 2017, GC accomplished this by converting five (5) 40 yard open top roll-off containers to two (2) 35 yard compactors. This has allowed GC to decrease the number of pickups from 6 to 1 pickup per container per week. With this reduction of pickups, GC has been able to see a 20% savings from the previous 4 years. In addition to the savings, the reduction in pickups has allowed GC to reduce the overall carbon footprint by compressing the amount of waste that leaves campus.

### Compost Program

During the 2016 fall semester, the Office of Sustainability began a compost program, processing all post-consumer food waste into usable compost. Food waste compost is currently used in the campus garden and is planned for future use for the campus grounds and landscaping materials. All efforts will reduce costs for hauling and disposal fees paid to the service provider. In spring of 2017 and fall of 2018, the student led compost initiative converted 20,000 pounds of food waste into compost. Composting is no stranger to the campus and has been in place with grounds and landscaping for 20+ years. All of the lawn materials collected during cleanup are used for compost, which is returned to the grounds and campus landscape. Combining the efforts of the compost program with the establishment of a Campus Kitchen as of fall semester 2018, GC expects to reduce food waste to the landfill by 50%. The Campus Kitchen at Georgia College (CKGCSU) recovers perfectly edible, leftover food that is designated for disposal and contributes it as a supplement to meals provided to those in need to a local community partner. The Life Enrichment Center, a private non-profit which provides support to individuals that are intellectually challenged, is the current CKGCSU community partner. CKGCSU has plans in the next year to expand operations to include other local community partners.





# Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



## Hazardous and Universal Waste

In addition to the reduction of our solid waste through the recycling and composting efforts, GC manages its hazardous and universal wastes in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations. As part of complying with these regulations, annual training is completed by all affected employees. This training is in accordance with Georgia's "Public Employee Hazardous Chemical Protection and Right to Know Act of 1988" (O.C.G.A. 45-22-2) and with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard (HCS). The OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) is now aligned with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS). The updated Hazard Communication Standard provides a clear method to classifying and communicating the hazardous information on labels and safety data sheets. GC also strives to maintain a comprehensive chemical inventory through the use of MSDS online, an online database system that provides all pertinent information for any chemical that is within the University's inventory. GC is classified as a conditionally exempt small quantity generator and manages its universal waste through proper disposal of pesticides and recycling of used oil, mercury containing lamps and equipment, and batteries as well as non-PCB containing ballasts. With the recent conversion to LED lights, the amount of Universal Waste has been reduced due to the elimination of ballasts used in florescent lights and batteries used for exit lighting.

## **Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students, faculty, and staff**

*Narrative:* Describe how your college or university improves the health and wellness of students, faculty and staff by integrating a campus-wide environmental health program and promoting sound health and wellness practices. You should discuss integrated pest management, contaminant controls and ventilation, asthma controls, indoor air quality, moisture control, and chemical management. Address the amount and type of outdoor time that your students and staff have, as well as the types of fresh, local, and organic food that they eat. Other components you may want to include are: health education, health services, counseling, psychological and social services, staff health promotion and family and community involvement.

### **Improved Health and Wellness at GC**

At GC, students, faculty, and staff are the most valuable resources. The campus strives to provide a safe and healthy environment of everyone within our facilities; and the health of all occupants of the campus is equally as important as cost savings and environmental concerns.

### **Indoor Air Quality**

One way to achieve this is by reducing the number of applications of chemicals to campus facilities. This is kept to a minimum through an Integrated Pest Management Plan. GC works with a local pest control company to treat each building on an as-needed basis instead of applying large amounts of chemicals multiple times a year. Another example is by addressing every indoor air quality concern brought by each individual. When complaints or concerns are voiced, the Office of Environmental Health & Safety and Fire Safety (Office of EHS&FS) is notified and reviews complaints using recommendations from the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH), the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the American Society of Heating and Refrigerating, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). If issues are identified that would impair indoor air quality, GC takes the steps to correct them in a timely manner,



# Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



whether it's through changes of processes, cleaning and disinfecting, or the remediation of the space to remove potential contaminants.

## *Healthy Options*

The main campus is in downtown Milledgeville, GA, within walking distance of most conveniences allowing for students to walk from resident halls to classes should they choose. The campus also accommodates commuters with parking areas as well as encouragement for riding bikes around campus. In 2015, GC was designated as a Bicycle Friendly University at the Bronze level. Efforts to reach this level included providing bike stations and shuttles with bike racks. Shuttle services accommodate campus residents and commuters to on-campus facilities as well as off-campus conveniences, such as, to the local Green Farmer's Market, Walmart, Kroger and the Mall for shopping and food needs. Sodexo provides dining services for the campus and is a champion of healthy choices when providing nutritious foods for diners. As mentioned previously, gardening is yet another initiative which the Office of Sustainability takes great pride in. GC has a community garden, where students can interact, learn about gardening, share in the garden harvest and simply relax.

In addition to riding bikes to class, other means of exercise are greatly encouraged with the usual sports and an extensive intramurals program provided by GC. GC's Continuing Education program also offers programs encouraging exercise from a variety of dance classes to yoga. During finals week, students are able to distress by interacting with puppies brought to campus by the new puppy time program. The Wellness and Recreation Center, a LEED Silver certified building, is home to resources for students to get fit or stay in shape with a walking track, basketball courts, exercise equipment, climbing wall and an indoor pool.

Georgia College is the lead agency for Live Healthy Baldwin. Live Healthy Baldwin is a community-wide initiative whose goal is reversing the childhood obesity epidemic among at-risk children. The purpose of the project is to increase opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity by providing the Baldwin County area with access to healthy and affordable foods, along with developing a community that is supportive of forms of active transportation, such as bicycles.

Live Healthy Baldwin was created in 2009 and was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the country's largest foundation supporting improvement of the health and healthcare of all Americans until December, 2013. Support now comes from the Healthcare Georgia Foundation.

## *Additional Services*

The Wellness and Recreation Center is also the location for Student Health Services providing students a place where medical needs are met. Students are provided additional services through various on-campus departments such as Disability Services, Counseling Services and the Women's Center. Community engagement is also encouraged with opportunities for students at local farms, Habitat for Humanities, the local Harrisburg Community Garden, the Life Enrichment Center, the Boys and Girls Club and various other community based organizations.



# Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



## **Pillar 3: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education**

*Narrative:* Describe how your college or university provides effective environmental and sustainability education by incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways. Provide examples of interdisciplinary learning about the key relationships between dynamic environmental, energy, and human systems. Demonstrate how your institution uses the environment and sustainability to develop STEM content, knowledge, and thinking skills. You should also discuss how your institution develops and applies civic knowledge and skills to environmental and sustainability education.

### **Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education at GC**

#### *Office of Sustainability*

The Office of Sustainability houses the campus sustainability initiatives and promotes education and outreach of those initiatives to the campus community. Sustainability is the responsibility of the entire campus led by the Chief Sustainability Officer and the Sustainability Assistant. Efforts are promoted with the assistance of several faculty, staff and students as well as organizations such as the Sustainability Council, the Sustainability Fee Program, Shades of Green, CKGCSU, the Gardening Club and the Environmental Science Club. The Office of Sustainability employs student assistants, offers paid/unpaid internships as well as volunteer, service learning and community service opportunities.

#### *Office of Sustainability Internship Program*

The Internship program provides opportunities for experiential learning, leadership and professional development while making a positive and tangible impact within the campus community. To date, the Office of Sustainability has provided over 30 internship opportunities to students for a total of 10,000 hours of service. Opportunities for interns include research, processing data for energy usage, recycling collection and compost processing as well as gardening. Interns work, mostly, in teams and have opportunities to lead teams on specific initiatives.

#### *Sustainability Fee Program*

Funded by student activity fees, competitive grants are available to current GC undergraduate and graduate students to initiate projects that advance sustainability through education, research, service and campus operations. Successful projects are given consideration in addressing waste reduction, responsible use of resources, educating the campus community, addressing behavior change and providing research data for future use. To date, the program has provided over \$600,000 to fund 104 student led-projects, several of which have become ongoing operational programs, such as recycling, gardening and composting.

#### *Sustainability Certificate at GC*

The curriculum on campus offers several courses with a sustainability component in areas across the board from Marketing to Education. Recently, through the efforts of GC's Sustainability Council, a Sustainability Certificate was implemented effective fall 2017. The certificate is designed to provide students with the ability to describe the global manifestations of sustainability across culturally diverse regions; examine specific applications of social, environmental, and economic policies and their impacts



## Application for University System of Georgia Institutions



on human societies; model the world, including ecosystems, economic systems, and socio-political systems; evaluate individual and collective lifestyle impacts and identify political and ethical variations; characterize energy and material systematics from physical, ethical, and economic viewpoints; assess campus and community sustainability strategies and actions; describe issues of sustainability within the geographies of contested spaces; explore the campus and community through service learning and community outreach, while examining the institution as a potential living learning laboratory for sustainability; and demonstrate and advocate environmental responsibility in a human context.

### *Environmental Health & Safety*

The Office of Environmental Health & Safety and Fire Safety (Office of EHS&FS) is the point of contact for all environmental health and safety compliance issues. With that being said, efforts have been made to work with GC's Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences and the Department of Chemistry and Physics to develop an internship program. This program is a tool which works with students for a career in the field of Environmental Health & Safety. The program focuses on using the knowledge gained within the Environmental Science degree program and converting it into a real world application concerning regulatory compliance with the rules and standards that govern Environmental Health & Safety. Students in the program are given a wide variety of responsibilities including:

- Assessment of indoor air quality conditions with the use of advanced monitoring equipment.
- Review of the regulations and determining the process of the proper disposal of bio-hazardous, hazardous, and universal wastes.
- Review and determine compliance with the Right to Know Act by ensuring training is completed and SDSs are readily available to staff. Compliance is maintained through the use of an online database (MSDS online).
- Periodic reviews of the Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan to determine compliance with 40 CFR 112, Oil Pollution Prevention.
- Develop an understanding and knowledge base of industry standards such as the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, and the American Section of the International Association for Testing Materials (ASTM) standards.
- Acquire the ability to evaluate facilities for compliance in relation to state and federal environmental regulations.

In addition to the internship program, The Office of EHS&FS provides training to senior level students in the field of Erosion and Sediment Control. This training provides students with a state license they can take after graduation. This license is a tool that helps them identify environmental concerns on construction sites that could contribute to water quality degradation.