



# Provost Notes

May 2024

## Final Grades for Spring 2024

Spring 2024 final grades are due by **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.** The spring term requires particularly prompt processing since the summer term starts before the grade deadline. Please be on time and ensure that all your grades have been received. The green “**completed**” indicator in the grading status column will confirm that you have successfully entered the grades for each class.

## Summer Orientations

Six orientation sessions are scheduled for first-year students entering in the fall of 2024.

- First-Year Students: June 4, 6, 11, 13; July 23 & 25
- Bridge Scholars Program: June 15
- Transfer Students: July 24

## Information About Summer Classes

Summer classes that would have met on either Memorial Day (Mondays) or Juneteenth (Wednesdays) will have a make-up day as outlined below. Because of the timing of the Independence Day holiday and July term dates, no make-up day is required for the Fourth of July. For more information on the summer schedule, please see the academic calendar online.

If your summer class would have met on:	You will meet on this day to make up that class session:
Memorial Day: Monday, May 27	Friday, May 31
Juneteenth: Wednesday, June 19	Friday, June 28
Independence Day: Thursday, July 3 and Friday, July 4	No make up day required

## GCSU Summer Operations

As a reminder, GCSU will have a modified work schedule from Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, through Friday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Offices will be open Monday - Thursday from 8 am to 5:30 pm, and 8 am - 12 pm on Fridays. During weeks with a holiday, normal working hours will resume, from 8 am – 5 pm.

## Congratulations!

**Sidonia Serafini, College of Arts & Sciences, Serafini Summer Stipends Application, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), \$6,000**

## Next Year...

*Liberal Arts Skills for the Professions and Individual Well-Being* aims to support faculty and students better understand the connections between the liberal arts and their personal and professional lives. The Center for Teaching and Learning has assembled an Advisory Council that will work across colleges to schedule and promote activities during the 2024-2025 academic year.

Please reserve the afternoon of August 23, 2024, to welcome the Class of 2028 during Convocation. The First Year Convocation Organizing Committee (Lauren Easom and Winston Tripp, co-chairs) will be meeting in the next few months as we focus on welcoming and supporting the onboarding of our new students.

## Research Expenditures at GCSU...

In a collaborative effort between the Office of the Provost, the Budget Office, the Division of Financial Administration, and the Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects, GCSU is working diligently to implement a system that allows for the separate and more accurate accounting of research-related expenses. This collaboration ensures that our approach to research expenditure tracking is comprehensive. This work will inform our participation in the upcoming NSF HERD Survey.

## 2023-2024 Academic Affairs Unit Updates

The May 2024 issue of the *Provost Notes* includes end-of-the-year updates from numerous units in the Office of Academic Affairs. The reports below focus on accomplishments and progress on key projects during the 2023-2024 academic year.

### Office of Grants and Sponsored Projects

- The Office of Grants & Sponsored Projects (OGSP) showcased our collaboration with the University System of Georgia (USG) Regents Advisory Council on Research (RACR) by hosting the inaugural in-person conference at Georgia College & State University on January 26, 2024. The RACR aims to foster the growth of research endeavors within the University System of Georgia.
- As of April 2024, the year-to-date awards for FY24 total \$3,216,979.
- As part of its outreach to the university community, the OGSP started a *Lunch 'N Learn* initiative entitled "Understanding Indirect Cost Distribution" developed for Deans and Chairs as well as faculty and staff with active grants.

### International Education Center

- The International Education Center (IEC) supported 216 students to study abroad in 26 nations this year. As many as 13 students will pursue international internships this summer, the most ever at GCSU. This year, more than 20% of applicants applied for the "New Horizon" scholarships.
- Discussions are nearing conclusion with schools and universities to expand opportunities for students and faculty alike. Our partners are interested in the Border-Free concept.
- The innovative *GC Global* newsletter is being relaunched. *Crossroad*, a new student-created and student-focused news magazine, has released three editions. Distributed online and via email, *Crossroad* also reaches five continents.
- IEC received formal recognition from a State Department NGO for its "long partnership and commitment." The State Department has sent five students to GCSU during 2023-2024, from Cambodia, El Salvador, Georgia, Mongolia, and Uzbekistan.
- Students from 29 nations came to GCSU this year, in line with numbers seen in the past at GCSU.
- IEC again successfully mentored international students to graduate school acceptances in the US and abroad, continuing its 100% success rate in recent years. Five students were mentored into successful placements, and all at their first choices.
- IEC applied for and received designation of GCSU's J-1 exchange student and visitor program.

### John H. Lounsbury College of Education (COE)

- Professional development sessions for faculty were scheduled before the monthly COE meetings. Sessions included topics such as the Canva graphic design platform, QuickTime and ScreenPal video creation presentations, creating and editing an iMovie green screen video, makerspace AV equipment, and the Merge Cube AR/VR Learning Tool. All sessions provided a hands-on component so that participants could practice and develop skills with the technology.
- The Elementary Education Master of Arts in Teaching is now fully approved, online courses are being developed, and we are currently accepting students. We anticipate a full cohort of 25 students to begin Summer 2024.
- A NEXUS degree proposal focusing on paraprofessional educators is currently undergoing revisions. Once completed, the document will be submitted next academic year to the University System of Georgia for final review.

### College of Health Sciences (COHS)

- The college received approval to proceed with CEPH accreditation process for the BS in Public Health.
- The School of Health and Human Performance achieved 100% pass rates on GACE exam for MAT Kinesiology/Health & Physical Education majors; 100% pass rates on Board of Certification (BOC) exam for MSAT majors; 100% job placement for MSAT graduates; and 100% job placement for MAT/HPE graduates.
- The BS in Exercise Science continued to rank in the top 5 majors for enrollment.
- The School of Nursing achieved a 98% NCLEX first quarter pass rate for undergraduate students.
- The DNP cohort has grown from 4 last year to 42 this year with the addition of the BSN to DNP track.
- The inaugural BSN to DNP cohort includes a BSN student who graduated this spring and started her program this week. This cohort also includes 6 students who are 100% funded by the ANEW grant.
- The Simulation and Translational Research Center (STRC) set a record of 12,000 contact hours during the first quarter of the year. The STRC will surpass last year's 16,000 record by the end of the semester.

### Enrollment Management

- The Office of Admissions attended over 780 high school visits and college fairs this academic year. More than 18,800 students were seen by the GCSU admissions recruitment team.
- The Office of the Registrar implemented the USG Core IMPACTS curricular changes, functional changes to support Double Bobcat program, electronic diplomas, and new Nursing admission data collection process.
- The Career Center partnered with over 340 employers and graduate school programs to facilitate 273 academic and professional development presentations, workshops, and events, garnering over 3,680 student contacts.
- The Learning Center's drop-in tutoring is up 30% compared to last Spring, and over 50 SI/PASS leaders have partnered with courses for Fall 2024 support. Additionally, the LC's 3-day *Don't Stress Fest* had over 600 student participants.
- The Office of New Student Programs hosted the largest Junior Day event in university history, welcoming 231 high school juniors to our campus.
- GCSU hosted five successful Admitted Student Receptions across the state.

### J. Whitney Bunting College of Business and Technology (COBT)

- Launch Bloomberg Trading Lab; Identify funds to sustain (Successfully launched; prepared case for philanthropic support; secured \$100,000 to establish a student-managed fund).
- Improve Data Collection for HIP Outcomes (Senior exit survey in place for all CoBT graduates; faculty proposal in AY24-25 to require a minimum number of HIPs).
- Further invest in graduate enrollment tactics and identify ROI on recent approaches; implement a second MLSCM cohort in Spring 2024 and then draft a Double Bobcat proposal for Spring 2025; Explore potential for an Applied MS in Computer Science (AI) (recruited a new business outreach coordinator who is tasked with revamping our marketing strategy and tactics; established a Spring 2025 MLSCM cohort and Double Bobcats Program to go live in AY24-25; revised the MMIS program to offer greater flexibility for students to explore interests like Enterprise Systems, IT Governance, and Security Management; updated the online MMIS Certificates: Data Analytics & Applied Machine Learning, Applied Generative AI, and Enterprise Systems & AI; in the early stage of drafting an MS in Applied CS with a focus on AI.
- Assessed tech competency and identified curriculum adjustments; Explored undergraduate certificate in AI - [Dashboard](#) developed to document tech competency; established an AI Lab; new undergraduate certificate in AI; modified BCOM 2285 to include AI Prompting.
- Curriculum Review of Business Core (Full faculty CoBT Retreat in early August with numerous proposals developed and considered; ongoing discussion and review of options/feasibility).
- Societal impact micro-plan focused on addressing inequality and improving social mobility through efforts in our curriculum, scholarship, and engagement (adopted in Fall 2023, entitled “Advancing Equality and Improving Social Mobility” – the plan may be found [here](#); VITA Program for underserved populations; workshops on scholarship and teaching/learning related to plan focus area; engaged minority-owned businesses to explore ways to collaborate).

### School of Continuing and Professional Studies (SCPS)

- GCSU Thirst for Knowledge Program in Academic Outreach will have its first student to complete the *GC Journeys* component this spring. GCSU has offered over 30 TFK events and over 150 science-based and literacy programs to participants of all ages.
- The High Achievers Program will submit a continuation for FY25 to provide services for participants grades 9-12 (appx. \$185,000) for up to 2 years.
- Communities in Schools served 7 Baldwin County Schools with services for ages 3 years to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, to include monthly books for 210 Head Start students and 40 Pre-K students, along with resources for their parents to encourage daily at-home reading. CIS also provided GED testing fees for 45 students enrolled at CGTC.
- The YES program at Lakeview Academy is advancing to phase 3 of the acceptance process for FY25 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC cohort, including a grant of appx. \$1.7 million, to continue services for participants in grades 3-5 over the next 5 years.
- The Grants & Sponsored Projects department worked in collaboration with Continuing and Professional Education to offer the Solar Technology & Green Energy Entrepreneurship certificate program to nearly 50 students.
- The Georgia’s Old Governor’s Mansion is updating the Education Building to include a permanent exhibition on the history of the site.
- Production Services has provided support for a variety of programs throughout the on-campus community and off-campus partnerships that have generated revenue to support staff and equipment upgrades.

### Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE)

- This fall starts year-one of the Quality Enhancement Program (QEP), *Bobcats FIRST*. Programming and data collection will begin in August 2024.
- The Office of Assessment is preparing to address the new CORE Assessment for Fall 2024.
- Improved dissemination of data via the GCSU website by creating an easier interface.

### Ina Dillard Russell Library

- Expand access for students to innovative technology equipment to support student success (Pillar: Engage): Information about the library's circulating technology is now available to students in a visually appealing virtual catalog accessible from the library's web site. The new interface provides more information about the plethora of technological resources available for student use.
- Develop a comprehensive timeline and work plan for the successful opening and integration of a historic letterpress studio (Pillar: Innovate): The timeline and work plan were developed, and the letterpress studio will officially debut in Fall 2024.
- Collaborate with the local community to document, preserve, and make available previously untold and undocumented local histories (Pillar: Engage): As a part of the "Remembering Central State Hospital" Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) funded grant with Middle Georgia Regional Library, library faculty, staff, and students, the library collaboratively conducted and transcribed oral history interviews with individuals connected with Central State Library. The interviews will eventually reside with the Digital Library of Georgia. A companion exhibit, "Unsilenced Voices: An Oral History Project of Central State Hospital" was curated. Interviews will be collected on an ongoing basis.

### The Graduate School

- Increased graduate enrollment by approximately 4% from Spring 2023 to Spring 2024, exceeding the goal of increasing by 3%.
- Increased Graduate Research Travel Grant funding by 52%.
- Increased the number of graduate students who presented at *GCSU Research Day* by 5%.
- Collaborated with University Communications to highlight alumni and noted these success stories, including videos, on The Graduate School website.
- Implemented SLATE in April 2024, earlier than the expected date of June 1, 2024.
- Launched strategic marketing campaigns with Encoura in collaboration with University Communications and the academic colleges. These campaigns are cultivating significant interests in The Graduate School programs.
- Audited the Graduate School website and have significantly reduced the number of clicks associated with applying to The Graduate School.
- In collaboration with College of Education and College of Health Sciences, launched two new graduate programs, the MAT in Elementary Education and the BSN to DNP.
- Twenty-five Double Bobcat Pathway students will graduate in Spring and Summer 2024.
- Increased Double Bobcats pathway options from 3 to 10 pathways across all four colleges.
- The number of students enrolled in Double Bobcat pathway courses in Spring 2024 is 65.
- In collaboration with Human Resources, implemented a consistent recruitment and hiring process for Graduate Assistantships.

### Transformative Learning Experiences

- *GC Journeys* worked with department chairs to better clarify coding of *GC Journeys* experiences. Furthermore, *GC Journeys* worked with the Office of Engagement to better support, identify, and code CbEL experiences. (Pillar: Innovate)
- The Center for Teaching and Learning created an assessment for each of its major activities. Included in each assessment activity is a timeline, what is to be assessed, what metrics will be assessed, and who is responsible for it. The CTL added each of the assessed items to the MS Planner with specific instructions on how to submit the data for review and next steps. (Pillar: Empower)
- The Rural Studies Institute received funding to sponsor three GCSU students to attend the Rural-Urban Summit at the University of Chicago; secured a \$25,000 Sustainable Agriculture grant, submitted a grant to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA); and maintained important partnerships with Drawdown Georgia, the Aspen Institute, Google Food Lab. (Pillar: Distinguish).
- In 2023-24, the Office of Leadership Programs implemented a common set of Research & Public Service Priorities to inform public discourse and contribute meaningfully to the public good. Students produced nearly two dozen research studies with policy relevance for external partner agencies. Additionally, hosted outreach programming and published the proceedings, including the Usery Forum on Leadership, TEDxGeorgiaCollege, and the Leadership Ideas Festival. The Leadership Clinics produced four final reports on strategic planning, workforce development in the state of Georgia, understanding the workforce housing shortage, and AI in healthcare administration. (Pillar: Engage).
- As part of the Strategic Planning recommendations, the Andalusia Institute changed its name to the Flannery O'Connor Institute for the Humanities. Furthermore, the Flannery O'Connor Institute has begun work with advancement on creating a 5-year strategic plan, and an advisory board.
- The Writing Center empowered more students by achieving an 8.7% increase in tutoring availability and a 5% increase in visits this year. With expanded scheduling options, the center successfully served a growing number of students seeking writing support (Pillar: Empower).

### John E. Sallstrom Honors College

- Collaborated with the Office of the Registrar, the Academic Advising Center, department chairs, and faculty to tailor class offerings to areas of need and offered courses in new subjects such as nursing. Delivered more than two dozen co-curricular programs each semester.
- Faculty, faculty mentors, and students worked together to submit proposals for the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference and Southern Regional Honors Conference. Accompanied large delegations of students to both conferences, where they presented their research.
- Collaborated with Eta Sigma Alpha Honors student association to revise peer mentor training and programming to better meet the needs of incoming students.
- Added three members to the Honors Advisory Board.

### College of Arts and Sciences (COAS)

- The plans to renovate Herty Hall are underway with the Dean's Office having met with the architectural design team from Pagethink multiple times this year. The project will involve a redesigned concept design floorplan that will affect levels 2 and 3 in the building, as well as new construction affecting the greenhouse on the roof. Next steps involve planning for classes in AYs 2024-26 as much of the construction work will happen throughout the next two academic years.
- The other preparation for expansion concerning COAS will mean the construction of an entirely new building on the corner of Wayne and Montgomery streets on northeast side of campus. Approval from the University System of Georgia has been given for design work to begin on the new building, which will house the rehearsal spaces needed for the many bands and choirs within the Department of Music.
- The College completed its five five-year administrative reviews of department chairs Indiren Pillay (Biology and Environmental Sciences), Aran MacKinnon (History and Geography), Lee Gillis (Psychological Science), Don Parker (Music) and Sunita Manian (Philosophy and Liberal Studies). Five-year reviews of the other eight department chairs will be forthcoming in the next few years.
- The Department of Music received notification in April that the national American Music Therapy Association, Inc., has granted its approval of the Bachelor of Music, Post-Bachelor of Arts equivalency, and Master of Music Therapy degree programs at GCSU.
- Faculty hiring in the COAS in 2023-24 includes both permanent and limited-term positions in Public Relations, Graphic Design, Computational Biology, Plant Biology, American History, Film Studies, Scenic Design, Dance, Philosophy, Photography, Sociology, Political Science, Theatre, French, and Spanish.
- With support from the Office of the Provost, the COAS welcomed the largest first year class of students in GCSU's history (1,815) by adding more varied core courses within our IMPACTS areas of mathematics and quantitative skills, political science and American history, arts, humanities, and ethics, communication in writing, technology, mathematics, and science, and the social sciences.
- The Department of Chemistry, Physics, and Astronomy has restructured its curricular offerings in the last year. Expanding to become not just preparation for graduate school, the department now offers additional degrees, concentrations, and certificates in forensic chemistry, industrial chemistry, physics education, pre-pharmacy, and pre-engineering for students to use in career preparation.
- Just one year after winning the university's first-ever Truman Award (Colin Hall, Political Science), the COAS is proud to announce its second Truman Award winner in two years: Axel Hawkins is a junior History major who won a prestigious Newman Civic Fellowship in 2023.