



PUBLIC SERVICE & OUTREACH STUDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM

SUPPORTED BY THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTREACH

2024-25 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The **Public Service & Outreach Student Scholars** program provides the opportunity for a select cohort of undergraduate students to explore and engage with the University of Georgia’s public service and outreach (PSO) mission. The Student Scholars program is *not* a service organization per se, but rather an opportunity to learn how UGA applies expertise across the state to develop leaders, create jobs and address critical challenges in Georgia and beyond. Supported by the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach, this year-long program is intended to provide deeper understanding of PSO’s purpose, breadth, and depth through supervised service experiences with PSO and communities, to help students link their public service experiences with their career and educational goals, and to create a community of student scholars who understand the role of public service and outreach in Georgia and more broadly. The program is also an approved Experiential Learning opportunity.

The program was first established in Spring 2011. For the 2023-24 program year, a cohort of up to 25 PSO Student Scholars will be selected through a competitive application process. Two returning students serve as mentors.

Program Overview

Fall Semester 2024	Spring Semester 2025	Summer-Fall 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cohort meetings provide broad understanding of PSO history, goals, activities, and national context; every Friday, 12:40-2:40. ○ Sessions usually include site visits to PSO units, thematic meetings, service-learning activity, guest lectures by PSO faculty, and meetings with UGA administration. ○ Students take part in reflection activities. ○ Fall team-building & trip to Marine Extension (Sept 27-Sept 29). ○ Students begin planning and scheduling spring internship work with PSO unit by end of semester. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 120-150-hour internship with a Public Service & Outreach unit, supervised by a designated PSO unit mentor. ○ Usually includes “deliverable” for PSO unit (applied research project, intensive outreach project, program materials, etc.). ○ Cohort group meets 2-3 times throughout semester. ○ Program participants invited to take part in other events and activities scheduled collaboratively, as well as occasional “ambassadorial” opportunities representing PSO. ○ Participants recognized during Honors Week, evaluate program, and present internship outcomes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On completion of program, Scholars invited to develop a proposal for a paid, full- or part-time summer or fall internship with a PSO unit (e.g., an applied research project, or other extended work on a PSO project). ○ Summer work could be located outside of Athens (e.g., at Marine Extension, an Archway community, etc.). ○ Competitive selection. ○ Pay/stipend, plus travel, expenses and project budget as necessary.



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Cohort Meetings and Activities

The Public Service & Outreach Student Scholars are expected to take part in all of the following:

- Cohort meetings during Fall Semester every **Friday from 12:40-2:40 p.m.** (or equivalent period if UGA modifies class period times), focusing on understanding the breadth, scope, and activities of Public Service & Outreach and its units, as well as special meetings with UGA administrators. Typically, each PSO unit hosts the group, provides lunch, and showcases their faculty, staff, and outreach initiatives.
- Scholars Retreats and Events: Fall team-building; a UGA Marine Extension/Skidaway Island/Archway retreat during Fall semester (September 27-September 29, including all day Friday); and other special events to be scheduled with participants. All travel, meals, and lodging costs for participants will be provided. (Events are pending UGA guidelines for safe/approved group activities and travel.)
- 120-150 hours (ca. 10 hours per week) of direct internship work with a PSO unit during Spring Semester, generally including a final internship project (e.g., article, report, contract, etc.) determined in coordination with the PSO unit mentor. See details below and online.
- Participation in assessment and feedback on the program, including program publicity and reflection.

Spring PSO Internships

Each Scholar will be selected by one of the following PSO units for an unpaid internship to be completed during Spring 2025. A wide range of majors and interests are desired, and many units can successfully use the skills and interests of students for both working with the public and internally; some possibilities include:

- *The Archway Partnership* connects higher education resources to community-identified priorities in eight locations around Georgia.* Past interns have worked on outreach and research projects with Archway communities relating to health, education, public relations, and more. (~ 2-3 students selected)
- *The Carl Vinson Institute of Government* provides assistance and training to state and local government officials. Past interns have completed applied research and outreach with CVIOG divisions, including government training, fiscal notes, GIS with ITOS, research papers, public finance, and more. (~ 3-4 students)
- *The J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development* focuses on leadership development to implement sustainable solutions to community challenges. Past interns have worked with Peer Court, youth leadership programs, event planning, community leadership programs, evaluation, and more. (~ 4 students)
- *Marine Extension Service* and *Georgia Sea Grant* carry out coastal-based applied research, education, outreach and training.* Past interns have helped with applied research on shellfish, resilient coastal infrastructure, communications/public relations, coastal policy outreach, and educational programs and events. (~ 4 students)
- *The Office of Service-Learning* fosters the integration of relevant service addressing critical community needs into academic courses campus-wide. Past interns have helped with programming, materials development and PR, and work supporting Campus Kitchen, Engage Georgia, and Experience UGA initiatives. (~ 3 students)



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- *The Small Business Development Center* supports business development, training, and applied research. Past interns have done job shadowing, feedback on business plans, and assisted with trainings. (~1 student)
- *The State Botanical Garden of Georgia* is a public garden that provides environmental education, applied research, and outreach. Past interns have helped with a range of activities including conservation, propagation, educational programs, communications, the Children's Garden, and applied research. (~3-4 students)
- *The Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel* provides hotel, dining and conference center services and continuing education for personal and professional development. Past interns have led statewide youth competitions and helped in management, operations, and customer service initiatives. (~2 students)
- *PSO Communications* and the *Office of Vice President for PSO* host interns to help with activities and special projects such as communication and social media marketing, events such as the Student Tour of Georgia, and program development and support. (~1-2 students)

Some internships (marked * above) could include occasional travel outside Athens if appropriate.

See more about these units and their activities at <http://outreach.uga.edu>.

Optional Summer/Fall Internships

Upon completion of the program, Scholars are invited to propose a **summer outreach, research or internship project** with a PSO unit (locally or at other locations where units are engaged). These may be full- or part-time, for some or all of the summer, and funding for travel or other expenses can also be requested. Some options for Fall 2023 may also be available, depending on unit needs. Typically, 5-8 projects are funded each year.

Recognition

Students selected as Scholars will receive recognition at the Public Service and Outreach annual meeting during Honors Week in April. Scholars are also occasionally invited to represent UGA and PSO as "ambassadors" at special events, on and off campus. Completing the program qualifies for UGA's Experiential Learning requirement.

Eligibility

The Public Service & Outreach Student Scholars program is open to any UGA undergraduate student in good standing (preferred GPA 3.0 or higher) who has completed at least a year of university study prior to Fall Semester 2024, and who commits to full participation in the program and activities. A cohort that represents the breadth of our campus's diversity across majors, personal and academic backgrounds, gender/ethnicity, geography, graduation year, etc. is desired, and all interested candidates are welcome to apply.



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Application Guidelines

A successful application includes:

- A completed [APPLICATION FORM](#)
 - a current résumé,
 - a 250-500 word statement explaining: your motivations to participate in the PSO Student Scholars program; your preference and rationale for possible internship placement(s); and how participation relates to your career/academic goals.
- [one faculty/staff reference form](#) – must be submitted by Wednesday, April 3
- a current UGA transcript (official transcript may be sent by the Registrar’s Office to Mr. Podvin at jhpodvin@uga.edu or a student-generated [unofficial] transcript included with application materials)

Application deadline is Wednesday, April 3, 2023.

Program finalists will be interviewed between April 15 – April 25 (please hold as much time as possible that week), with final notification prior to the end of the semester.

Questions?

Contact OSL Assistant Director, Joshua Podvin, jhpodvin@uga.edu, 706-542-4511

Application forms and information are linked from the Public Service & Outreach page at:
<https://outreach.uga.edu/programs/psa-student-scholars/>.

Current participants are available to share their experiences and advice!