Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) can help with that!

The University System of Georgia offers the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) to full-time, benefits-eligible employees who have successfully completed at least six months of employment in a benefits-eligible position. The purpose of TAP is to foster the professional growth and development of its eligible employees.

An employee may seek approval to enroll in up to nine academic semester credit hours for each semester: Fall, Spring, and Summer Semester (includes May Session).

If you are eager to get started the deadline for Summer Semester is approaching, April 15, 2021. Information on the TAP program and how to apply can be found here.
Committed to sustainable solutions

From aeroponic gardens at O-House, wildlife housing at the Golf Course, and electric buses across campus, providing sustainable solutions is a key initiative for our units in Auxiliary Services. Transportation and Parking Services continues to reduce its carbon footprint and is expanding its fleet of electric buses. In recent years, Transportation and Parking Services has received a grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to bring 13 additional electric buses to campus. These electric buses are currently arriving and will be in service soon. For more information on Transportation and Parking Services sustainability initiatives, click here.

The University of Georgia Golf Course strives to leave a low operational impact on the environment through many different initiatives.

- Member of Audubon International, an organization focused on the implementation of environmental management practices that ensure natural resources are sustainably used and conserved.
- Storm water run-off retention ponds and streams are tested for water quality at least twice a year.
- Vegetative buffer zones are maintained around all bodies of water to aid in water quality.
- Wildlife housing for birds and bats are found around the course along with natural turtle habitats from fallen trees in ponds.
- For more sustainability initiatives from the Golf Course, click here.

Dining Services also continues to offer a variety of environmentally friendly practices.

- All 5 dining commons were awarded Level One Green Restaurant Certification and met the Green Restaurant Association’s rigorous environmental certification standards in 2019.
- In partnership with the Facilities Management Division and the Office of Sustainability, Dining Services has diverted food waste from the landfill since 2014, through initiatives such as eliminating non-compostable items in our locations.
- Trayless dining practices help reduce waste, conserve water, and save energy. Without trays, less uneaten food is discarded each day. Water and energy are saved by not having to wash trays.
- Campus Grown initiatives include making sure that as many local products as possible are used in food preparation.
- For more sustainability initiatives from Dining Services, click here.

Across Auxiliary Services, we continue to see our departments seeking out sustainable solutions to their everyday problems. For more information on Auxiliary Services sustainability initiatives, visit auxiliary.uga.edu.

Commit to Staying Safe, Bulldogs! Stay diligent with hand washing, social distancing and masking up to help slow the spread of COVID-19.
Much Ado About Golf: Best Practices for the short game
Best Practices #3: “Drive for show, putt for dough”

When most people think of golf, they think of the long game, searching for distance and length in every stroke. Contrary to popular belief, distance does not win games alone. Short game strokes like putting are essential to keeping the score low and recovering from over-eager long drives. In regards to the importance of putting, South African professional golfer Bobby Locke described it best, “You drive for show, but you putt for dough!”

Putting is a type of stroke that can be used with a multitude of clubs: putter, driver, pitching wedge, iron, fairway woods, and hybrids, to get the golf ball into the hole when you are on or just off the green. Preferably in the least amount of tries/putts possible. What may seem like a minor aspect in the game is actually a matter of grave importance in scoring. Putting to more experienced and professional players is a measure of balance, concentration, and skill that requires constant practice.

Although the importance of putting cannot be stressed enough, the question remains: “What makes a good putter?” The first step to becoming a better putter is to focus on your core. Start by interlacing your hands in front of you, placing them just over the belly button with elbows bent outward at a 45-degree angle. Next, isolate your core and draw the belly button into the spine, twisting the core muscles and pulling the arm and shoulders into a swinging pendulum motion. Always remember if you lead with the core, the rest will follow. Focusing on the core muscles and maintaining the pendulum motion creates a more consistent stroke and a controlled touch on the putt.

Stay tuned for the next Short Game Best Practice Tip in the May newsletter, and above all, keep practicing!
With over 1,000 employees across Auxiliary Services, it takes a lot of moving parts to balance the unique hiring and position needs of each unit. The Auxiliary Human Resources (HR) team helps support new hires, current employees, managers, and supervisors with processes such as position management, recruitment, and payroll. The HR team plays an important role in supporting Auxiliary’s efforts by often working behind-the-scenes to ensure these processes are as efficient as possible and compliant with required policies. While the behind-the-scenes tasks are challenging, Kathryn Flores who works as Auxiliary’s Position Management, Recruitment, and Payroll Manager, enjoys when she can use her creativity to solve problems. “Every day is different and subject to change at the drop of a hat,” explained Kathryn. “No day is ever boring and always presents a challenge, and I like a challenge,” she furthered. “The key is making employees feel supported and encouraged in their positions.”

Born and raised in Athens, GA, Kathryn attended Piedmont College where she initially studied Nursing. After a stint working in an emergency room, she began her career at UGA in 2011 at the University Health Center in Medical Records. Transitioning to Auxiliary Services in the spring of 2013, Kathryn became an HR Assistant for Dining Services before eventually moving to the HR Specialist position. After the consolidation of services across Auxiliary in 2018, Kathryn began working as the Position Management, Recruitment, and Payroll Manager for Auxiliary Services. Kathryn recently obtained her SHRM certification which is a highly reputable credential for HR professionals.

When the pandemic hit, Kathryn used her creativity to find solutions to unique problems created by COVID-19. She was influential in organizing and managing Zoom webinars so employees could stay engaged during the remote working period. She spent time searching UGA’s Surplus items so that employees could have quality office resources in a time when new resources were limited. Kathryn also recently created an interactive calendar to help Auxiliary team members efficiently register for COVID-19 vaccination appointments.

“Kathryn is always willing to take a challenge head on. When new opportunities present themselves to her, she takes a few minutes to absorb it and then says, ‘I have figured out how to do it’, said Katrina Pittman, Assistant Director for Auxiliary HR. “When we established online learning and engagement opportunities, she figured out how to host breakout rooms to allow small groups to have more targeted discussions within a larger meeting. Additionally, she is an Excel guru! Any numbers you need related to Position Management, she could produce at the snap of a finger.”

“It’s the little victories, the things that get fixed before anyone even knows about them, that’s what motivates me and makes it worth it,” Kathryn explained.
Special features in carts make your time on the golf course a breeze

As the UGA Golf Course eagerly prepares for the long-awaited return of the spring and summer seasons, our golf carts offer some top-of-the-line features that will make your time at the course a first-class experience. Each golf cart contains a touchscreen GPS unit, located in the front of the screen guard, that allows customers to freely communicate and interact with course staff. These units also report yardage to the hole, enhancing the golfer’s accuracy and precision with every swing. Carts also come fully equipped with a USB port located above the cup holders.

Take advantage of the new self-service Micro-Market, located next to the pro-shop, offering a wide variety of drinks, snacks, and fresh grab-and-go sandwiches and salads. Customers are welcome to bring drinks and food from the market onto the course in a cooler, 11x14 or smaller. Please be sure to pick up all trash before leaving the course. With top-of-the-line features and amenities, the UGA Golf Course works to offer an exciting and hassle-free experience!

For more information, or to sign up for a tee-time, click here.

UGA Golf Course offers discount to healthcare workers

The UGA Golf Course is extending its university discount to healthcare workers as a way to show gratitude to those who provide essential care to patients each and every day. First responders (police, firefighters, and EMTs), military, and Athens-Clarke County employees are also eligible for the university rate which offers $20 off green fees.

“Extending this discount to healthcare workers makes perfect sense to us because of all they do for people in need 24/7”, said Matt Peterson, Golf Course Manager. “Their heroic efforts during the pandemic really highlighted their selflessness, which is something we should all admire and aspire towards. We are honored to have first responders and healthcare workers play at the University Golf Course.”

Set on the rolling hills of northeast Georgia, this beautiful par 71 Robert Trent Jones layout opened to play in 1968 and is widely regarded as one of the best university courses in the United States. Originally developed as a recreational and educational resource for the university community, over the years the course has become an important asset to the residents of Georgia as a whole.

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, golf courses provided outdoor spaces where people could be active and experience the benefits of exercise. The UGA Golf Course which also has a driving range is open to the public and offers special rates and leagues for UGA students, faculty, and staff. In addition to offering rounds of golf, the UGA Golf Course partners with the University Health Center each year to open cart paths to UGA students, faculty and staff for walking or running. Most recently, the two groups hosted the Health Dawg 5k in March 2021.

Healthcare workers who would like to play at the UGA Golf Course may book a tee time online and present a valid employee I.D. at check-in for the discount. Learn more about the UGA Golf Course at golfcourse.uga.edu.
Have you ever thought of a new customer enhancement or ways to improve our services? We would love to hear your ideas!

Please submit your thoughts here.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 1:
New after hours parking measures on North and West campus in effect

April 7:
Farm to Campus Market: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the Miller Learning Center Lawn

April 8:
Instructional Break: All residential dining units are open regular hours
Regular bus service

April 14:
Farm to Campus Market: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the Miller Learning Center Lawn

April 21:
Farm to Campus Market: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the Miller Learning Center Lawn

April 23:
Taste of Home Special Event: all day at all dining commons
Terry MBA outing at the Golf Course

April 24:
Delta Sigma Phi father / son outing at Golf course

April 28:
Farm to Campus Market: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on the Miller Learning Center Lawn

April 15:
2021-22 parking permit registration opens

April 17-20:
ASUN Conference Championship: Golf Course closed until 1:36 p.m. each day

April 29:
End-of-Year Blast Special Event: Starting at 4:00 p.m. at Bolton, Village Summit, and O-House

EDITORIAL TEAM

Bookstore
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Derrick Mathis
Adam Rainville

Finance
Karen Hart

Golf Course
Rusty Gay
Kennedy Sims

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