Joining the Bulldog Family

Tips for Supporting New Dawgs

Bill McDonald
Dean of Students
bmcdonal@uga.edu
(706) 542-7774
Welcome to the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

A strong advocate for students and student development, Vice President Victor K. Wilson is a Double-Dawg, earning both his degrees from UGA, and has more than three decades of experience in higher education administration and student affairs.
Victor K. Wilson
Vice President for Student Affairs

Victor K. Wilson is Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Georgia. In more than three decades of experience in higher education administration and student affairs, he has served as a strong advocate for students and student development, particularly the inclusion and success of students from historically underrepresented groups.

Wilson has authored numerous scholarly articles and given presentations on issues of race, ethics, crisis management, and staff development in higher education. He has held leadership roles in several national organizations, including the National Orientation Directors Association (NODA) and the American College Personnel Association (ACPA). He also serves on the National Board of Directors for Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

At UGA, Wilson oversees a Student Affairs division of 18 departments and 600 staff members dedicated to enrich student learning and support student development and growth. Wilson received both his bachelor’s degree in Social Work and master’s degree in Education from the University of Georgia.

Wilson is a proud single father. His son, Hunter, is a graduate of Guilford College. A trained vocalist, he enjoys music of all types. He also enjoys college football, reading, and has a keen interest in U.S. presidential history.
Office of the Dean of Students

Enriching student learning and supporting student growth to create thriving communities

ODOS | Our Doors are Open to all Students
The Best Four Years of Their Lives???

Source: Hoyt, E. (2017), 20 Must-See College Movies, fastweb.com
Keeping it Real: Meeting UGA Student Needs

Academic Integrity
Office of the Vice President for Division of Academic Enhancement
(706) 542-7575 | tutor.uga.edu

General Concerns
Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP)
24-hour hotline
(706) 542-SAFE | uhs.uga.edu

Advocacy

Crisis

Disability
Disability Resource Center
(706) 542-8719 | drc.uga.edu
Health & Wellness

Mental Health
Counseling and Psychiatric Services
(706) 542-2273
After hours: (706) 542-2200
Office of the Dean of Students

Personal Financial Crisis
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs
studentaffairs.uga.edu/vp/content_page/emergency-fund

Sexual Violence/Assault
University Health Center: Relationship & Sexual Violence Prevention
(706) 542-SAFE | uhs.uga.edu
Office of the Dean of Students

Threatening Behavior
Student Care and Outreach
(706) 542-7774 | sco.uga.edu

UGA Police

UGA Police
(706) 542-2200 | police.uga.edu

UGA Police
(706) 542-2273
After hours: (706) 542-2200
Office of the Dean of Students
(706) 542-7774 | dos.uga.edu
Using Your Clicker

- Make your selection only when prompted
- Completely anonymous
What is your greatest concern about your student’s transition to UGA?

A. Succeeding academically
B. Making new friends
C. Finances
D. Homesickness
E. Navigating a large campus

2,991 first-year students (Summer 2019)

A. 63%
B. 17%
C. 10%
D. 1%
E. 9%
What do you think will be your greatest challenge in supporting your student?

A. Providing financial assistance
B. Learning to trust in a new environment
C. Providing guidance for major and/or career path decisions
D. Being able to “let go”
E. Being patient in the transition

2,991 first-year students (Summer 2019)

A. 20%
B. 14%
C. 9%
D. 52%
E. 5%
Student Words of Wisdom

Advice to Those Supporting Students
Advice to Loved Ones: Keeping it Real

- Set realistic expectations
- Expect change, so be patient and flexible
- Some homesickness is natural
- Encourage your student to ask questions and be advocates for themselves
- Autonomy and trust; keep the lines of communication open
Steps to Ensure Student Bulldog Success

Develop a relationship each semester with at least one faculty member.
Steps to Ensure Student Bulldog Success

Accept the challenge to break out of their comfort zone
Steps to Ensure Student Bulldog Success

Satisfy their curiosity by learning about something that intrigues them.
Steps to Ensure Student Bulldog Success

Be aware of the basics… attend class without fail, manage time wisely, budget carefully, and learn how to use a washer and dryer.
Of the four “steps,” which do you think will be most difficult for your student?

A. Developing faculty relationships
B. Challenging themselves
C. Satisfying their curiosity
D. Being aware of the basics

2,991 first-year students (Summer 2019)

A. 59%
B. 19%
C. 16%
D. 6%
Of the four “steps,” which would you most encourage your student to do?

A. Develop faculty relationships
B. Challenge themselves
C. Satisfy their curiosity
D. Be aware of the basics

2,183 first-year students (Summer 2019)
A. 16%
B. 62%
C. 8%
D. 14%
Sponsored in part by the UGA Parents Leadership Council
Sponsored in part by the UGA Parents Leadership Council
Resources for Families and Those Supporting Students

Those who support students face their own challenges when their students transition to college life, and we have numerous resources available to them.

dos.uga.edu
Please pass your clicker to the outside aisles
Follow us on Facebook:

UGAStudentAffairs

(706) 542-3564
wilsonv@uga.edu

studentaffairs.uga.edu
supporting student growth
creating thriving communities

Office of the Dean of Students
Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

enriching student learning
striving for excellence

#OurDoorsareOpentoallStudents

Dr. Bill McDonald
706-542-7774
downwiththedean@uga.edu