The University System of Georgia

The University System of Georgia’s Board of Regents was created in 1931 as part of a reorganization of Georgia’s state government. With this act, public higher education in Georgia was unified for the first time under a single governing and management authority. The Board oversees 30 institutions including: 4 research universities, 4 comprehensive universities, 9 state universities, and 13 state colleges. The University System of Georgia also has oversight of the Georgia Archives and the Georgia Public Library System.

The governor appoints members to the Board, who each serves seven years. Today the Board of Regents is composed of 19 members, five of whom are appointed from the state-at-large, and one from each of the 14 congressional districts. The Board elects a chancellor who serves as its chief executive officer and the chief administrative officer of the University System, but is not a member of the Board. The Chair, the Vice Chair, and other officers of the Board are elected by the members of the Board. The System’s programs and services are offered through three major components: Instruction, Public Service/Continuing Education, and Research.

**INSTRUCTION** consists of programs of study leading toward degrees, ranging from the associate (two-year) level to the doctoral level, and certificates. Instruction is conducted by all institutions. Requirements for admission of students to instructional programs at each institution are determined, pursuant to policies of the Board of Regents, by the institution. The Board establishes minimum academic standards and leaves to each institution the prerogative to establish higher standards. Applications for admission should be addressed in all cases to the institutions.

A core curriculum, consisting of freshman and sophomore years of study for students whose educational goal is a degree beyond the associate level, is in effect at the universities and two-year colleges. This curriculum requires 60 credit hours, including 42 in general education—humanities and fine arts, mathematics and natural sciences, and social sciences—and 18 in the student’s chosen major area of study. It facilitates the transfer of freshman and sophomore degree credit hours within the University System.

**PUBLIC SERVICE/CONTINUING EDUCATION** consists primarily of non-degree activities and special types of college-degree-credit hour courses. Non-degree activities may include short courses, seminars, conferences, lectures, consultative, and advisory services in many areas of interest. Non-degree public service/continuing education is conducted by all institutions. Typical college-degree-credit hour public service/continuing education courses are those offered through extension center programs and teacher education consortia.

**RESEARCH** encompasses investigations conducted primarily for discovery and application of knowledge. These investigations include clearly-defined projects in some cases, non-programmatic activities in other cases. Research is conducted both on and off campus and explores a variety of matters related to the educational objectives of the institutions and to general societal needs.

The policies of the Board of Regents for the government, management, and control of the University System and the administrative actions of the Chancellor provide autonomy for each institution. The executive head of each institution is the President, whose election is recommended by the Chancellor and approved by the Board.