Welcome
International Students
2020-2021

International Student Handbook 2020-2021
UGA School of Social Work
Edited by Bat’sé Smart (MSW ‘21) & Olaoluwa Bakare (MSW ‘21) with assistance from Vicki Schulte (MSW ‘20)
Coordinated by Dr. Jane McPherson, Director of Global Engagement
Greetings from Dean Anna Scheyett

Dear International Students:

Welcome to the University of Georgia School of Social Work! On behalf of everyone here at the School, I want to say how happy we are that you are joining us.

As social workers, we are passionate about finding solutions for social problems and promoting well-being and social justice. We know you share that passion—it is what unites us in the community of social work.

Here at the School of Social Work, we weave a social justice focus throughout our work. You can find it in our rigorous academic research; our instruction in the best evidence-based clinical, community, and policy practices; and our deep dedication to working with the community.

Since you are new to Athens, we are eager to show you around, help you get settled, and orient you to the School, the University, and the community. Please don’t hesitate to ask if there is ever anything we can do or any question we can answer, to make you feel more at home.

Again, welcome to the School! When you have time, please stop by my office to introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting you in person.

Warmly,

Anna Scheyett, PhD, MSW
Dean and Professor
School of Social Work
University of Georgia
Phone: (706) 542-5424; Email: amscheye@uga.edu
Welcome from Director of Global Engagement
Dr. Jane McPherson

Greetings, Social Work students from around the globe,

Welcome to the University of Georgia School of Social Work! We are so delighted that you have joined us here in Athens, Georgia. We are excited for you to get to know our School, our University, our local community, and our nation.

As Director of Global Engagement at the School, it is my special pleasure to welcome you. At the School of Social Work, Global Engagement means collaborative engagement with international communities in the US (e.g., refugees and immigrants) and around the world. We help students design independent international research, study, and service opportunities; and we offer StudyAway programs in Ghana and Northern Ireland, as well as a springtime trip to the United Nations in New York City. With us, you will discover a community of globally-minded students and scholars and I hope that you will join our educational and social #UGAglobalSW events. I look forward to getting to know you during your years here and please feel free to reach out to me with your questions, suggestions, or concerns.

We look forward to being with you as you deepen your knowledge of social work in the US, and to learning from you about social work and social solutions in your home country.

Best,

Jane McPherson, PhD, MPH, LCSW
Director of Global Engagement & Assistant Professor
University of Georgia School of Social Work
Email: jmcpherson@uga.edu
Welcome from International Student Ambassadors:
Bat’sé Ekanem & Weronika Misiurewicz

Hello students!

Welcome to the University of Georgia School of Social Work! We know the amount of work you had to spend on preparation, paperwork, and traveling, but you made it! You are so incredibly brave, and we are proud of you for making it here. Well-done!

Over the next few weeks, maybe even months, you will be settling into a community and program that will be your home for at least the next two years. We understand the challenges that can come with these adjustments and are happy to help in any way we can. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us for assistance in this new phase of your life. We are all committed to making this transition as smooth as possible and helping you become the best social worker that you can be.

We could not be happier to have you as a new member of our community. On behalf of the international students at the School of Social Work, welcome home!

Best wishes,

Bat’sé Smart and Weronika Misiurewicz
*International Student Ambassadors, MSW Candidates 2021*
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About Us

Our Mission
The School of Social Work at the University of Georgia prepares culturally responsive practitioners and scholars to be leaders in addressing social problems and promoting social justice, locally and globally, through teaching, research, and service.

Our History
For more than five decades the UGA School of Social Work has found innovative ways to advance UGA’s mission of teaching, research, and service. Since its founding in 1964, the school has conferred more than 7,000 degrees and grown from offering a single master’s degree in social work to a bachelor’s degree in social work (1975), a doctorate (1990) and a master of arts in nonprofit management and leadership (1999). Throughout its history, the school has addressed discrimination and policies which affect equal access to resources, international human and civil rights, and the well-being of all populations. In all it does, the school prepares graduates with the skills, know-how, and passion to make this a better, more humane and just world for all.

Committed to Excellence and Impact
Everything we do is informed by our commitment to well-being and social justice. And it shows: Our MSW graduates score well above the national average on social work licensure exams. More than half of our BSW graduates complete their degrees with Latin honors. Our outreach connects vulnerable individuals and communities with the resources they need to live healthier, more productive lives. Our research wins national awards and informs social work practice and public policy.

No wonder we’re ranked No. 12 among public university social work graduate programs. No wonder College Factual ranks our undergraduate degree program No. 6 in the nation; graduates of our nonprofit management program build impactful and award-winning organizations; graduates of our doctoral program conduct ground-breaking research at universities around the world.

School of Social Work Building, Athens Campus
BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

A bachelor’s degree in social work earned at UGA gives you the knowledge, skills and critical perspective that enables you to start creating effective, sustainable change for those who need it most.

Our BSW program not only prepares you to begin addressing human needs in social service settings but to analyze and address policies that underlie pervasive problems. Thanks to an innovative curriculum, you will not only acquire knowledge in the classroom but hands-on experience and a deeper understanding of power, oppression, social justice, evidence-informed practice, advocacy and diversity (PrOSEAD).

Our award-winning faculty and professionals will guide you in the classroom and help you make the most of life-changing internships. You will meet community change-makers and have opportunities to conduct research, study social problems abroad, and engage in community action here. What’s more, we provide a quicker pathway for you to turn your undergraduate degree into a master’s in social work through the Advanced Standing track or nonprofit management and leadership through Double Dawgs.

For a more comprehensive look at the BSW program, see the BSW Handbook or contact a program advisor.
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Get ahead of the curve when you learn the most current, evidence-based practices taught by world-class faculty. Our MSW program is ranked No. 12 by U.S. News and World Report among public masters of social work programs. Our graduates have high pass rates on national licensing exams. You gain experience through impactful field internships and research opportunities that focus on your areas of interest, mentored by top scholars and professionals.

With campuses in Athens and metro Atlanta and financial resources to support your professional goals, we make it possible for you to attend full time, part-time or online. Students can choose from three specializations: micro (clinical) practice, macro (community development) practice, and integrated practice that combines micro and macro specializations. We also offer dual master degrees in public health (MSW/MPH), law (MSW/JD) and divinity (MSW/MDiv), and a number of certificates in areas such as marriage and family therapy, nonprofit management and leadership, and gerontology, among others.

For more information, visit MSW Admissions or contact Michael Robinson, sswadmin@uga.edu, (706) 542-5425.
MA IN NONPROFIT MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

The Master of Arts in Nonprofit Management and Leadership (MA NML) — formerly the Master of Arts in Nonprofit Organizations (MNPO) — is an advanced professional degree for those desiring careers as leaders of nonprofit organizations. The curriculum includes 33 total credits of coursework and internships covering a range of fundamental topics including fundraising, financial administration, volunteer management, grant proposal writing, and fundamental theories regarding the role of nonprofits in society. Electives can be taken across campus and internships are located in Athens, throughout Georgia, across the U.S. and globally. Knowledge acquired is scalable from small to large organizations and applies to a wide spectrum of interests and areas, including but not limited to community services, social welfare, environmental advocacy, faith-based charity, sports and recreation, education, and the arts.

For more information, visit MA in Nonprofit Management and Leadership Admissions (https://ssw.uga.edu/admissions/ma-nonprofit-management-leadership-admissions/) or contact Kat Farlowe nprofit@uga.edu, (706) 542-5461.
Since 1990 our doctoral program has produced thought leaders in academic, public, and private settings who address persistent and emerging inequities through socially just research.

We are known for:

- A diverse faculty, staff, and student body that brings a wide variety of experiences and interests;
- A balanced program culture of rigor and support
- Nurturing faculty and peer mentorship; and
- Nationally and internationally recognized faculty with innovative and expansive areas of expertise.

We provide:

- Four years of funding in the form of research and teaching assistantships and fellowships;
- Experiential learning opportunities through research and teaching practicum, writing workshop, and statistical lab
- Opportunities for interdisciplinary scholarship within a robust program of study
- Opportunities to participate in faculty-driven, cohort-based, and independent research; and
- Multiple graduate certificate opportunities including gerontology, women’s studies, qualitative studies, quantitative methods, and nonprofit management & leadership.

For more information, explore our faculty’s research interests, look through the Ph.D. Program Viewbook or the Ph.D. Program Handbook, or contact Joon Choi, Associate Professor/Ph.D. Program Director, at choiyj@uga.edu or at (706) 542-0844.
Testimonials from Current International Students

Thank you for choosing the University of Georgia’s School of Social Work as you pursue excellence in your academic career. Hear from these international students who also made the decision to attend UGA to further their studies in social work.

“The choice to leave my home country (Nigeria) to be a Graduate student in the USA was exciting and one I was open to experience, although I knew it was not going to be a bed of roses. Asides the funding opportunity provided by the School of Social Work for my Master of Social Work (MSW) degree, the University of Georgia seemed like a place of opportunity and growth. The Social Justice approach that the School offered was one I did not come across among the other schools I applied to. Although I am aware of what social justice is, I have never been exposed to its application in the social work sphere with individuals, families, and communities. My experience so far has been amazing, with overwhelming love and support from faculty and staff. It has been a home away from home.”

Olaoluwa, MSW Candidate 2021
"I decided to come to the UGA SSW because of the focus on Social Justice in the curriculum. For me, lack of Social Justice underpins most of the societal problems we see today. What I love most about the SSW is the genuineness of Faculty and Staff. Moving to a new place can be a fun or scary adventure for anyone but with the help of faculty and staff, adjusting to a new country and curriculum could not have been made any easier."

Akosua, MSW Graduate 2020
Housing

For housing, there are two main options: on-campus and off-campus housing.

**On-campus Housing:** University Housing is home to nine residential communities comprising 22 residence halls, University Village apartments, and Health Science Campus townhomes as well as four Greek Park houses. University Housing provides comfortable, affordable, and secure on-campus housing options for students.

All of University Housing’s residence hall rooms, suites, and apartments feature furnishings, air conditioning, WiFi, high-speed Internet access, and cable television. Common areas include kitchens, laundry rooms, meeting rooms, computer labs, and lounges.

On-campus housing at UGA can be competitive and it is suggested that if you wish to take advantage of living on campus please consider the following:
- Undergraduates should register with UGA housing as soon as possible once the student has been notified of acceptance to the university.
- Graduate students should register immediately after their application to the graduate school has been submitted.

To register for on-campus housing and for more detailed information please visit the UGA Housing website at [University Housing](http://www.uga.edu/housing).

**Off-Campus Housing:** Many students choose to live off-campus while studying at UGA, and there are various living arrangements available near campus, including renting a room in a private home or renting an apartment. The International Student Life department has developed a comprehensive list of apartment complexes and resources for off-campus living. Click on the following link to access the complete guide:

[UGA Off-Campus Living Guide](http://www.uga.edu/offcampusliving). There is also a Facebook group for UGA Students and housing that can be accessed here [Facebook: UGA/Athens Lease, Subleases, Roommates, Off-Campus Housing & Apartments](http://www.facebook.com/ugaathenslease). Zillow is another great platform for finding apartments to rent.

Apartments that are accessible to public transportation in Athens are highly desirable for international students since many do not have a car on campus. Searching the Apartment Guide online or Apartments.com can be helpful for finding housing on or near the Athens Transit bus line. Click on [The Apartment Guide- Athens](http://www.theapartmentguide.com) or
Apartments.com- Athens refresh the page and confirm the public transportation filter has been applied to your search. Please consult the apartment complex directly to determine the walking distance to bus stops.

Interested in just renting a room? Roomies.com offers rooms for rent by homeowners and apartment dwellers in search of roommates. Roomies.com - Athens, GA

Social Security Number

Do I need this? This is important to have if you are receiving a graduate assistantship from UGA. The UGA International Student Life department has provided detailed information about how to obtain a social security card in Athens. You can access that information here: Making a Trip to the Social Security Office

Social Security Office
1650 Prince Ave.
Athens, GA 30606
Phone: 1-866-964-3294
Hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
Wed: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Identification & Driver’s License Information

Click on the following link and then scroll down to learn How to get a Georgia Driver's License and other transportation information. For additional information regarding obtaining a Georgia License: Georgia Department of Driver Services

Immigration Services Information

Incoming International Students
J-1Scholar Pre-Arrival Information (exchange students)
Exchange Visitor Orientation
Current International Students
Questions can be directed to immigration@uga.edu
International Student Life (ISL)
International Student Life at UGA has a multitude of programs and services to assist international students with their experience at UGA. You can find their homepage here: International Student Life | Student Affairs UGA

ISL hosts a new student orientation for incoming international students. Usually, the orientation requires registration and a fee, with campus housing available during registration. However, due to the current pandemic, the Fall 2020 ISL Orientation will be held online. You can read more about this at International Student Orientation or see the ISL Fall 2020 Handbook for more details.

Other programs that might be of interest that are available through ISL:
Language Labs - helps international students with language skills and culture
Global Buddies - links international students with UGA students from the U.S.
International Coffee Hour - a weekly meeting for all UGA students, faculty, staff, and community members to gather for coffee. The different international student organizations take turns hosting this event.

Health Insurance & Coronavirus Information
Health insurance can be quite expensive in the United States and it is mandatory for all students. UGA provides a plan for students and is required unless a health insurance policy that a student holds meets the requirements for a waiver (which, unfortunately, most international plans do not). International Student Life has information about healthcare and insurance here: Alternatively, you can find more information about Health Care and links to insurance for international students here: Healthcare Information. You can also access additional information about Health Insurance for international students here: Mandatory Plan and UGA ISL Health and Wellness.

The University of Georgia continues to work closely with the University Health Center, the University System of Georgia, and local and state public health officials to monitor COVID-19. The top priority in these uncertain times remains the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our campus community. For up-to-date UGA Coronavirus (COVID-19) information and resource, kindly visit: https://coronavirus.uga.edu/
Things to Do in Athens

**Shopping & Dining:** Athens has got you covered when it comes to eateries and shopping. You can explore the downtown area where you will find fast-food chains, fine-dining restaurants, as well as boutiques and shops. Venturing outside of downtown you will find countless options for dining and retail.

You can find information about the local fare and shopping in Athens at [Visit Athens GA](https://www.athensga.gov/), [Downtown Athens GA](https://www.downtownathensga.com/), and [Flagpole](https://www.flagpole athens.com/). Flagpole publishes an annual list that comprises the “Best of Athens” where readers cast their vote for their favorite restaurants, bars, shops, coffee, exercise studios, and many other things. The lists can be accessed here: [Athens Favorites](https://www.flagpole athens.com/athens-favorites).

**Culture:** The [Georgia Museum of Art](https://www.gama.georgia.edu/) is located on the UGA Campus; the museum holds over 10,000 works of art and is free of charge. The museum is open Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Other local arts and cultural venues in Athens include [The Classic Center Theatre](https://www.classiccenter.com/) where you can see Broadway productions and touring musical acts, as well as the [UGA Performing Arts Center](https://www.uga.edu/arts/). You can also experience our local talent and theater with the [Town & Gown Players](https://www.townandgownplayers.org/) and the [Athens Creative Theatre](https://www.athenscreative.com/).

Another favorite of Athens locals and visitors alike is the [State Botanical Garden of Georgia](https://www.statebotanicalgarden.org/). The botanical garden is located on 313 acres on the Middle Oconee River with various themed gardens and a new children’s garden. There are 5 miles of trails that wind through the property’s natural ecosystems and flora. Admission is free and the garden is located at:

2450 South Milledge Avenue
Athens, GA, 30605

**Entertainment:** Athens has a vibrant music scene and has venues throughout the city for live entertainment. Great places to catch local artists and acclaimed musical acts in town are [The Foundry](https://www.thefounderyathens.com/), the [40 Watt Club](https://www.40wattclub.com/), and the [Georgia Theatre](https://www.georgiatheatre.com/). Please check their websites for upcoming events, schedules, and ticket sales.
**Sports & Recreation:** Included in your student fees is a membership to the Ramsey Student Center. The Ramsey Center is a 440,000 square foot recreational center located on the UGA campus. Ramsey offers premier weight and cardio equipment, basketball, badminton, swimming, and many other sporting activities onsite. Students can sign up and participate in intramural sports teams through Ramsey or rent camping gear for outdoor adventures. Organized events such as whitewater rafting trips and hikes around Georgia are available through the recreation center. Spouses and children of current UGA students are eligible for a membership at Ramsey for a nominal fee.

Athens is also home to many parks and outdoor spaces with trails, splash pads, and a skate park. For the most comprehensive list of public parks in the area, consult the Athens/Clarke County website. In addition, Athens/Clarke county provides classes and activities through a program called Athens Leisure Services; to get information on specific opportunities click on programs. This is a great way to meet people through volunteering, taking a dance class, or participating in any outdoor activity.

There are sporting events held on campus throughout the academic year and you can access UGA sports, schedules, rosters, and admission information at GeorgiaDogs.com. As you may have heard, Georgia football is a very big deal on campus and around town in the Fall. We have a section devoted to basic information on UGA football.

**Explore Georgia**

Our state has a lot to offer to visitors! Georgia has some beautiful state parks, and many are within driving distance from Athens. You can access the Georgia State Parks and Historic Sites website to browse the parks and their locations. Our state capital is Atlanta and there you will find some of the top tourist attractions. Some of the most popular destinations are:

- The Georgia Aquarium
- The World of Coca-Cola® Museum
- The National Center for Civil and Human Rights Museum
- The King Center and Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site
- Zoo Atlanta
- Fernbank Museum of Natural History
- High Museum of Art
- And just for fun Ponce City Market
### Grocery Stores & Retail

**Grocery Stores:** The most popular grocery stores in Athens that students frequent are Walmart, Kroger, and Publix, which have multiple locations around town. Walmart will likely be the most inexpensive; however, Kroger and Publix have small sections where some international foods may be purchased. Athens also has specialty stores that offer ethnic fare:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fooks Foods</th>
<th>Los Compadres</th>
<th>Oriental Mart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2026 S. Milledge Ave</td>
<td>1380 Prince Ave</td>
<td>1055 Gaines School Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(706) 208-8839</td>
<td>(706) 543-6777</td>
<td>(706) 354-6762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian grocery store</td>
<td>Hispanic grocery</td>
<td>Asian Market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can also click here [Food and Shopping around Athens](#) for a comprehensive list from UGA ISL.

**Discount Retailers:** when looking for lower-priced housewares or items for dorm or apartment living, the most popular choices among students are Target and Walmart stores. These stores carry just about everything: clothing, toiletries, grocery items, housewares, light hardware, and automotive. Both retailers have locations in Athens.

### Transportation

**Around Campus:** UGA is a large campus that covers 762 acres and has 465 buildings! Trying to find your way around can be intimidating at first; consequently, the best place to start is to download the UGA app to your phone. The app gives students walking directions to buildings, as well as the UGA bus schedules and routes. If you have other questions, this link will connect you to the [UGA Transportation Website](#).

**Around Athens:** For students venturing off-campus, public transportation is free to UGA students that present a valid student ID. [Athens Transit](#) offers routes all over the city, Monday - Friday, 6 am - 10 pm and 7 am - 10 pm on Saturday & Sunday. Please consult the website for holiday schedules.

*Uber* and *Lyft* are ride-share services that can be accessed by downloading their apps to your phone. These services are less expensive than a taxi but prices can vary during busy times. Prices can be very high on Saturdays that UGA has a home football game.

**To Atlanta:** Students can take the [Megabus](#) from the Athens Multi-Modal Transportation Center at 775 East Broad Street to the Civic Center MARTA Station in Atlanta, which is located at 435 W Peachtree St. NW, Atlanta, GA, 30308, for a nominal fee. Rates vary from $1 - $20 each way, depending on how far in advance you purchase your tickets.
To the Atlanta Airport: Groome Transportation offers affordable and dependable shuttle service from Athens to the Atlanta Airport; the current price is $41.00 each way. Please check the schedule on their website for departure times. The shuttle leaves from multiple locations in Athens, including the UGA Georgia Center located at 1197 S. Lumpkin St.

Another inexpensive option is if the Megabus schedule can accommodate your trip times, take the Megabus into Atlanta and take MARTA (rapid transit rail system) from the Civic Center station to the Atlanta Airport station. MARTA fare is $2.50 for a one-way trip with an additional charge of $1 for a paper disposable ticket. While this option may be a cheaper option, it will be more time consuming and you should make your plans accordingly.

Banking and ATM Locations on Campus

Here you will find a list of banks in the Athens area, and where you can find ATMs on the UGA campus: List of local banks and ATM locations on campus

Textbooks

Textbooks can be a rather large expense for a student. While our bookstore offers textbooks that are available for every class, we would like to point out that renting or purchasing your textbooks through an online outlet may be a better option if you are looking for a more economical alternative. Amazon has most textbooks and if you join Amazon Prime as a student, you receive orders in two days and have free returns. Chegg is also another reputable company for textbook rentals and purchases that students have used. Direct Textbook shops over 200 online stores to find you the best price; however, some of the online stores have had complaints lodged against them and are not always reputable, so make sure you check out the specific store’s online reviews before purchasing.
UGA Football (American Football)

**Season:** August - December

**Tickets:** UGA Football is a large part of the culture here in Athens. Georgia is one of the top college football teams in the nation and home games draw a large crowd from all over the United States. Students are given the opportunity in advance to purchase tickets at a deep discount for games at Sanford Stadium/Dooley Field. Be aware that students cannot walk up to the gate on game day and expect to buy a ticket to a home game as would be the typical practice. Here are some guidelines for acquiring your football tickets:

1. Students will receive an email inviting you to register for student tickets.
2. Register for tickets before the deadline listed. You will load payment information at this time, but you will not be charged until it is determined that you will get tickets.
3. You will be notified via email if you were allocated tickets to all home games or if you were awarded a “split-student ticket package.” Split-student tickets mean that you have been awarded a student ticket to 3 home games. Your payment method will be charged at this time.
4. Your tickets will be pre-loaded on your student ID and you can find out how and where to enter the stadium, as well as other information about tickets here: [Georgia Dogs](#).
5. If you are allocated tickets but will not be able to use them on game day, you can donate your ticket to the student ticket pool and it will be given to another student that did not receive a ticket for that game. You will not be refunded the purchase price of the ticket; however, you should still donate your ticket in order to avoid a “strike.” A strike is given to a student that doesn’t attend a game in which they have been awarded a ticket, and if a student receives two strikes in a season, they are not permitted to purchase postseason tickets or tickets for the following UGA football season. You can donate your tickets here: [UGA Ticket Donations](#).

**Parking:** Parking is at a premium on home game days and if you live on campus, you may not be able to use your lot for parking. Students will receive an email from UGA Parking Services outlining instructions about parking and what times cars need to be moved on game days.
StudyAway - Study Abroad with the School of Social Work

The School of Social Work at UGA offers opportunities for study, research, and service in Ghana, Northern Ireland, and the Caribbean during the school’s Maymester. Please check here for more information on these trips: UGA SSW StudyAway
For scholarships on the StudyAway opportunity, please see more here

Career Center

The University of Georgia has several resources for students across the board. You can see the UGA Career center for more information. The career center also has online resources for international students at UGA.

Writing Resources

The Division of Academic Enhancement’s writing center is a good resource if you need assistance proofreading a paper and giving it a more professional finish.

eLC

An eLC course was created for international students at the School of Social Work. This course is a pool of additional resources with information and links to pages with information about specific concerns. No actual coursework is involved. We will enroll you in this course at the beginning of August 2020.
Connect With Us on Social Media

School of Social Work: Facebook || Twitter || Instagram || LinkedIn || YouTube

UGA Global Social Work: Facebook || Twitter || Instagram

"Going abroad is an invaluable experience that will impact you personally, academically, and professionally in profound ways." Barbara Arnold (PhD student)

International Students at the School of Social Work: Facebook
Helpful Social Work Terminology

CHIP- Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide no-cost or low-cost health coverage for eligible children in Georgia. These programs provide health coverage for children so that they can get routine check-ups, immunizations, and dental care to keep them healthy.

DFCS- The Department of Family and Children Services in Georgia investigates reports of child abuse; finds foster and adoptive homes for abused and neglected children; issues SNAP, Medicaid and TANF; helps out-of-work parents get back on their feet; and provides numerous support services and innovative programs to help families in need.

Mandated Reporter - Person who is required by law to report reasonable suspicions of abuse. This includes physicians, hospitals or medical personnel, dentists, RNs, LPNs, counselors, social workers, school teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, psychologists, child welfare agency personnel, child counseling personnel, law enforcement personnel, and child service organization personnel.

Medicaid- Medicaid is a program that provides health care services to individuals that meet the requirements for income, resources, and citizenship.

Medicare- a federal system of health insurance for people over 65 years of age and for certain younger people with disabilities.

Social Security- In the United States, Social Security is the commonly used term for the federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) program and is administered by the Social Security Administration. The original Social Security Act was signed into law by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, and the current version of the Act, as amended, encompasses several social welfares and social insurance programs.

Social Security is funded primarily through payroll taxes called Federal Insurance Contributions Act tax (FICA) or Self Employed Contributions Act Tax (SECA).

SNAP- The Georgia Food Stamp Program (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), is a federally-funded program that provides monthly benefits to low-income households to help pay for the cost of food. A household may be one (1) person living alone, a family, or several unrelated individuals cohabitating who routinely purchase and prepare meals together.

TANF- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is the monthly cash assistance program, with an employment services component, for low-income families with children under age 18, and children age 18 and attending school full-time.

You can find a comprehensive list of commonly used abbreviations and acronyms in Georgia here:
Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities List
Contact Us

Location: 279 Williams Street, Athens, GA 30602

Phone: (706) 542-3364 or (877) 535-6590 toll free

Website: University of Georgia, School of Social Work