

NOTE: An acknowledgement form will be forthcoming related to best practices in reducing the spread of Covid-19. Please watch your @bobcats.gcsu.edu issued email for more detailed information.

Welcome to campus living at Georgia College! We are looking forward to seeing you and we can't wait to get to know you as we restart face-to-face instruction for the fall semester.

We apologize for the delay in our communication on housing assignments and move-in details. Please know that we share in your justified frustration. The current COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving and will require patience and mental agility from all of us. We certainly appreciate the anxieties that many of you have, and we know that this fall will look and feel somewhat different from what we have experienced in the past. However, we hope that you take comfort knowing that the faculty and staff at Georgia College across all areas of our campus are deeply committed to providing you with an outstanding college experience. While living on-campus, you can expect the highest standards in a supportive environment throughout our residence halls. *We truly are all in it together!*

As a liberal arts institution, the residential experience is central in providing students with active engagement on campus and a successful transition to collegiate life. While we are committed to helping to keep our students safe, we are also committed to providing them with transition and social programming in order to connect them to each other and to Georgia College. For example, although common areas in the residence halls will be closed, the residence life staff will be working to develop communities within each floor of the residence hall both through virtual interaction and through safe social distancing programs adjacent to the residence halls.

Outside of the residence hall experience, students will still be connected with over 150 active clubs and organizations. We are currently in the process of training our student leaders how to both engage students virtually and how to sponsor events with safe social distancing guidelines in place. In addition, numerous campus life departments are diligently working to put together a comprehensive slate of engagement opportunities and experiences to connect students with each other and to the co-curricular experience.

This year, more than ever, it is going to be important to live by GC's guiding principles of **Reason**, **Respect** and **Responsibility**. The most important lesson we have all learned over the last few months of coronavirus is nothing makes a more positive difference than personal behavior and responsibility. We believe we have a responsibility to provide you with a safe and healthy environment to pursue your academic dreams.

Likewise, you have a responsibility to those **who** work at GC, the greater Milledgeville community and your fellow students to protect their health and safety. The CDC has recommended the use of face masks as an important mitigation strategy. Even though you may not feel vulnerable yourself, I hope that you will respect the health and safety of others and follow these basic guidelines.

In this letter, we outline what to bring and some of the precautions that we know can mitigate and help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Wearing masks indoors and in any close-quarters reduces viral transmission dramatically. Combined with rigorous hygiene and prudent social distancing, when worn properly facial masks can provide more protection than extra disinfecting, plexiglass-barriers, HVAC improvements and other measures we could implement.

While we strongly encourage all residents to wear masks that cover your nose and mouth when outside your assigned room, it will be up to room/suite mates to agree upon acceptable safety measures within their assigned spaces.

Per University System of Georgia (USG) guidelines, ***“Residence hall rooms will be viewed as a shared residence within each room or suite, similar to a family’s shared residence in that social distancing practices are not expected within the room or suite. As such, it is the responsibility of the residential students to adhere to appropriate behaviors related to the prevention of COVID-19, including the cleaning of their room or suite.”***

Since Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is in high demand and in some places short supply, it’s not too early to prepare items for when you arrive to campus. These items would include: ample supply of washable or disposable facemasks, thermometer, pocket-size sanitizers, hand wipes, hand sanitizer (+refills), rubbing alcohol, hand soap, disinfectant wipes and any cleaning items for the room/bathroom.

While you are welcome to purchase from anywhere, one of our vendors is offering a site for convenience: <https://www.swaku.com/gcsu-catalog-health> Ordering quickly will assure delivery to your campus room before move-in.

Our residential reopening will not be a return to business-as-usual, given the unknowns of the evolving health situation. Our decisions and guidelines are in accordance with best practices and recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Department of Public Health (DPH) and USG guidelines.

- Outside of your assigned room, you are strongly encouraged to properly wear a mask covering your nose and mouth.
- After move-in, only assigned residents of each building will be allowed to enter. This means friends from other halls, off-campus guests and family will not be allowed entrance at any time.
- Elevators will be disabled and restricted to use only by students who need them, due to the inability to control social distancing and continuous disinfecting controls.
- You will have to provide your own PPE (start buying masks, hand sanitizers, cleaning materials, etc.).
- You are responsible for the cleaning and disinfection of your room and shared bathroom.
- GC Facilities will provide regular daily cleaning of the halls; paying extra attention to cleaning high-touch areas such as entrance door handles and stairwell hand rails.
- Within the laundry rooms, additional cleaning will be provided for handles and controls on the washers and dryers.
- All public areas of the building including lounges, study rooms, computer rooms, game rooms and kitchens will be closed. For Village residents, the West Campus Center, the Clubhouse and the swimming pool will also be closed.
- Community Advisors and Community Directors will use virtual communications, as appropriate.
- Residential students are prohibited from creating or contributing a health or safety hazard within Georgia College Housing and the University may request or require a resident to leave GC Housing if their continued presence in the community poses a health or safety risk for community members. Removal constitutes a termination of a residential student’s housing contract without refund.

NOTE: *If a student were to become ill and/or test positive for COVID-19, they will be required to go home, until cleared for return. Removal from Georgia College to isolate or quarantine does not constitute a termination of a residential student's housing contract.*

The Baldwin County Health Department will engage in contact tracing, if necessary. We will update you with timely information about specific health and safety guidance important for our residential students.

Students may be required to comply with any effort to increase social distancing due to COVID or other public health emergencies, including, but not limited to, the relocation of all or some residential students to alternative housing. Relocation does not constitute a termination of a residential student's housing contract. While adhering to public health guidelines, Georgia College may decide to relocate students as part of an effort to limit crowding and increase social distancing due to public health concerns for an extended period of time. If alternative housing is not available, Georgia College may offer impacted students fair and reasonable prorated reimbursement as appropriate and based on information available at that time.

GC Housing strives to make public health-informed decisions in accordance with best practices and recommendations of the CDC and DPH. Therefore, our move-in process will look very different to allow social distancing and avoiding large crowds.

- The move-in process this fall will occur over several days, August 8-10, to stagger the arrival of students. You will be able to select your move-in date and time on July 15th, watch your @bobcats.gcsu.edu issued email for more information. - *If you are in our second-year sorority program or planning to go through recruitment this fall, you will receive separate information from them.*
- For traffic and parking reasons, please bring only one vehicle to the move in. If a second car is needed, the additional items should be brought after the first week of class.
- Please be conservative and bring minimal items at move-in. This will mean less congestion and trips up the stairs. Due to the fluid nature of this fall ask yourself, *"If I were asked to move out in less than 90-minutes, could I do so?"*
- As stated earlier, elevators will be disabled. Only bring what you are able to carry up the stairs.
- While we understand move-in is often a family affair, each resident is only allowed two (2) others to assist them with move in.
- Regretfully, there will be no move-in assistance for social distancing reasons.

As you begin communicating with your roommate(s), please remember:

1. Room assignments were made in the order in which completed applications were received. Based on space limitations, we may have been unable to accommodate all roommate requests.
2. For a number of reasons, your assigned hall, room or roommate may change before school begins. Check periodically for updated information.
3. Students who applied for housing late may not have been assigned yet.
4. In rare situations, it may appear you do not have an assigned roommate. Do not assume you have been granted a single room. You will likely be assigned a roommate at a later date.

5. College life provides an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone and experience diversity. Social media makes it very easy to “research” your roommate before you meet. Please avoid pre-conceived notions about someone you haven’t met in person; they may be equally nervous about meeting you.

6. Give your new roommate a call to coordinate what each person will contribute to the room. Due to the fluid nature of this fall, please remain very conservative in the items you bring with you. Again, ask yourself, *“If I were asked to move out in less than 90-minutes, could I do so?”*

7. Check out the Roommate Agreement online to help define how to live together and divide up room chores. The form can be found at the bottom of the page in the assignment link below.

8. High occupancy of our halls makes it difficult to make room changes at this time. There will be an open room change period, approximately the third week of the semester, based on availability of space.

Your room assignment and roommate information are ready to be viewed. Please follow the instructions at the link below to access this information.

<http://www.gcsu.edu/housing/accessing-your-room-assignment-and-roommate-information>

We know you will have a ton of questions, which we will answer at www.gcsu.edu/housing/move-in. Watch your @bobcats.gcsu.edu issued email around mid-July for more detailed move-in information.

Remember, July 15th you will be able to select your move-in appointment.

We look forward to seeing you at move-in in a few short weeks.

University Housing