Health Services

Georgia Southern University Health Services is a department of Auxiliary Services and the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Health Services is also a member of the American College Health Association (ACHA), the Southern College Health Association (SCHA), and is a former recipient of Georgia Southern University’s President’s Staff Team Award for Excellence in Service to Students. Health Services is nationally accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAH). The mission of Health Services is to help Georgia Southern University students achieve the best possible physical and psychological health and to positively impact their long-term health-related behaviors by providing them with high-quality, cost-effective healthcare services, programs, and products. Health Services supports the vision, mission, and strategic initiatives of Georgia Southern University, the Division of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and the Division of Auxiliary Services.

Services and programs include primary care, minor surgery, non-operative orthopedics, and IV therapy; men’s and women’s health care; immunization and allergy injection services; travel medicine services; laboratory services (moderate complexity CLIA certified medical lab); digital radiology services; respiratory therapy services; pharmacy services; an after hour & weekend Nurse Response Call Service; and health education, disease prevention, & wellness promotion programs/services including free HIV counseling and testing.

The Health Center is centrally located on Forest Drive across from Watson Hall near the Centennial Place residence hall complex. Operating hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday during semesters. Health Center hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. when school is not in session. Limited clinic hours are available when school is not in session. As noted above, an after hour and weekend Nurse Response Call Service is available for students by calling the main Health Service phone number (912) 478-5641. This service is staffed by experienced registered nurses and nurse practitioners who assist student callers with after hour and weekend referral to the Health Center or Statesboro area medical providers specific to the health care situation; as well as assisting students with general health and wellness questions, concerns, and issues. The information for all calls made to the Nurse Response Call Service is shared with the Health Center for appropriate student follow-up.

Health Services is available to Georgia Southern students for consultation, examination, diagnosis, and treatment of illnesses and injuries. All Georgia Southern University students are eligible for Health Services. Students enrolled in four (4) or more credit hours prepay the health fee at the beginning of each semester during the registration process when they pay tuition and student fees. This entitles those students to office visits throughout the semester for examination and treatment. Students taking less than four (4) credit hours may choose to pay an office visit fee (same price as the health fee) at the Health Center to receive the same level of medical services as students who pay the health fee at registration. Students who are engaged in off-campus internships, student teaching, or the tuition remission program do not pay the health fee at registration, and must pay the office visit fee separately to receive the services sponsored by this fee. There may be situations requiring out-of-pocket fees for certain medical services that are not covered by insurance or the student health fee. This includes Health Center Pharmacy prescription medications which are typically offered at or below health insurance plan pharmacy coverage co-pays.

A valid Georgia Southern University identification card is required to access services at University Health Services. Insured students should also present a current insurance card to the Health Services staff.

The well trained, experienced Health Services staff includes the following full-time positions: physicians, a physician assistant, nurse practitioners, nurses, administrative and clerical staff, a radiology technologist, a medical laboratory technologist, a certified respiratory therapy technician, a health educator, and an administrator. Health Services also employs part-time personnel in the clerical, health education, pharmacy, and nursing areas of the department.

The relationship between patients and Health Service staff is confidential and we strictly practice this rule of medical ethics. Students are entitled to privacy, within the capacity of the Health Services facility, and confidentiality to the extent of the law. Students may obtain a copy of our Notice of Privacy Practices, which may also be read on our web site. We are proud that our staff consistently receives high ratings for "Confidentiality" on our patient satisfaction surveys.

Some students may have medical conditions that require referral to other healthcare providers or specialists for consultation and/or treatment. All expenses related to the medical services of referred providers are the responsibility of the student. In addition, students may at any time choose to use other medical providers at their own expense.

Students are encouraged to maintain health insurance coverage in case of hospitalization. For those who are no longer covered by their parents’ insurance plan, or who may elect to purchase additional insurance coverage, Health Services has arranged for a Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan. To get an application or for more information about the insurance company or plan, please visit our web site at http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/aux/departments/health where you will find a link to the insurance company and their enrollment application form.

Health Services provides its services, programs, and products regardless of students’ insurance plan or lack of insurance.

For medical emergencies, contact the Bulloch County Emergency Medical Service (EMS), regardless of the time of day or night. Dial 9-911 if using a campus telephone or 911 if using an off-campus telephone. Georgia Southern University Public Safety may also be contacted at (912) 478-5234 in case of emergencies.

Students who become sick or injured when the University Health Center is closed and feel they cannot wait until it reopens should seek medical treatment at East Georgia Regional Medical Center Emergency Room, which is located a short distance from Georgia Southern University on Fair Road in Statesboro, or at the Immediate Care Center located on Bermuda Run Road directly behind the hospital. All expenses related to emergency and after hours care are the responsibility of the student. Students are encouraged to carry their health insurance card with them at all times.

Students with medical questions or concerns can take advantage of our After Hours Nurse Response Services by dialing (912) 478-5641 after normal business hours and on weekends. Students will be able to speak with qualified triage nurses and nurse practitioners to take care of their medical needs.

Health Services is proud to be among the outstanding student services offered by Georgia Southern University. Please feel free to contact us with your questions, comments, or suggestions at any time. Thank you for your interest in Health Services. We look forward to serving you. Please visit our web site for more information about the department, including monthly public health updates by the Medical Director, at http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/aux/departments/health.

Immunization Requirements

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia requires all new students to provide proof of immunization against Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR); Tetanus-Diphtheria; Varicella (chickenpox); Hepatitis B (three doses of vaccine or positive Hepatitis surface antibody), required of all students who are 18 years of age or younger; and for
residents of University Housing, acknowledgement of vaccination against Meningococcal disease, or acknowledgement of information received about Meningococcal disease and declined offer to be vaccinated are required before they are allowed to register for or attend classes at Georgia Southern University.

The Board of Regents has adopted the Centers for Disease Control’s recommendation to modify the varicella (chickenpox) requirement and to post additional information about tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis (whooping cough) vaccination, effective January 2007. The change in the varicella requirement mandates that all US born students, born in 1980 or later, as well as all foreign born students, regardless of the year born, are required to provide proof of immunization against varicella. All new students will be required to provide proof of immunization against Tetanus/Diphtheria, and the booster dose must have been received within 10 years prior to matriculation. A combined vaccine booster containing tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis (whooping cough), known as Tdap, is preferred, but Td is acceptable.

**Students are urged to acquire these immunizations, before arriving at Georgia Southern; however they may also be obtained at the University Health Center.** All new students (freshmen, transfer, and graduate) are required to complete the Certificate of Immunization form. This form can be accessed through the Health Services website.

The following three groups of students are exempt from the immunization policy:

1. those with religious objections,
2. those with bona fide medical reasons supported by appropriate documentation from the attending physician, and
3. those who are active military and provide proof of such.

These three groups would be restricted from all campus premises in case of an outbreak of vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, mumps, rubella, or varicella.

International students are required to be screened for tuberculosis (TB). Visit the Health Service web site at http://services.georgiasouthern.edu/aux/departments/health for more information.

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