



Columbus State University

Student Handbook

2025-2026

COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT HANDBOOK

2025-2026

This handbook is prepared for the convenience of students and is not to be construed as an official publication of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. In case of any divergence from or conflict with the Bylaws or Policies of the Board of Regents, the official Bylaws and Policies of the Board of Regents shall prevail. (NOTE: Policies are subject to change after the publication of this document.)

This handbook is not a contract. It is for informational purposes only and provides no rights to the reader.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Create Care Team

The CSU Create Care Team coordinates information and referrals received from members of the CSU student, faculty, and staff communities. Referrals and reports are used to promote the safety and well-being of all. However, if there is an active or immediate risk of violence to self or others, University Police should be contacted at 706-507-8911.

Continuing and Professional Education

Columbus State University's Continuing & Professional Education (CPE) division offers flexible, innovative learning opportunities for individuals of all ages. For more than 40 years, CPE has provided high-quality non-credit programs that support professional growth, personal enrichment, workforce development, and community engagement.

Programs include professional certificates and career training (e.g., Real Estate Pre-Licensing, Project Management, Data Analytics), lifelong learning courses (e.g., art, wellness, languages), summer camps for youth, and English language instruction for international students. Online and in-person options are available to meet the needs of working adults and families.

Courses are held at the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center and at the Rankin on RiverPark campus. To learn more, visit columbusstate.edu/ce or call 706-507-8070.

Emergencies

In the event of an emergency on any CSU Property (Main Campus and RiverPark Campus), students should contact the University Police Office immediately at (706)507-8911. Students should call this number and report the nature of the emergency (accident, illness, commission of a crime, etc.) and the exact location where the emergency has occurred. Help will be dispatched according to the nature of the incident. Students should remain at the location until help arrives.

In the event a student needs to be located due to an emergency, such as a serious accident, serious illness, or death, which has occurred off campus, please call University Police at (706)507-8911.

Student ID Cards

Your Cougar Access Card serves many purposes. It is the official student ID of Columbus State University. The Cougar Access Card allows you to check out books in the library, attend campus events, use the recreational complex and access your meal plan. This ID card is valid a student's entire university career at Columbus State University. The first card is free, but there is a charge of \$15.00 for any replacement cards. These fees must be paid at the Bursar's Office in University Hall before a replacement card can be issued. If you have questions regarding your card, you may call University Police at (706) 507-8911.

Lost and Found

The Lost and Found service provided by the University Police Office is located at the University Police Department. Items turned in will be logged and retained for 30 days. All unclaimed items after thirty

(30) days will be disposed of by donation to local charities. Every means available will be used by the University Police Office to return all property to the original owner.

Campus Mail Center

The Campus Mail Center is a full-service campus post office, with its mailing and shipping services available to all students, faculty, and staff. You can purchase stamps, shipping supplies, envelopes, etc.

Voter Registration

Voter registration service is available for those students who wish to register to vote or for those who have had a change of address since their initial registration.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The Columbus State University catalog is the primary source for academic information concerning grades, class standing, probation, exclusion, and re-admission.

The Director of Admissions and the Registrar are available if assistance is needed in the interpretation of academic regulations.

Admissions Office

The Admissions Office is located in University Hall. Although contact with the Admissions Office occurs primarily prior to enrollment, many services are available to currently or previously enrolled students. Staff members are available to provide assistance in meeting residency requirements for fee purposes.

Office of the Registrar

The Office of the Registrar is located in University Hall. Staff members are available to provide services in a variety of areas, including degree requirements, registration, transfer of credit, academic transcripts, graduation, and enrollment verification. Detailed information regarding the grading system, grade point averages, academic citation, course withdrawal and refunds, graduation and honors may be found in the Columbus State University catalog.

Immunization

The Board of Regents (BOR) of the University System of Georgia (USG) has established immunization requirements for all new students (first-year, transfer, and others) as directed by policy consistent with recommendations provided by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, developed collaboratively by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia and the division of Public Health of the Georgia Department of Human resources.

It is the policy of the Columbus State University's Health Services to comply with the mandatory immunization program established by the BOR of the USG. These requirements include documented proof of immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella, varicella (chicken pox), tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and hepatitis B.

For more information on immunization policy, please visit: [Immunization Information - Columbus State University](#)

Academic Advising and Registration

Academic advising and coaching are integral components of the educational experience at Columbus State University. These services foster a collaborative, developmental relationship between students and their assigned Academic Success Coach or faculty advisor. Through regular interaction, students receive guidance in exploring academic options, setting personal and professional goals, and developing strategies to succeed in and beyond the classroom.

Center for Academic Coaching

The Center for Academic Coaching provides students with professional, student-centered support that empowers them to make informed decisions regarding their academic, personal, and professional goals. As the central resource for information about academic programs, student support services, and campus opportunities, the Center for Academic Coaching promotes holistic student success. Academic Success Coaches assist with degree planning, retention strategies, and graduation pathways. Based on their assigned majors, coaches are located in Simon Schwob Memorial Library and Frank Brown Hall.

Upon admission to Columbus State University, students are assigned either to the Center for Academic Coaching or a faculty advisor within their academic department. Students are expected to meet with their assigned Academic Success Coach each semester to discuss degree requirements, course selection, and long-term planning. Consistent communication with their Academic Success Coach is encouraged throughout the academic journey to stay on track and reach their goals.

After receiving academic coaching, students may register for classes by logging into their MyCSU portal at mycsu.columbusstate.edu, accessing the Student tab, and selecting the Course Registration link. Students should refer to the CSU Academic Calendar for important registration dates and deadlines for schedule changes.

Registration

Each semester, a special advisement and registration period is held and is published in the academic calendar. Student registration opens on different days by student classification. Before registration begins, advisors set academic advisement appointment availability for the upcoming semester. Unmet financial obligations and violations of institutional regulations may result in a hold on a student's account that may result in students not being able to register. Students should make an appointment each semester to take advantage of registration the day their registration period opens. Registration assistance is available with the student's assigned advisor if needed.

Schedule Change

Students who do not register prior to the first day of class or who wish to change their schedules may do so during the schedule change period published in the academic calendar. Students may register via the web by using MyCSU portal and the Student tab. Please refer to the Columbus State University Class Schedules page on the web for specific dates and information regarding registration and schedule change.

Enrollment in eCore Classes

Online classes are offered through CSU and through a partnership with the USG with eCore. Students who have not previously enrolled in an eCore online course at CSU must complete the eCore introductory survey before they will be allowed to enroll in an eCore course survey can be found at <https://ecore.usg.edu/future-students/new-student-introduction-quiz/index.html>

Academic Standing

The progress of all students is evaluated at the end of each semester. Determination of academic standing is based on a student's institutional and semester grade point averages. Students receiving financial aid should also refer to Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) under the financial aid section of this catalog. Students on University Support Status are required to participate in CSU's University Support Program as a condition of registering for courses in the following academic term. **University Support Status** occurs when a student's institutional grade point average falls below 2.0. **Continued University Support Status** occurs when, at the end of a semester, a student currently on University Support Status achieves a term grade point average of 2.0 or higher but an institutional grade point average lower than 2.0. **Removal from University Support Status** occurs when, at the end of a semester, a student's institutional grade point average equals or exceeds 2.0.

Class Attendance

The attendance policy for classes is established by the individual faculty member. If an instructor does not provide a written policy statement during the first week of classes, a student is permitted to accumulate a total of nine (9) hours of absences in a three credit- hour course without exclusion. An instructor may exclude a student and assign the grade of "WF" upon accumulation of 10 or more hours of absences, or the equivalent in courses carrying fewer credit hours.

Withdrawals

Administrative Withdrawals

A student may be Administratively Withdrawn from the University when in the judgment of the Dean of Students, and after consulting with appropriate university officials, such as the Director of Student Health Services and/or the Director of the Counseling Center, it is determined that the student suffers from a physical, mental, emotional, or psychological health condition which poses a significant danger or threat to the University. A student shall, upon written request, be accorded an appropriate hearing with the Vice President for Student Affairs prior to final decision concerning his or her continued enrollment at the University. In emergency situations, a decision on administrative withdrawals may be made prior to a hearing, but review of the decision may be made at the student's request.

All Administrative Withdrawals should be reviewed within 72 hours of the time of withdrawal and recommendation for appropriate action forwarded to the Vice President for Student Affairs.

Course Withdrawals

Students wishing to drop a course after the last official day of the schedule change period must officially withdraw from the course through MyCSU. Prior to the W grade deadline, as listed on the CSU website, a grade of W will be assigned by the Registrar unless the instructor has already assigned a WF grade for excessive absences. A student initiating a withdrawal after the published deadline will automatically receive the grade of a WF.

A student may appeal the WF grade if documentation of non- academic hardship is provided. Students may not withdraw from a required learning support course with a grade of W while remaining in degree level courses. To remain in degree level courses, the learning support withdrawal grade will be WF and will count as a learning support attempt. Refer to the CSU website for specific dates and additional information regarding course withdrawals.

Medical Withdrawals

Appeals for medical/hardship withdrawals are overseen by the Academic Standards Committee and managed by the Office of the Dean of Students.

In addition, the student should understand that:

- Medical/Hardship withdrawals should be processed as complete withdrawals from the University unless a partial withdrawal is deemed appropriate by a qualified medical professional and then approved by the Dean of Students. There is no monetary refund for a partial medical withdrawal.
- The date of the medical withdrawal should coincide with the last date of attendance in class.
- How the student was performing in classes prior to the medical situation or condition will not affect whether the student gets a medical withdrawal.
- A complete medical withdrawal from the University will qualify the student for a pro-rated refund if the withdrawal date is still within the allowable period in the semester (pro-rated refunds do not continue through the entire semester). The pro-rated refund schedule for the current semester can be found at <https://registration.columbusstate.edu/refundtbl.php> (See the Bursar's Office for balance inquiries)
- If a student completed a "part-of-term" course that ended prior to the medical condition, a partial withdrawal may be acceptable to receive course credit for that course. However, there will be no pro-rated refund for the remaining classes.
- A student who files, or attempts to file, a fraudulent application for a medical withdrawal to avoid a failing grade or disciplinary action will be considered to be in violation of the Columbus State University Student Conduct Standards and subject to disciplinary charges.

Procedure:

The Student should submit a request for a medical hardship withdrawal online at [Medical Withdrawal Request Form](#). If it is determined by a qualified medical personnel and approved by the Office of the Dean of Students that a student is not physically or mentally capable of completing this process, someone with the power of attorney may act on the behalf of the student. Once this information is received the student's case will be reviewed and a decision forwarded to the registrar. A copy of that decision will be emailed to the student.

If the student is unable to scan documentation and attach, send all supporting documents to:
Office of the Dean of Students Columbus State University
4225 University Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31907
Phone: (706) 507-8730

Student Records Policies and Procedures

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, grants students in institutions of higher education the right of access to their education records and preservation of the privacy of these records. In compliance with this act, Columbus State University has established policies and procedures to assure students of their rights under the Act.

Student Access to Educational Records

Any student who is or has been in attendance at Columbus State University will be allowed to inspect and review his/her education records except any items the student has waived his/her right to see, financial information submitted by parents, or information about other students when an education record

contains such information. Education records do not include records of instructional, administrative, and educational personnel which are in the sole possession of the maker and are not accessible or revealed to any individual except a temporary substitute, records of the law enforcement unit, student health records, employment records, alumni records, or personal counseling records.

Health records and counseling records, however, may be reviewed by physicians of the student's choosing.

Students should submit to the registrar, dean, head of the academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the students of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed. The review will be granted within a reasonable period of time, not to exceed forty-five (45) days.

When the original record is shown to the student, examination will be permitted only under conditions that will prevent its alteration, mutilation, or loss, including the presence of a representative of the institution. Upon reasonable request by the student, oral explanations and interpretations of the records will be given to the student immediately.

When the student desires a written explanation or interpretation, or when it is not practical or appropriate to give an oral explanation or interpretation, the student shall request the explanation or interpretation in writing. The university official will provide the student with a written response to any reasonable written inquiries.

When the education record, or a portion thereof, is not in a form that can be readily reviewed by the student (stored on microfilm, in computer files, etc.), a true copy in understandable form will be provided for the student's inspection and review.

If it is impractical for a former student to inspect and review the records personally, a properly authorized representative of the student may exercise this right on behalf of the student, upon receipt by the institution of an appropriate written, notarized authorization from the student.

Copies of Records to Students

Upon written request and payment of appropriate fees as shown below, students in good standing with the institution will be provided with copies of part or all of their education records, with the exception of transcripts received from other educational institutions and any documents the student has waived his/her right to see. Such documents may be certified as true copies of the education records but will not be embossed with the institutional seal. The name of the institution shall be shown on all copies issued.

Copies of Records to Third Parties at Student's Request

Copies of records that may be released to students may be sent to third parties upon the written request of the student. Such a written request must include:

- A specification of the records to be disclosed;
- A party or class of parties to whom the disclosure may be made;
- The signature of the student and date of request;
- The date the request is delivered to the Registrar or a designated representative of the Registrar.

Cost to Student

There is a minimum \$14 charge for official transcripts.

Institutional Educational Records

The following educational records are maintained:

Type of Record	Location Responsible	University Official
Academic School	Academic	Dean of School
Admissions	University Hall	Director of Admissions
Student Conduct	Schuster Center	Dean of Students
Financial Aid	University Hall	Director
Student permanent	University Hall	Registrar
Other Academic	University Hall	Registrar

University System of Georgia (USG) Directory Information Policy

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to define Directory Information as it pertains to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and outline the rights of students regarding the disclosure of such information by institutions within the University System of Georgia (USG). The policy ensures compliance with FERPA while balancing the need for transparency and the protection of student privacy.

Under FERPA, "Directory Information" refers to student information that is not generally considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. USG has designated the following categories of information as Directory Information:

- Student's name
- Major field of study
- Enrollment status (e.g., full-time, part-time)
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Dates of attendance
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- The most recent educational institution attended
- Height and weight of athletes
- Class level

This information may be disclosed without the student's prior written consent unless the student has opted out of such disclosure (see Student Rights below).

Student Rights Under FERPA

Right to Inspect and Review Education Records

Students have the right to inspect and review their education records within 45 days of submitting a written request to the institution registrar. The institution will arrange access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

Right to Request Amendment of Records

If a student believes their education records contain inaccurate or misleading information, they have the right to request an amendment. The request must be submitted in writing, clearly identifying the part of the record to be amended and explaining why it is inaccurate or misleading.

Right to Provide Written Consent Before Disclosure

Students have the right to provide written consent before the institution discloses any personally identifiable information from their education records, except as authorized under FERPA. Directory Information, as defined above, may be disclosed without prior consent unless the student has opted out.

Right to Opt-Out of Directory Information Disclosure

Students may choose to opt out of the disclosure of Directory Information by submitting a written request to the Office of the Registrar. Once the request is submitted, the institution will withhold Directory Information from public disclosure. Important: Opting out does not prevent the institution from disclosing Directory Information to school officials with legitimate educational interests, including certain institution administrators, faculty, and contracted service providers.

Right to File a Complaint with the U.S. Department of Education

Students who believe the institution has failed to comply with FERPA may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education at the following address:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-8520

Disclosure Without Consent

USG institutions may disclose education records without a student's prior written consent to certain parties under certain conditions, as allowed by FERPA, including:

1. School officials with legitimate educational interests.
2. Other schools to which a student is transferring.
3. Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes.
4. Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid.
5. Organizations conducting certain types of studies for or on behalf of the school.
6. Accrediting organizations.
7. Compliance with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena.
8. Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.

Annual Notification

USG is committed to informing students of their rights under FERPA annually. This policy will be made available through each college or university official communications channels, including student handbooks, institution websites, and registrar's offices.

The Academic Center for Tutoring

The Academic Center for Tutoring offers free services to help enrolled CSU students succeed in math, science, writing, and humanities. ACT tutoring methods facilitate students' ongoing development as independent learners and researchers, helping them build their confidence and skills as critical thinkers in their core courses, in courses across the curriculum, and in other professional and academic situations. Visit [Academic Center for Tutoring - Columbus State University](#) to discover all of the services offered.

First Year Experience

All entering freshmen must satisfy the First Year Experience requirement by enrolling in RIVR 1101 and PERS 1506 before they reach sophomore status (30 credit hours). Transfer students with fewer than 30 credit hours must have transferable credit from another institution in order to be exempt from this requirement.

Students should discuss the options with an advisor to make the best choice for their individual course of study.

University Information and Technology Services (UITS)

UITS provides campus wide computer support which includes hardware, software, wireless access, classrooms technologies, help desk services, computer repair shop, and training.

Services:

Repair Shop

- Free troubleshooting, hardware/software installs, virus cleanups, and consultations
- University Hall Basement- drop off and pick up when the HelpDesk is open

ColumbusState Wi-Fi

- Campus-wide Wi-Fi including all Residence Halls and CSU buses.

Student Computer Accounts and Passwords:

- **MyCSU** – CSU Portal, Email, Microsoft Apps, Campus Resources (MyCSU.ColumbusState.edu)
- **CougarView Desire2Learn (D2L)** – Learning Management System

Secure Your Information:

- Do NOT give your network credentials to anyone or write it down where others might see it. Never include passwords, ID numbers, credit card numbers, or other personal information in email.
- Do NOT open unexpected or suspicious attachments.
- Never leave a laptop unattended.

UITS Contact Information:

- Email: helpdesk@ColumbusState.edu
- Phone: 706.507.8199
- In Person: University Hall basement
- Facebook: Columbus State HelpDesk
- Student Help: Campus Resources- MyCSU- IT HelpDesk and Repair Shop
- HelpDesk website: ColumbusState.edu/uits

CSU Libraries

Visit The CSU Libraries Online: <http://library.columbusstate.edu/> Columbus State University maintains three libraries including the Simon Schwob Memorial Library on the Main Campus as well as and the Music Library and the Art Resource Lab on RiverPark Campus. The CSU Libraries is comprised of librarians and staff members who work to provide quality service for all library users. The CSU Libraries strive to contribute to the enhancement of student learning and success.

Schwob Library

- Access and use desktop computers, checkout laptops for use anywhere in the library. Students may also check out laptops for 24-hour use outside of the library.
- Chat, email or text a librarian to get help with locating articles, books, and course reserves. Call the Service Desk at 706-507- 8670 for more information.

- Access Wi-Fi for your mobile devices.
- Visit Einstein Bros Café.
- Utilize comfortable seating for individual and group study.
- Use Quiet Zones on 2nd and 3rd floors for reading and studying. However, on the 1st floor students are asked to use indoor voice and refrain from disturbing other patrons. Students who refuse to follow library noise policies may be asked to leave the library.
- Take advantage of group and individual study rooms on all floors.
- Copy, scan, and print.
- Access the CSU Archives, which houses primary documents and published materials relating to the history of CSU, the city of Columbus and the surrounding area.

Music Library (RiverPark Campus)

This facility houses music collections, including books, periodicals, and media, and scores. It provides access to computer workstations, printers, media equipment, photocopiers, scanners, laptops, phone chargers and WiFi. The Music Library is a convenient study destination for all RiverPark CSU students. Hours are as posted at the front entrance and on the library web page:

<http://musiclibrary.columbusstate.edu/>.

Art Resource Lab (RiverPark Campus)

The Art Research Library (ARL) is located in the lower level of the Seaboard Depot building next to the Corn Center. The Art Research Library collection is comprised of approximately 1,500 titles cover all aspects of Art and Art History. Students can browse, read, and borrow most items from the collection, and student assistants are available to provide research assistance. Students may also request research consultations from the Art Research Library Supervisor/Art Librarian, Mr. Thomas Ganzevoort (ganzevoort_thomas@columbusstate.edu).

Library Resources & Services Available at All CSU Libraries:

- Receive one-on-one assistance.
- Chat, email, or text a librarian to get help with locating articles, books, and course reserves.
- Schedule research consultations with subject librarians for more in-depth assistance with research projects.
- Access GALILEO databases for online research (articles, e- books, videos) on and off-campus.
- Use the GIL-Find Catalog to locate books, course reserves, journals, videos and government documents.
- Utilize GIL Express, a service whereby students can request books from other USG Libraries not available at the CSU Libraries.
- Interlibrary Loan (ILL), a service which allows students to borrow books (not available via GIL Express) and obtains copies of journal articles from other libraries when items are not available at the CSU Libraries – usually at no charge.

STUDENT SERVICES

Bookstore

[Apparel, Gifts & Textbooks | Columbus State University Bookstore](#)

CSU has a bookstore on Main Campus and is operated by our partner, Barnes and Noble College Booksellers. The campus bookstore is your one-stop-success-shop and offers course material for every course, a wide selection of CSU spirit wear, gifts, snacks, beverages, software and computer peripherals.

The CSU Bookstore offers several programs and a variety of services to help you save money:

Text Book Rentals: save up to 65% on many of your books (more than 50% of all texts are rentable). For more information click “Textbook Rentals” on the “Course Materials & Textbooks” drop-down menu.

Early Book Program: purchase your textbooks and course materials before the first day of class with a credit of up to \$800 based on your pending financial aid refund! You will need to opt into this program, which you can do on MyCSU.

Price Match: The campus bookstore will match the price on textbooks from select retailers (contact store for details).

Book Buy-back: sell your current-edition new or used texts back to the bookstore at any time. Peak purchase periods are the first and last weeks of each semester.

Graduation Regalia & More: Only the CSU Bookstore offers CSU graduation regalia, diploma frames and class rings.

Online Shopping & In-Store Pickup: Shop online any time for textbooks, clothing, supplies and more. Save the shipping charges by choosing store pickup, which is always free.

You can shop online for textbooks, clothing, supplies and more, all of which can be shipped directly to you or picked up in the bookstore (saving postage and time).

When it comes time to graduate, only the CSU Bookstore offers the Official CSU graduation regalia along with diploma frames, announcements, and class rings, which are wonderful symbols of your hard work and perseverance in earning your degree.

Center for Career Design (CCD)

Your Future Career Starts Here

The Center for Career Design is dedicated to supporting student success by guiding individuals toward careers that offer economic security and a meaningful life. Our programs, resources, and services provide students with the opportunity to design a future that aligns their academic and co-curricular experiences with their long-term career aspirations. Along the way, we offer learning opportunities that enable students to master career readiness skills that employers prioritize.

Steps to Get Started:

- Activate Your Handshake Account <https://columbusstate.joinhandshake.com/> explore
- Gain access to internships, on-campus jobs, and full-time employment opportunities designed for college students and recent graduates (0–5 years of experience).
- Build Your Resume with JobScan <https://app.jobscan.co/auth/sso/csu.edu/login>
- Use CSU’s AI-powered tool to create and optimize your resume. JobScan helps tailor your resume to specific job descriptions. Get started by watching our helpful how-to videos.
- Create a LinkedIn Profile [linkedin.com](https://www.linkedin.com) Start building your professional network early. LinkedIn allows you to connect with alumni, employers, and industry professionals.
- Meet with a Career Coach <https://app.joinhandshake.com/stu/appointments>
- Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment with a peer career coach or a professional career success coach via the Handshake platform.
- Contact Us Phone: 706-565-1191 Website: [Center for Career Design | Columbus State University](https://www.columbusstate.edu/ccd)

Our Services Include:

- Personalized resume and cover letter assistance using JobScan

- Career coaching and guidance
- Internship and job search support through Handshake
- Networking and branding assistance via LinkedIn
- Employer relations and events to include career fairs

A University-Wide Commitment

CSU is proud to be a Career Ecosystem where faculty, staff, and CCD career success coaches work collaboratively to ensure that all students graduate career-ready. Our shared goal is to equip all CSU Cougars with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for success in today's workforce.

Center for Accommodation and Access (Disability Services)

The Center for Accommodation and Access coordinates the compliance of CSU with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Center for Accommodation and Access is located in Schuster 102. Students who present proper documentation of physical, psychological, or cognitive disabilities are provided with individualized plans tailored to their needs. Course requirements are not waived, but reasonable accommodations will be made when appropriate to assist students in meeting the requirements.

In order to receive accommodations during a semester, appropriate documentation should be presented to the Center for Accommodation and Access as soon as possible, preferably before the beginning of the semester. Accommodations are not retroactive but begin once the process is completed. For more information, go to [Center for Accommodation and Access - Columbus State University](#).

Cougar Copy Center

The Cougar Copy Center is located in the Davidson Student Center next to the Bookstore. The Cougar Copy Center offers full printing and copying services to CSU students, faculty, and staff.

Services include low-cost copies, fax services, resume printing, book binding, transparencies, and copy paper as well as most printing needs, from business cards to flyers, posters, newsletters, invitations, announcements, wide format posters and banners, and so much more. Graphic design and typesetting are also available. Phone (706) 507-8630 Fax (706) 507-8262. Hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

The Counseling Center

The Counseling Center, located in room 301 of the Schuster Student Success Center, offers psychological services to enrolled students, and consultation to faculty, staff, and alumni.

The Counseling Center staff consists of mental health professionals who are trained and experienced in facilitating personal development. A confidential atmosphere is provided where personal, social, and academic concerns may be discussed. These concerns include but are not limited to the following: anxiety management, depression, vocational and career decisions, loneliness, interpersonal relations (peers, romantic partners, and family) and academic difficulties.

If the counseling staff is unable to provide the necessary service for a client, appropriate recommendations are discussed, and referrals are made. The orientation and philosophy of the Center give equal consideration to the emotional, personal, academic and vocational aspects of each student's development.

Psychological testing is available in areas of learning disabilities. The primary purpose of the testing services is to assist students in meeting academic potential.

Dining Services

CSU's dining program strives to provide you with a wide array of nutritious and tasty food options from comfort to health to snack and beyond. Our dining services partner is Aramark, a global leader in higher education food operations. All students living in CSU housing are required to purchase a meal plan and may select from the choices provided based on the number of hours the student has completed. For the 2025/26 school year there are three different options for dining for residents, and two specifically for commuters, though they may, of course, purchase any plan we offer.

The Cougar Café is CSU's largest dining facility and is located in Davidson Student Center on Main Campus. This is an all-you-care-to-eat location providing breakfast, lunch and dinner, as well as light fare during non-mealtimes. Choices include a made-to-order station, a grill, a full salad bar, a bakery, vegetarian and meat dishes in the hot line and an ice cream wagon with up to 8 flavors! (Meal Swipes, Cougar Cash, cash or cards are all accepted.)

The Rankin Den is located on 10th Street and First Avenue at our RiverPark campus and is truly a unique college dining experience. Converted from a commercial restaurant, it, is also an all-you-care-to-eat facility (Meal Swipes, Cougar Cash, cash or cards are all accepted.)

The Spread and Chick Fil A are both located in the Cougar Food Court in Davidson. Each provides a nice treat once in a while for a different lunch or dinner. (Cougar Cash, cash and credit cards are all accepted.)

Einstein Bros. Bagels, located in our Schwob Memorial Library on Main Campus, is a great way to wake up in the morning or grab a mid-day pick-me-up. Relax, read a book, study and enjoy a bagel or a latte! (Cougar Cash, cash and cards are all accepted.)

The P.O.D.s (Provisions On Demand) are small convenience stores selling grab-n- go food, sundries, snacks and beverages. We have three – one in the Schuster Student Success Center, another in Stanley Hall, and one in Frank Brown Hall. (Cougar Cash, cash and cards are all accepted.)

The Market On Broadway, a full-scale convenience store, is located at the RiverPark campus on 10th Street and Broadway. The Market offers fresh produce, to-go items, frozen options, beverages and a wide variety of sundries. (Use Cougar Cash, cash or credit cards.)

Classic Fare Catering @ CSU offers a wide range of catering services from lemonade and cookies for 10 to pizza and soda for 50 to black-tie, four course banquets for 300. Practically any budget can be accommodated, and no party is too large or small!

Financial Aid

The Financial Aid Office is located on the first floor of University Hall. This office coordinates scholarships, grants, part-time employment and loans. Aid is available for part-time and full-time students. Students wishing to apply for federal financial aid for Fall 2025, Spring 2026 or Summer 2026 should complete the 2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on-line at <https://studentaid.gov> (include Columbus State University's school code of 001561). Students seeking only the HOPE or ZELL Miller Scholarships can either complete the FAFSA or the Georgia Scholarship/Grant Application (GSFAPPS) on the web at www.gafutures.org

Financial aid priority deadlines are:

- Fall semester- June 1
- Spring semester- November 1
- Summer semester- April 1

All financial aid documents should be submitted to the CSU Financial Aid Office prior to these deadlines to assure processing by the fee payment deadline for the semester. All documents can be submitted virtually using the [Financial Aid Verification Portal](#). For additional information on completing the financial aid process, including helpful video tutorials and scholarship opportunities, please visit <https://www.columbusstate.edu/financial-aid/>.

Military-Connected Student Services

The Military-Connected Student Services Office has two locations to better serve our students who are Active Duty, Veteran or a dependent. We are located in the Soldier for Life Center at Ft. Benning as well as on the first floor of Schuster Student Success Center, Room 117 on Main Campus. Our office assists students with the enrollment process as well help with utilizing VA Educational Benefits and Tuition Assistance.

Residence Life Contact Information

Residence Life Office, Clearview Hall:
58 Clearview Circle Main Telephone: 706-507-8710

The Courtyard at CSU:
3815 University Ave Telephone: 706-507-8778
RiverPark Office-1019 Broadway, Suite 5 Telephone 706-507-8035

Main Campus Housing Options

- Clearview Hall is a 540 bed Residence Hall located on Clearview Circle on the interior of campus.
- The Courtyard at CSU is a 444 bed student apartment complex that houses upperclassmen students. The Courtyard, located at 3815 University Ave, and is just a short walk from the center of campus.

RiverPark Campus Housing Options

- Broadway Crossing is a 140 bed residential area. Broadway Crossing, located at 25 West 10th Street, houses first year students.
- Columbus Hall is a 112 bed residential area. Columbus Hall, located at 1019 Broadway, houses first year and upperclassmen students.
- Yancey at One Arsenal Place is a 31 bed residential area. Yancey at One Arsenal Place, located at 901 Front Avenue, houses upperclassmen students.
- Oglethorpe is a 24 bed residential area. Oglethorpe, located at 1017 1st Avenue, houses upperclassmen students.
- Rankin is a 106 bed residential area. Rankin, located at 1004 Broadway, houses upperclassmen students.

Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Army ROTC is a college program that trains students to become well-educated junior officers for the active Army, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserve while earning their degrees. It's a four-year program typically divided into a Basic Course (freshman and sophomore years) and an Advanced Course (junior and senior years). Columbus State University, in conjunction with the Department of the Army, maintains a Department of Military Science to acquaint students with the Army, its role in society, and the fundamentals of leadership and management. ROTC helps students develop the abilities and attitudes that will lead to academic success. Students may elect to take the first two years of academic instruction without any military obligation.

Students who want to pursue a commission in the Army Officer Corps and who meet eligibility requirements (listed below) may continue to take the last two years of ROTC instruction and be

commissioned as second lieutenants upon graduation. Students who missed the first two years of Army ROTC can receive credit for the Basic Course requirements by attending a 32-day Leaders Training Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky, between their sophomore and junior years. Those who have prior military experience or three years of JROTC can also receive credit.

The ROTC program offers scholarships for select students enrolled in or contemplating enrollment in ROTC, ranging from two to four years. These scholarships cover tuition and fees or room and board. All contracted Cadets enrolled in the last two years of the program receive up to \$5000 per year in subsistence allowance. For additional information, please contact the ROTC department in Stanley Hall, Room 110, or call 706-507-8031 or 706-568-2058, or email ArmyROTC@ColumbusState.edu.

Eligibility and requirements

Must be a U.S. citizen. Must be at least 17 and under 31 in the year of commissioning. Age waivers may be available for exceptional prospects. Minimum college GPA of 2.5 for scholarship consideration or 2.0 for non-scholarship after completing 30 hours of college course work on campus. Must pass the Army Fitness Test (AFT) and meet height and weight requirements. Sign an eight-year contract to commission and serve in the Army, Army Reserve, or Army National Guard after graduation.

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center is located on Main Campus in Tucker Hall and is available to all students who pay the student health fee each semester. The goal of Student Health Services is to provide quality primary health care at a reasonable cost. Community referrals and health counseling are also available through the Health Center. All medical care and counseling visits are confidential.

A Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and/or a Family Practice physician are available to see students by appointment during scheduled clinic hours. Students may also be seen by a Registered Nurse during clinic hours.

Students who become sick or injured after hours may seek treatment at one of the local urgent care centers or emergency rooms. For medical emergencies call Emergency Medical Services (911) or Columbus State University Police (706-507-8911). For more information on hours and services, please call 706-507-8620, or visit our website at <http://healthservices.ColumbusState.edu>.

The University is not responsible for medical bills or for illness/injuries incurred in free play, physical education classes, university-sponsored intramural sports, including club sports, or other regularly scheduled classes or activities.

All students are urged to have health insurance coverage of some type. A voluntary health insurance plan is available for non-insured students. The University System of Georgia has contracted with United Health Care as the vendor for student health insurance for the coming academic year. For more information, please call 706-507-8620 or visit <http://www.uhcsr.com/columbusstate.edu>.

Testing Center

The CSU Testing Center is located on the second floor of the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center. The Center conducts all institutional testing for prospective and current students, such as ACCUPLACER, tests to fulfill legislative requirements, Math Placement test, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams, the nursing entrance exam, and the Outcomes Assessment, among others. The Center provides proctoring services for students of other institutions enrolled in various types of independent study and professional development courses. The Testing Center also operates a Prometric Testing Center, which delivers academic and professional licensing and certification exams such as the GRE, GACE, Praxis, CPA, and FINRA exams, among many others.

University Police

The Columbus State University Police, Main Campus office is located adjacent to parking lot 9 next to the Turner Center. The CSU University Police at RiverPark campus office is located adjacent to the RiverPark Housing Office. The department has sworn police officers who are responsible for life and property safety, and enforcement of state and local laws.

The officers also secure campus buildings, assist motorists with battery jump-offs and patrol the university campus on foot, bikes, and marked patrol cars. The University Police Department has membership in the Georgia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators and the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

STUDENT LIFE

Campus Recreation

The Campus Recreation Department offers a co-educational program providing an opportunity for students, faculty, and staff to participate in a variety of recreational activities improving their overall well-being. Current programs include flag football, volleyball, basketball, softball, indoor and outdoor soccer, ultimate Frisbee, table tennis, racquetball, and tournaments. In addition to planned activities, courts are open for free play. Campus Recreation has many programs and services such as group fitness classes, personal training, swimming lessons, and so much more.

Student Recreation Center

Columbus State University offers a state-of-the-art Student Recreation Center to meet the well-being, recreation and fitness needs of the student, faculty, and staff. The 106,000 Student Recreation Center offers three basketball courts, a multi-purpose court (used for indoor soccer, volleyball, basketball, and special events), four volleyball courts, two racquetball courts/functional fitness, a large cardio deck, free weight and sectorized areas, an indoor track, two movement rooms, rock and bouldering walls, locker rooms, and an indoor swimming pool with a sauna, whirlpool and a lazy river. The Student Recreation Center fee covers access into the facility for each enrolled campus student. Affiliate members such as CSU Faculty, staff, spouses, dependents (16 and up) and alumni may join by purchasing a monthly, semester or yearly membership. For additional information call (706) 507-8658.

RiverPark Weight Room

The students on the RiverPark campus have access to a small weight room that provides an opportunity for a great workout. The area features a few pieces of weight equipment and treadmills. The entrance to the location is on the front side of Broadway Street. All currently enrolled students must have their CSU ID card to access the RiverPark Weight Room.

Outdoor Recreational Complex

The Outdoor Recreational Complex consists of pickleball courts, sand volleyball court, pavilion, and field.

Pickleball courts- The pickleball courts are available for Students, Faculty and Staff and can be reserved online. The complex has 6 courts and 4 can be reserved and the other 2 will operate as free play meaning first come first serve.

Sand volleyball courts- The sand volleyball courts are available with a valid CSU ID to scan into the gate. This is also free play and will operate as first come first serve.

IM Fields and Pavilion-The IM fields and pavilion are available for student use when they are not needed for regular club practices and club sport competitions.

Tennis Courts-The tennis courts are available for student use when they are not needed for regular classes and intercollegiate competitions and operate on a first come first serve basis.

Club Sports

Club Sports serves individual interests in different sports and recreational activities. These may be competitive, recreational or instructional. Club Sports may represent the University in intercollegiate competitions.

Currently there are 11 Club Sports at CSU ranging from Club Football to Women's Flag Football. Students are encouraged to add more!

Fraternity and Sorority Life

Columbus State offers fourteen Greek organizations spanning across 3 Greek councils (NPC, NPHC, and IFC). Recruitment for these organizations happens year-round! For more information about Fraternity and Sorority Life at CSU, call (706) 507-8012. Visit the Greek Center, located in the lower level of Woodruff Gym, or visit <https://www.columbusstate.edu/student-life/greeks/>.

National Panhellenic Conference

National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) is the governing body for CSU's three Panhellenic sororities: Alpha Omicron Pi, Delta Zeta, and Phi Mu. The purpose NPC is to create a cohesive unit among the sororities, and assist in recruitment, and academic accountability. NPC also hosts unity events throughout the semester.

National Pan-Hellenic Council

The National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) governs all nine of the historically African American fraternities and sororities. NPHC is active in the community, and hosts several events open to the CSU community, such as the annual NPHC Step Show, Strolling for a Cure, and Nine Torches of Wisdom.

Interfraternity Council

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) is the governing body for the fraternities. The purpose for this council is to unite these men in their recruitment, community service, social, and academic endeavors and is required of any like fraternity.

Fraternities and Sororities

Alpha Omicron Pi

Founded on January 2, 1897, Alpha Omicron Pi began as a dream by 4 young college women to continue their friendship throughout life. One of AOPI's founders, Stella George Stern Perry, wrote in 1936, "We wanted a fraternity that should carry on the delightful fellowships and cooperation of college days into the workaday years ahead and to do so magnanimously. Above all, we wanted a high and active special purpose to justify existence and a simple devotion to some worthy end." The AOPi chapter at

CSU was installed April 2008.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., was the first predominately black Greek letter fraternity in America. The fraternity was founded in 1906 at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York.

The Theta Beta Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity at Columbus State was chartered December 14, 1971.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was organized at Howard University in Washington, D.C., in January 1908. It is the oldest Greek- letter sorority in America established by black women. Eta Iota Chapter was chartered at Columbus State University on December 2, 1972. The program's aim is "service to all mankind."

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, founded in 1913 at Howard University in Washington, D.C., stresses academic achievement, community involvement, and leadership ability. Theta Phi chapter welcomes all inquiries concerning membership. Contact any member of Delta Sigma Theta.

Delta Zeta Sorority

The Delta Zeta Sorority was founded at Columbus State University in 1992 and is continuously growing. The purpose is to unite its members in sincere and lasting friendships, and to promote their moral and social growth. Interested young women may contact any member.

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. (Currently Inactive)

Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc. was founded in 1963 at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland. The organization's purpose is "The Development and perpetuation of Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Fidelity and Brotherhood among men." The organization has 3 national service initiatives: the National Iota Foundation, the I.O.T.A Youth Alliance and the INROADS Partnership.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., was founded on the campus of Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana on January 5, 1911. The Eta Theta Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., was established on the campus of Columbus State University on April 11, 1974. The purpose of Kappa Alpha Psi is to encourage honorable achievement in every field of the human endeavor. Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., offers its members brotherhood, leadership training, and self-discipline. Men interested in Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., may contact any brother of the fraternity.

Kappa Sigma

Kappa Sigma is the sixth largest international social fraternity with over 262 chapters. Started in Bologna, Italy in the year 1400, the fraternity was founded in the United States at the University of Virginia on December 10, 1869. Founded as a colony in 1995 at CSU, Kappa Sigma is dedicated to promoting friendship and active participation on the campus and in the community. Interested gentlemen may contact any brother.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Omega Psi Phi, a National Pan-Hellenic fraternity, was founded at Howard University in 1911.

From the initials of the Greek phrase meaning “friendship is essential to the soul,” the name Omega Psi Phi was derived. The phrase was selected as the motto. Manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift were adopted as cardinal principles. A decision was made regarding the design for the pin and emblem and thus ended the first meeting of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was founded at Howard University in Washington, D.C., January 9, 1914. Theta Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. was reestablished at Columbus State University January 2003. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. is the only fraternity that is constitutionally bound to a sister sorority, the sisters of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. truly exemplifies the ideals of brotherhood, scholarship, and service, which are mirrored in the Fraternity’s motto; “Culture for Service and Service For Humanity”. For more information contact any Sigma brother.

Phi Mu

On January 4, 1852, Mary Ann DuPont (Lines), Mary Elizabeth Myrick (Daniel) and Martha Bibb Hardaway (Redding) founded an organization called the Philomathean Society at Wesleyan Female College in Macon, Georgia. Wesleyan was the first institution to grant college degrees to women. For the next two months the Founders were busy gathering additional members, creating a constitution, devising an initiation service and adopting a secret and an open motto. On March 4, 1852, the members announced the formation of their new society, which became the Alpha Chapter of Phi Mu Fraternity. Since that time, March 4 has been observed as Founders’ Day.

Today Phi Mu has grown to encompass a diverse membership of more than 140,000 women nationwide. The local sorority was founded in November of 1997 as Phi Mu Kappa with 10 sisters and became a colony of Phi Mu national in Spring 2000. Phi Mu is involved with many activities on campus including the homecoming celebration. Community philanthropies include the Ronald McDonald House and the American Cancer Society.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.

Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority’s aim is to enhance the quality of life within the community. Public service, leadership development and education of youth are the hallmark of the organization’s programs and activities. Sigma Gamma Rho addresses concerns that impact society educationally, civically, and economically. Sigma Gamma Rho was founded on and continues to be steadfastly committed to the tenets of excellence in Scholarship, Sisterhood and Service. Sigma Gamma Rho has a proud legacy of providing positive and proactive community leadership and support when and wherever needed as indicated by the sorority’s international slogan, “Greater Service, Greater Progress.”

Sigma Nu

The Mu Xi Chapter of Sigma Nu was chartered in May of 1996 as the 267th Chapter of Sigma Nu. Since that time the chapter has gone on to initiate over 127 men bound together by the ideals of love, truth, and honor. The men of Sigma Nu are heavily involved in campus and community life. Each year Sigma Nu logs hundreds of hours of community service through Country’s Midnight Run to Benefit the Blind, Special Olympics, Historic Columbus’ Riverfest Fundraiser, and various other charity work.

The men of Sigma Nu are renowned for their abilities in intramural sports. Throughout each semester Sigma Nu works with the sororities to plan various mixers and other social events. The men of Sigma Nu strive to find other upstanding men to join our sacred brotherhood. If you are interested in learning more about Sigma Nu, go to our website www.sigmanu.org

Zeta Phi Beta, Inc.

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority was founded on the campus of Howard University in 1920. The Kappa Epsilon chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., was chartered on the campus of Columbus State University on February 1, 1974. Zeta Phi Beta believes strongly in the principle of service, scholarship, sisterly love, and finer womanhood. Often imitated but never duplicated, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority is the only sorority that is constitutionally bound with the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

The women of Zeta Phi Beta are outstanding leaders and are dynamic in everything from academics to helping out within the community.

Orientation Team (ROAR Team)

The Orientation Team consists of students who are responsible for guiding first-year students through their orientation experience at CSU. Each student goes through an extensive interview process and is chosen based on the following criteria: proven leadership experience, strong public speaking and interpersonal communication skills, academic excellence, and an exhibition of a positive attitude and school spirit. The students undergo a thorough training program where they learn team building and leadership skills to help them become more confident leaders, as well as a wealth of knowledge to aid them in helping to orient new students to campus. Orientation Team Leaders are expected to participate in all orientation sessions. Members are compensated financially for participating in the Orientation Program. For more information on how to become a member of the Orientation Team, call the Orientation Office, Davidson 279 at (706) 507-8593.

Student Organizations

Columbus State University encourages students in the development of their special interests and talents through participation in student organizations. The value of student organizations as means of providing opportunities for students to enrich their educational experiences outside of the classroom is recognized by the university.

To facilitate the development of student organizations, it is necessary to subscribe to guidelines and procedures for the orderly and responsible operation of student organizations. All organizations must follow and adhere to the Registered Student Organization Handbook ([Student Organizations- Columbus State University](#)) in addition to all student rules, regulations and guidelines.

When groups of students wish to establish organizations to promote their common interests, it is appropriate that they seek recognition and approval by the university. To start a new organization, one must complete an online registration process. All processes, forms and information can be found at CSUinvolve.columbusstate.edu.

Student Activities Council

The Student Activities Council, called SAC, is the student-run organization responsible for a variety of events for CSU's student body. The organization's purpose is to contribute to the social, recreational, and educational development of the CSU community through programs and services. SAC is made up of committees that are responsible for a specific type of event programming. These committees include Cinema, Speakers & Comedians and Special Events.

Membership on these committees is on a volunteer basis and there are no membership fees. To sign up for a committee, students can visit the SAC Office. Students can help plan and promote different events on campus. SAC is a great way to be involved on campus, gain life experiences, and make new

friends! SAC's door is always open and students are encouraged to come by. Call the office at 706-507-8595, or email sac@columbusstate.edu for more information.

Student Traditions

There are a number of activities that occur annually on the CSU campus. These events have proven to be popular with the university community and have become recognized as "traditions".

Tower Traditions

Tower Traditions is your guide and resource for all the campus traditions and ways to get involved. Comprised of 58 traditions that are important to CSU, students participate in these events and track their engagement to become a Tower Traditions keeper. Complete Cody's First 19 to receive a fun CSU start pack and once you complete 45 of the 58 traditions students receive a medal to wear at graduation. [Home-Tower Traditions-Columbus State University](#)

Cougar Kickoff

Cougar Kickoff takes place during the first week of each semester. It is a full week of fun events that help students get to know CSU and their fellow Cougars! Traditional signature events include RiverPark Picnic, Main Campus Picnic, Meet the Greeks, and many more! For more information, and a full schedule of events, visit our website at [Cougar Kickoff-Columbus State University](#)

First Year Convocation

Each year families, administrators, faculty, and staff gather to welcome first-year students into the college environment at Columbus State University. During this event, first-year students learn about CSU traditions, glean insight from upperclassmen, and are formally inducted into the CSU community of scholars. At the conclusion of Convocation, a reception is held to honor our new students.

Homecoming

Homecoming will be featured during the fall semester. This annual week is full of traditional events that help celebrate the CSU community as a whole. Events include tailgating, downtown parade and concert as well as student organization competitions. Homecoming is organized by Student Life & Development in conjunction with Alumni Relations. For more information visit [Homecoming- Columbus State University](#).

Scholastic Honors Convocation

This Spring Semester event showcases our outstanding students and faculty. Among the honors presented are the Faculty Cup, the Academic Recognition Award, the Phi Kappa Phi Student of the Year Award, the Faculty Service Award, the Faculty Research and Scholarship Award and the Educator of the Year Award. Many outstanding students are recognized with department awards within each discipline.

Intercollegiate Athletics

Columbus State University is a Division II member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, and the Peach Belt Conference. The Athletic Director administers the Intercollegiate Athletic Program in accordance with the regulations of the NCAA, Peach Belt Conference and USG. Female student athletes compete in intercollegiate basketball, softball, tennis, cross country, soccer, golf, and track & field. Male student athletes compete in intercollegiate baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, tennis, and track & field. Any student interested in competing on any sports team should contact the Athletic Director. The Athletic Department also supports a nationally ranked co-ed Cheerleading Team

that performs and competes throughout the year.

Student Government

SGA acts as a liaison between the faculty and student body to ensure clear communication and problem solving on an institutional level. Our goal is to successfully serve students and support all student voices and concerns. Students are encouraged to get involved with SGA. For more information about SGA, Executive Board, Senate, Cabinet, Constitution and By-Laws, please visit: [Student Government Association - Columbus State University](#)

POLICIES

Alcohol and Drugs on Campus

In accordance with Georgia laws governing the manufacture, sale, use, distribution, and possession of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs on college campuses and elsewhere, including the Drug-Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990, the Board of Regents encourages its institutions to adopt programs designed to increase awareness of the dangers involved in the use of alcoholic beverages, marijuana, or other illegal or dangerous drugs by University System of Georgia (USG) students and employees. Such programs shall stress individual responsibility related to the use of alcohol and drugs on and off the campus.

To assist in the implementation of such awareness programs and to enhance the enforcement of state laws at USG institutions, each institution shall adopt and disseminate comprehensive rules and regulations consistent with local, state, and federal laws concerning the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of alcoholic beverages, marijuana, controlled substances, or dangerous drugs on campus and at institutional-approved events off campus.

Disciplinary sanctions for the violation of such rules and regulations shall be included as a part of each institution's disciplinary code of student conduct. Disciplinary sanctions for students convicted of a felony offense involving the manufacture, distribution, sale, possession, or use of marijuana, controlled substances, or other illegal or dangerous drugs shall include the forfeiture of academic credit and the temporary or permanent suspension or expulsion from the institution. All sanctions imposed by the institution shall be subject to review procedures authorized by Board of Regents' Policy on Application for Discretionary Review.

The rules and regulations adopted by each institution shall also provide for relief from disciplinary sanctions previously imposed against one whose convictions are subsequently overturned on appeal or otherwise.

Parking Policy

All faculty, staff, currently enrolled students, and service providers who intend to park on either the Columbus State University main campus or its RiverPark campus are required to register their vehicle(s) with Parking Services. Failure to register a vehicle could result in a citation and/or vehicle immobilization or towing. Students taking only online classes and who visit either campus must have their vehicle registered upon arrival by requesting a temporary student permit online or by contacting the Parking Services Office. Vehicle information must be updated when vehicles or license plates change.

For more information on how to register your vehicle and for parking regulations, please visit parking.columbusstate.edu.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), the University System of Georgia (USG) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities or in employment. The USG is committed to ensuring a safe learning and working environment for all members of the USG community. To that end, this Policy prohibits sexual misconduct, as defined herein.

In order to reduce incidents of sexual misconduct, USG institutions are required to provide prevention tools and to conduct ongoing awareness and prevention programming and training for the campus community. Such programs will promote positive and healthy behaviors and educate the campus community on consent, sexual assault, alcohol use, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, bystander intervention, and reporting.

When sexual misconduct does occur, all members of the USG community are strongly encouraged to report it promptly through the procedures outlined in the Sexual Misconduct Policy. The purpose of the Policy is to ensure uniformity throughout the USG in reporting and addressing sexual misconduct. For more information for sexual misconduct policies and reporting potential violations refer the non- academic misconduct section of this handbook and the following links: [Title IX at Columbus State University - Columbus State University](#).

Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus Policy

The University System of Georgia (USG) is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and amicable environment for all students, employees, and persons visiting USG campuses. This policy applies to all persons who enter USG Properties. Violation of this policy may result in corrective action under student conduct or human resource policies and visitors refusing to comply may be asked to leave campus. Signage to help inform the campus communities and visitors of these prohibitions should be placed throughout campus.

USG Properties” is defined as property owned, leased, rented, in the possession of, or in any way used by the USG or its affiliates, including all areas indoors and outdoors, buildings, and parking lots.

“Tobacco Products” is defined as cigarettes, cigars, pipes, all forms of smokeless tobacco, clove cigarettes, and any other smoking devices that use tobacco, such as hookahs, or simulate the use of tobacco, such as electronic cigarettes. This definition includes smoking devices which create an aerosol or vapor or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this policy.

In accordance with the Georgia Smoke Free Air Act of 2005, the use of all forms of Tobacco Products on USG Properties is expressly prohibited. Further, the advertising, sale, or free sampling of Tobacco Products on USG Properties is prohibited unless specifically stated for research purposes. All events hosted by a USG entity and by outside groups on behalf of the USG shall be tobacco-free.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND RIGHTS

Student Responsibilities

The following is an outline of the responsibilities of students, both as individuals and as groups at Columbus State University. It is the official record of all conduct regulations, rules affecting student organizations and group activities, and both student and administrative oriented policies and procedures. Columbus State University will not tolerate academic misconduct or non-academic misconduct.

Columbus State University exists to serve the higher education needs of those students who qualify for admission. The essence of higher education is found in the unhampered freedom to study, investigate, write, speak and debate on any aspect or issue of life. In attempting to achieve that unhampered freedom, the students acquire certain fundamental rights and responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities, as defined below, are considered an integral part of the educational process at Columbus State University. Any additional rights or responsibilities may be promulgated under established procedures during the school year as required for the general well-being of the student body and university. A student is expected to follow these rules and the University is expected to enforce them. At the same time, the University is expected to acknowledge the student’s rights stated herein and respect the student’s autonomy in these areas.

Unfamiliarity is not an excuse for infractions of the regulations.

Knowledge of them, on the other hand, can help the student use these rights to the fullest and avoid having others infringe on these rights.

Academic Freedom

Academic freedom refers to the rights and responsibilities essential to the task of scholarship in its broadest sense. It extends to the entire academic community, including faculty, students, administrators, and the institution itself. While many rights and responsibilities may be shared simultaneously by every member, the expression of academic freedom requires civility. Access to grievance/appeal procedures and to conflict mediation is a basic component of academic freedom available to all members of the academic community.

Columbus State University, within the context of the policies of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, has the authority to determine on academic grounds who may be admitted to study, what may be taught, how it may be taught, and who may teach. Administering these fundamental freedoms involves all members of the academic community.

Student Rights

Students have the right to learn and to inquire. They have a right to examine and discuss questions of interest, to take stands on issues, and to support causes, by orderly means which do not impede the collegial process of learning.

Students shall have the right to have their academic records kept confidential. Disciplinary records are subject to current state law. All practices and policies dealing with the acquisition and retention of

information for records shall be formulated with due regard for the student's right to privacy. No records shall be available to unauthorized persons without the express consent of the student involved except under legal compulsion or in cases where the safety of persons or property is involved. No permanent records shall be kept which reflect any alleged political activities or beliefs of students.

Students shall have the right of protection against prejudiced academic evaluation. At the same time, students are responsible for maintaining the standards of academic performance established by the faculty for each course in which they are enrolled. Any student who believes their individual academic rights have been violated may seek redress by contacting the Chair of the Department, Dean of the College, or the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs or the Dean of Students Office for direction in filing a formal grievance.

Individual students and recognized campus organizations have the right to publish and distribute written materials provided that the material is produced in accordance with university regulations and follows the guidelines established by the Student Publications Advisory Board.

Student publications shall be guaranteed the rights inherent in the concept of "freedom of the press." The Student Publication Advisory Board shall protect those rights and enforce standards of responsible journalism.

Student Publications

The Uproar

Columbus State University students publish their own newspaper, The Uproar, during fall and spring semesters. The Uproar provides a means for students, faculty and staff to express their views, in both guest editorials and letters to the editors. The editor and staff have full responsibility for preparing

the publication while gaining valuable journalistic experience. Staff positions are open to all students who meet the qualifications.

Columbus State University student publications exist primarily to provide participating students and the student body the following:

- a. Experience in self-expression.
- b. Training in the aspects of publishing.
- c. Outlets for creative work.
- d. Information about student and faculty activities.
- e. A forum for the free exchange of opinion.

Student Publication Advisory Board

It is the purpose of the Student Publication Advisory Board to protect freedom of the press and, at the same time, to foster the standards of responsible journalism. It also recognizes that a university newspaper, including digital publications and/or social media extensions of student publications, is read by an audience that extends beyond the campus. The Board establishes the following guidelines and procedures concerning controversial matters:

- i. **Materials that could be classified as libelous.** Libel is defined as a false and malicious defamation of another, expressed in print, writing, pictures, or signs, tending to injure the reputation of the person and exposing them to public hatred, contempt, or ridicule.
- ii. **Obscenity and profanity in articles or advertising.** Obscenity guidelines consider the following:
 - a. whether the average person, applying contemporary community standards would find that the work, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest, and
 - b. whether the work depicts or describes, in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct, and whether the work, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

The indiscriminate publication of advertisements, such as those which undermine ethical or academic standards, promote sexism or sexist attitudes, encourage bigotry, hate or violence, etc. is prohibited.

Questions: Whenever questions arise, it is the responsibility of the Editor to confer with the Advisor. If the Advisor is unsure about what to do, the Advisor can then ask the Student Publication Advisory Board to convene a review panel to make a determination.

It is the responsibility of the Publication Editor to see that the following editorial policies are adhered to:

- i. Facts should be distinguished from opinion.
- ii. The Editor should check for libelous content before publication.
- iii. Good faith with the reader is the foundation of all journalism worthy of the name. By every consideration of good faith a newspaper is obligated to be truthful, thorough, and accurate. Headlines should also be fully warranted by the content of the article.
- iv. Sound practice makes a clear distinction between news reports and expressions of opinion. News reports should be free from opinion of any kind. This rule does not apply to so-called special articles or editorials unmistakably devoted to advocacy or characterized by a signature authorizing the writer's conclusions and interpretations.
- v. A newspaper should not publish opinion affecting reputation or moral character without allowing the right of swift rebuttal.
- vi. A newspaper should not invade a person's privacy unless there is a public right to know as opposed to mere curiosity.
- vii. It is the duty of a newspaper to make prompt and complete correction of serious mistakes of fact or interpretation, whatever their origin.
- viii. All submissions must be signed; The Uproar will not publish anonymous opinion.

- ix. Pictures, cartoons, and other devices can be libelous and should be edited with the same discretion used for written work. The Advisor and the Editor must so instruct the staff that each member will recheck information, cartoons, and other materials to see that these meet legal and ethical standards. Staff members of student publications should review legal information before the beginning of each school year.
- x. Faculty, students, or others may submit contributions to student publications; however, Editors are not obligated to publish all materials received.
- xi. Materials of an official nature may be published as a service to the student body.
- xii. Student publications will bear a prominently displayed statement to the effect that they are student publications.

A. Advisor Responsibilities

- i. **Overview of Responsibilities.** The Advisor offers advice on the design and format of student publications, assists with business procedures, and encourages quality publications. It is never the Advisor's role to proofread or censor the student newspaper.
- ii. **Legal Awareness.** The Advisor should bring to the Editor's attention the legal and moral responsibilities of any college publications and provide notice that the University President may be held responsible for student publications, articles, pictures, ads.
- iii. **Editor's Qualification.** The Advisor will ensure that all candidates meet eligibility requirements.

B. The Staff of Publications

The position of Editor will be limited to students who have at least a 2.50 grade point average (GPA), have shown a sincere commitment to The Uproar and have demonstrated journalistic ability. Except for the Editor, all staff members, paid and unpaid, must maintain at least a 2.00 GPA. All other paid and unpaid staff members will be selected by the Editor, with the advice of the Advisor, on the basis of journalistic ability, interest, initiative, and contribution to the publication. Staff can be dismissed by the Editor. Staff who have been removed from their duties have the right to appeal to the Publication Committee, then to the Grievance Review Board.

The Student Publication Committee, with input from the Advisor, will have the power to remove from office the Editor with "just cause," as defined by the Publications Committee Handbook.

A staff member on The Uproar cannot serve simultaneously as an SGA Executive Officer due to possible conflict of interest.

C. Election of Editor

The annual election of the Editor will be held no later than the second Friday in April and will be supervised by the Advisor.

The Editor will be elected by a simple majority of staff members eligible to vote. To be eligible to vote, a staff member must have served since the beginning of the current semester. The current Editor in Chief will vote only in the case of a tie.

The newly elected Editor's term will begin the day after spring graduation.

Freedom of Expression Policy

To affirm Columbus State University's support and respect for the rights embodied in the First Amendment, including the right of freedom of speech, freedom of expression, the free exercise of religion, and the right to peaceably assemble. This policy is intended to promote campus safety, to ensure the proper functioning of the academic environment and institution activities, and to protect individual

rights. In no way is this policy intended to place an undue burden on members of the CSU community to freely express themselves. Time, place, and manner restrictions imposed by the University shall be content and viewpoint neutral and leave open ample alternative means of expression.

DEFINITIONS

“CSU Community” means any of the following: (i) any persons enrolled at or employed by the University including University students, faculty, staff, administrators, and employees, (ii) University colleges, schools, departments, units, registered University student organizations, and recognized cooperative organizations, and (iii) invited guests of any party listed in the foregoing (i) and (ii) provided such guests are in the company of the inviting party. In the case of invited guests, the inviting party remains responsible to the University under this Policy and other applicable University policies for the guest’s conduct.

“Non-CSU Community” means individuals or group who are not members of the CSU Community.

“Protected expressive activity” consists of speech and other conduct protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, including, but not limited to, lawful verbal, written, audio-visual, or electronic expression by which individuals may communicate ideas to one another, 1 This Policy was adopted on an interim basis on September 5, 2022. DocuSign Envelope ID: CEC71A47-7DB8-4F23-B3F1-299CEB53FFA9 2 including all forms of peaceful assembly, distributing literature, carrying signs, circulating petitions, demonstrations, protests, and speeches including those by guest speakers.

“Unrestricted outdoor area of campus” means any outdoor area of campus that is generally accessible to members of the campus community, including, but not limited to, grassy areas, walkways, or other common areas, and does not include outdoor areas when and where access to members of the campus community is lawfully restricted.

In accordance with [Board of Regents Policy 6.5 Freedom of Expression](#), CSU agrees and affirms that freedom of expression is of the utmost importance and must be protected and that as an institution, CSU is responsible for providing a secure learning environment that allows members of the CSU community, as well as non-CSU community members, to express their views in ways that do not disrupt the operation of the University. CSU community members are free to engage in undisrupted, spontaneous expressive activity in all unrestricted outdoor areas of campus.

See [this link](#) for a complete version of the Columbus State University policy.

Use of Likeness for Promotional Purposes

Columbus State University reserves the right to photograph and/or videotape students, faculty, staff and guests while on university property, during university-sponsored events, or during activities where they are representing the university. These images and audio may be used by Columbus State University for promotional purposes, including use in university magazines, newspapers, press releases, booklets, brochures, pamphlets, newsletters, advertisements, the University website and associated sites, and other promotional materials.

Distribution of Advertising Material, Propaganda, and the Like

Columbus State University does not endorse or sponsor campaigns, movements, drives, or the printed or duplicated materials used for persuading a desired opinion and/or action. The exchange, sale, giving for a consideration, bartering, or solicitation

of gifts or donations is prohibited by any individual, group of individuals, company or corporation not authorized by the Vice President for Business and Finance.

For additional information, please refer to the section entitled Policies listed previously in this handbook.

Posting of Notices and Care of Bulletin Boards

Materials placed on campus bulletin boards or cork strips should be arranged neatly. Permission should be received from the appropriate administrative office within the area of the building where the posting is desired. No posting should occur on glass doors in such a manner as to obscure vision. Using paint or other materials that may permanently deface a building is prohibited.

Non-Discrimination and Harassment Prevention

Columbus State University (CSU) is committed to maintaining a fair and respectful environment for living, work, and study, in accordance with federal and state law, University System of Georgia (USG) Board of Regents (BOR) policy, and University policy. For the full policy see: [Non-Discrimination Policy](#)

Notice of Non-Discrimination under Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination, including pregnancy-related discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual violence, in all activities and programs of educational institutions receiving federal funds, which includes Columbus State University.

All University community members must comply with Title IX, including: students, faculty, staff, university administrators, coaches, and visitors. For more information see: [Title IX at Columbus State University - Columbus State University](#)

CSU Title IX Coordinator

Sarah Secoy, MPA.

Director of Center for Accommodation and Access/Title IX Coordinator Schuster 110

Columbus, GA 31907

(706) 507-8757

secoy_sarah@columbusstate.edu

Deputy Title IX Coordinator

Dr. Amber Dees Richards Hall 313

706-507-8634

dees_amber@columbusstate.edu

Region IV-Atlanta Office of Civil Rights U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center, Suite 16T7061 Forsyth Street, S.W. Atlanta, GA 30303-8909

(800) 368-1019 (phone)

(800) 537-7697 (TDD)

[\(404\) 562-7881](tel:(404)562-7881)

U.S. Department of Education

Office of Civil Rights (800) 421-3481

ocr@ed.gov

Hazing Information and Policies

Columbus State University is committed to education and measures which support a safe campus environment and experience for all students. Accordingly, incidents of hazing and other forms of harmful misconduct perpetrated upon any individual by another individual and/or organization shall be addressed through the University's student conduct investigative and hearing. Columbus State University fully complies with the Stop Hazing Act (Public Law 118- 35) and the Georgia Max Gruver Act by integrating federal and state hazing prevention, reporting, and disclosure requirements into existing Clery and student conduct policies. See [this link](#) for the full website and policy.

STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

As members of an academic community devoted to teaching, scholarship, service, and the holistic development of students, individuals who choose to become part of this environment accept both the privileges and responsibilities that come with it. The university is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and engaging community aligned with its educational mission and values. Expectations for student behavior often extend beyond what is typically expected of the public, reflecting the higher standards of an academic setting.

The Office of the Dean of Students plays a key role in promoting personal accountability, ethical decision-making, and community engagement. It seeks to educate students on community standards, support student development, and address behaviors that may compromise individual growth or the well-being of the campus community. Through fair and educational conduct processes, the university aims to guide students in understanding the impact of their actions, make informed choices, and become responsible citizens both within and beyond the academic setting.

Goals of the Student Conduct Process

- Foster understanding of community standards and expectations
- Encourage students to acknowledge and take responsibility for their actions
- Promote reflection on the underlying causes of misconduct
- Support alignment of behavior with shared community values
- Assist students in clarifying personal values and their relationship to conduct
- Encourage responsible decision-making and future success
- Promote awareness of the consequences of behavior in advance
- Protect the safety, welfare, and integrity of the university community

Columbus State University will not tolerate academic or non-academic misconduct. Any individual found to be in violation of the University standards, policies or procedures will be subject to the sanctions/remedies listed in this Student Code of Conduct. Reporting academic, non-academic, or

concerning behavior is the responsibility of all members of the University community. Reports may be filed with a [Create Care Report](#).

See [this link](#) for the full Student Code of Conduct.