



Middle Georgia
State University

New Student Orientation

Macon

Warner Robins

Dublin

Cochran

Eastman



Middle Georgia State University

ONLINE



Get to Know Your President, Christopher Blake

Christopher Blake has led Middle Georgia State University since becoming its first permanent president in 2014. Here are a few fun facts about your president:

- ❖ **Originally From:** Wimbledon, England
- ❖ **Education:** Bachelor's and master's degrees in theology from the University of Oxford, Keble College. Ph.D. in education from the University of London, King's College
- ❖ **First Job After College:** School Teacher (Middle/High School)
- ❖ **Family:** Proud father of two sons and spouse to Dr. Melody Blake
- ❖ **Favorite Sports Team:** Tottenham Hotspur in the English Premier
- ❖ **League Professional Passion:** Writing a book and seeing it published
- ❖ **For Fun:** Exploring Georgia's backroads on my motorcycle
- ❖ **Cats or dogs:** Dogs (Border Collies)
- ❖ **Favorite word in the English language:** Verisimilitude
- ❖ **The most inspiring part of my job:** The people of MGA – our students, faculty, and staff

Contact Info:

Office of the President

Phone: 478-471-2712

Email: president@mga.edu

Twitter: [@MGAPresident](https://twitter.com/MGAPresident)

MGA CHALLENGE

We challenge you to explore opportunities inside and outside of the classroom to make the most of your First-Year Experience here!

ACADEMIC

- Make sure your professors know you by name! Introduce yourself to each one.
- Print or save the syllabus for each of your courses. Your class syllabus is the roadmap to your course expectations and assignments.
- Review your Program of Study! (mga.edu/catalog)
- Programs of Study are subject to change
- Take a full load (15 credit hours) of courses each semester! Taking 15 hours a semester improves student success as well as shortens the time to graduation.
- In your first year, complete the core English and aligned Mathematics courses and nine credit hours in your selected major.
- Make two or three appointments with our Student Success Center to utilize free tutoring.
- Activate your MGA Handshake account at mga.joinhandshake.com. Our Center for Career & Leadership Development uses Handshake to post all job and internship opportunities. MGA students and alumni can also access a calendar of career fairs and career events on Handshake.
- Make an appointment with your academic advisor each semester. This connection is important for academic success!
- Attend the Student Leadership Conference, a free event offered each spring by the Center for Career & Leadership Development.

COMMUNITY

- Attend the Student Expo, which showcases the MGA clubs and organizations. This may be your first step toward getting involved in campus life!
- Visit the Student Life game room on your campus!
- Seek a leadership position in a Student Life club you enjoy. Strengthen your leadership skills through the Knights LEAD program.
- Attend one of our weekly Student Life events on your campus.

- Attend an event (art exhibition at the Peacock Gallery, poetry reading or theatre production) offered each semester.
- Get more information about Study Abroad from our Office of International Programs.

PERSONAL

- Take time to visit the Rec and Wellness Center on your campus! Exercising is a great way to take a break from studying!
- Use an agenda or calendar to stay organized!

KNIGHT TRADITION

- MGA offers 10 NAIA athletic teams. Show your support by attending a game of your choice!
- Visit a different MGA campus. We have five campuses: Cochran, Dublin, Eastman, Macon, Warner Robins. Each can teach you something new!
- Learn about Middle Georgia State University's history by visiting Ebenezer Hall, originally constructed in 1890. It's located on the Cochran Campus.
- Join our Day of Service. Each year we have a special day when faculty, staff, students, and friends of Middle Georgia State University come together to positively impact our communities through meaningful service. The MGA Day of Service take place on the fourth Friday of September.
- Show your MGA pride by wearing your purple MGA gear every Thursday, or as we call it Purple Thursday!
- Conclude your time as a knight by walking over the bridge on the Macon Campus lake to get your degree!

For event information, visit The University Calendar: go.activecalendar.com/mga



Join MGA Presence to stay up to date on Student Life activities!

TITLE IX

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX"), Middle Georgia State University (MGA) as a member of the University System of Georgia (USG) does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities or in employment. MGA is committed to ensuring a safe learning and working environment for all members of the USG community. To that end, MGA's Title IX Office oversees compliance of MGA's non-discrimination and sexual misconduct policies. In order to reduce incidents of sexual misconduct, MGA, as a USG institution, is required to provide prevention tools and to conduct ongoing awareness, prevention programming, and training for the campus community.

All newly enrolled students are required to complete two mandatory Vector Solutions online courses: AlcoholEdu for College and Sexual Assault Prevention for Undergraduates. The instructions on how to complete these courses are sent via MGA email shortly after the semester begins. These courses promote positive and healthy behaviors and educate students on consent, sexual assault, alcohol use, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, bystander intervention, and reporting.

For more information or to report policy violations, go to Title IX (mga.edu/student-affairs/title-ix or email titleix@mga.edu).

In case of emergency, please contact the MGA University Police at 478.934.3002 on any campus.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Middle Georgia State University (MGA) respects and honors the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment, including the right to free speech, free expression, free exercise of religion, and the right to assemble peaceably. The full policy and procedure can be found at mga.edu/freedom-expression.

USEFUL RESOURCES

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

mga.edu/accessibility-services

ATHLETICS

mgaknights.com

BURSAR'S OFFICE

mga.edu/bursar

CAMPUS STORE

campusstore.mga.edu

COUNSELING SERVICES

mga.edu/counseling-services

DINING SERVICES

mga.campus-dining.com

FINANCIAL AID

mga.edu/financial-aid

RESIDENCE LIFE

mga.edu/residence-life

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

mga.edu/health-clinic

STUDENT LIFE

mga.edu/student-life

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

MGA EMAIL | mga.edu/email

Each MGA student is assigned an official University email account after acceptance. Students should check this account weekly! All official communications will be sent through their University email.

BANNER/SWORDS | mga.edu/SWORDS

Banner/SWORDS is the University's gateway to the Banner Student Information System. The system provides online access to registration, grades, class schedules, transcripts, financial aid status, account balances, and much more. In Banner/SWORDS, you are able to register for classes or drop/withdraw from classes that you are no longer interested in prior to the beginning of a semester.

MY DEGREE | mga.edu/MyDegree

MyDegree is a web-based student degree audit program designed to help you track your progress toward your degree, help prepare for registration, and plan for graduation. MyDegree is designed to aid the registration process but does not replace fact-to-face advising.

BRIGHTSPACE/D2L | mga.edu/d2l

Brightspace by D2L is the Learning Management System of Middle Georgia State University. A Brightspace course site allows "anytime, anywhere" access to syllabi, readings, multi-media files, assignments, online quizzes, communication, grades, etc. Every MGA course has a Brightspace course site, so be sure to check it regularly for course updates and notifications.

KNIGHT ALERT | mga.edu/KnightAlert

We care about the safety and quality of our student's education. The MGA Knight Alert system is a free service that adds to our ability to provide an environment in which you can feel safe knowing that you will be informed quickly and accurately of campus emergencies, including severe weather conditions and campus closings. Make you enroll in the automated campus safety alerts delivered via text message, phone call, and/or email.

Need Technical Assistance? Visit mga.edu/technology

HOW TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the primary application used by students to apply for Financial Aid. Complete your FAFSA at

www.studentaid.gov/FAFSA

- You must have an FSA ID and password to apply for federal aid
- MGA Federal School Code: **001581**
- Preferred FAFSA Deadlines:
 - Summer = March 1
 - Fall = April 15
 - Spring = October 1
- For State Aid programs, visit **www.gafutures.org**.
- Please make sure Middle Georgia State University is listed as a school for MGA to receive your application

HOW TO ACCEPT YOUR OFFERS IN SWORDS

To accept your Financial Aid Offer:

1. Log into SWORDS
2. Click on FINANCIAL AID
3. Click on AWARD
4. Click on AWARD BY AID YEAR
5. Choose the AID YEAR (the academic year you plan to attend MGA)
6. Select ACCEPT AWARD OFFER tab
 - For all AWARDS you wish to accept in the full amount, click ACCEPT
 - If you wish to decline an award, click DECLINE
 - If you wish to accept a partial amount, click ACCEPT.
Then ENTER THE AMOUNT you want to accept

PAYMENT AND DISBURSEMENT

Tuition and fees payment - Once you have accepted your Financial Aid Terms and Conditions and Offers, and you have completed the steps for loan recipients, the Financial Aid Office will authorize all eligible aid to your MGA student account. The Bursar's Office then will apply 'Authorized Aid' to your tuition and fees for the payment period.

If your enrollment status changes due to withdrawal, dismissal, graduation, or course load changes (such as adding/dropping classes, repeat classes, etc.), your awards may be changed or canceled. The payment of all charges not covered by financial aid is expected by the payment deadline each semester.

Books - Financial aid funds in excess of tuition and fees may be used for books and supplies in the Middle Georgia State University Campus Store, up to applicable limits.

Refunds - After your attendance in all classes has been confirmed, the remaining credit balance amounts will be refunded in the manner you have authorized and in accordance with the Bursar's Office schedule.

NOTE TO LOAN RECIPIENTS: Your loan proceeds will not be authorized until the lender approves the loan, and the Master Promissory Note and entrance loan counseling have been completed.

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS

To encourage the completion of your specific program of study within a reasonable timeframe and to comply with federal, state, and MGA requirements, financial aid recipients of MGA must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) as a condition of receiving financial aid. Satisfactory Academic Progress requires financial aid recipients to adhere to the following components:

- Meet the minimum cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average)
 - Under graduate 2.0 GPA (31+ attempted hours)
 - Graduate 3.0 GPA
- Satisfactorily complete at least 66.5 percent of the cumulative credit hours attempted
- Complete the program of study within the 150 percent of the maximum attempted hours.

Satisfactory Academic Progress is monitored at the end of every semester, beginning with your first term at MGA. Financial Aid recipients who do not meet conditions of SAP will lose their financial aid eligibility. A student's entire academic history (including transfer hours) is considered for purposes of this policy regardless of whether the student received financial aid at the time the credit hours were completed.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

"If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader." John Quincy Adams

Knights LEAD

First-Year/Freshman Leadership Program

- Connect with peers through a cohort on the Macon or Cochran campus.
- Develop your leadership skills through leadership meet-ups and Leadership & Service Days.
- Gain foundational leadership experience for your resume.
- Communicate and connect with faculty or staff mentors and meet-up facilitators.
- Priority acceptance into Emerging Leaders upon successful completion of Knights LEAD and registration for the Student Leadership Conference.

Do you plan to live on campus?

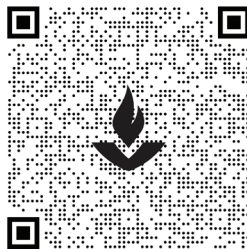
Knights LEAD students who live in Lakeview Point on the Macon Campus or Knights Hall on the Cochran Campus can be a part of a Leadership Living Community. If interested in this part of the Knights LEAD program, indicate your interest in the leadership community on the on-campus housing application.

Emerging Leaders

Upper-level Leadership Program (Sophomores & Above)

- **Will you be a second-year student or above this fall?** If you have 30+ hours of course credit and have completed your first year of college beyond high school, you qualify for Emerging Leaders.

APPLY AT:



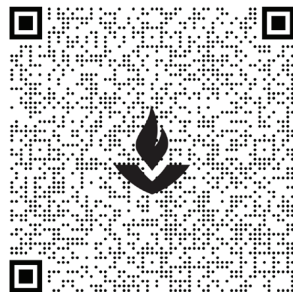
Applications for Knights LEAD and Emerging Leaders are due in August. Questions? Contact us at leadership@mga.edu.

YOUR FIRST YEAR AT MGA WITH CAREER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

PREPARE FOR YOUR CAREER

Take the Focus2 Career Assessment and use the Career Planning Resource page

- Create a Focus 2 account with your MGA email and complete the career assessments.
- Learn about MGA majors and use resources such as What Can I Do with My Major? and Stepping Blocks to understand academic areas and related career options.



Participate in the Student Leadership Programs

- Gain leadership skills, serve your community, and make connections through Knights LEAD and Emerging Leaders.
- Attend the spring Student Leadership Conference.
- Get involved now to be competitive for the iLEAD Peer Educator Program in the future.

Claim your MGA Handshake account to access all career and Internship resources.

- Schedule virtual and in-person resume, internship, and career options appointments with career advisors.
- Search and apply for internships.
- Sign-up for career fairs and employer events.
- Follow and research major employers.

Meet with a Career Advisor early and often for career planning.

- Career/major options
- Resume/cover letter writing assistance and reviews
- Interviewing skills
- Career and internship searches
- Grad school planning
- Professionalism and workplace transition topics

MGA TUTORS

EMPOWER YOU TO

SUCCEED!

Middle Georgia State University is committed to your success. We offer the following to all students:

- Academic Success Coaching
- Professional and Peer Certified Tutors
- Open-Use Computer Labs and Workstations
- Printing and Scanning Resources
- Study Rooms for Group Study

Student Success Center

<https://www.mga.edu/ssc>

We assist students with core and upper-level courses including biology, chemistry, Information Technology, and more! (online or in-person on the Macon, Dublin, Cochran, Eastman, and Warner Robins campuses)

The Writing Center

<https://www.mga.edu/WritingCenter>

We welcome freshmen through graduate students in any class for help with writing assignments! (online or in-person on the Macon and Cochran campuses)

Mathematics Academic Resource Center

<https://www.mga.edu/marc>

We are your center for one-on-one peer tutoring and access to computers for your 1000- and 2000-level math courses! (online or in-person on the Macon, Dublin, and Cochran campuses)

Modern Language Resource Center

<https://www.mga.edu/arts-letters/media-culture-arts/>

We offer tutoring in French, Korean, and Spanish! (online or in-person on the Macon campus)

Have specific questions? Please reach out to our departments. We are here to assist you on this journey.

Academic Advising.....	Find your Advisor here: mga.edu/advising/advisors
Academic Affairs.....	478.471.2700
Accessibility Services	
Macon.....	478.471.2985
Cochran.....	478.934.3023
Admissions Office.....	478.471.2725
Bursar's Office.....	478.387.0580
Campus Store.....	478.471.2719
Career & Leadership Development	
Macon.....	478.471.2714
Cochran.....	478.934.3110
Counseling Services	
Macon.....	478.471.2985
Cochran.....	478.934.3080
Financial Aid.....	478.387.0580
Foundation.....	478.471.2732
Health Clinic.....	478.471.2092
Human Resources	
Macon.....	478.471.2010
Cochran.....	478.934.3082
Library	
Macon.....	478.471.2709
Cochran.....	478.934.3179
Campus Police.....	478.471.2414
Registrar's Office	
Macon.....	478.471.2900
Cochran.....	478.934.3036
Residence Life	
Macon.....	478.477.5046
Cochran.....	478.934.3027
Risk Management.....	478.471.2506
Student Affairs.....	478.757.7383
Student Success Center	
Macon.....	478.471.2057
Cochran.....	478.934.3106
Dublin.....	478.275.6769
Eastman.....	478.374.6770
Warner Robins.....	478.929.6770
Technical Assistance	
Macon.....	478.471.2023
Cochran.....	478.934.3319
Testing Services	
Macon.....	478.471.2050
Cochran.....	478.934.3093
Veteran & Military Services.....	478.929.6762/478.327.8781



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State University

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mga.edu/orientation