



STUDENT AFFAIRS AND SERVICES

Dr. Kurt J. Keppler
Vice President for Student Affairs

Valdosta State University is committed to the ideal that total education involves more than academic pursuit. Therefore, the University provides a variety of extra-curricular activities to supplement the academic program. Most student activities are specifically planned to meet the cultural, social, and recreational needs of students in a coeducational atmosphere. The University Union and University Center are designed for group activities: informal dances, sorority and fraternity meetings, departmental club meetings, and films and activities sponsored by the Campus Activities Board.

COUNSELING CENTER

The Counseling Center, located in Powell Hall East, offers a variety of services to all students, faculty, and staff at the University, free of charge. A staff of professionally trained counselors is available to assist with personal, social, or educational concerns. The Counseling Center offers an atmosphere in which students may discuss their problems with the assurance that all counseling information will remain confidential.

Individual counseling is available for students who wish to discuss and explore their thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and life styles. Group counseling provides an opportunity for students to grow in their communication, social, and interpersonal skills with others who have similar goals and interests. Tests for assessing students' interests, personality, aptitude, or abilities are administered and interpreted by the Counseling Center staff. The Center also provides consultation to faculty and staff in addition to offering outreach programs to various groups on campus and in the residence halls. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 229-333-5940. When necessary, appropriate referrals will be made to use all available resources to meet student needs.

CAREER SERVICES

Valdosta State University understands the special needs that university students have in determining their career goals. The Career Services Office is available to assist VSU students in choosing their major programs of study and career objectives and in obtaining satisfactory employment upon graduation.

Individual career counseling is available for students who wish to explore how their abilities, values, and interests match particular career fields. Also, group workshops and seminars on career-related topics are offered each semester.

Students may utilize the varied resources which are in the Career Library including; printed career materials, audio and video tape descriptions of occupational opportunities, and a computer-assisted career exploration program.

Workshops on résumé preparation, job-interview skills, and job search strategies are offered each semester. Job vacancy listings of interest to seniors and graduate students are posted. On-campus interviews are scheduled with employers interested in interviewing students for jobs. Seniors are encouraged to register with the office the first semester of their senior year so that the office can best assist in their employment search. The Career Services Office is located on the second floor of Powell Hall West. Telephone 229-333-5942 or 229-333-5414. <www.valdosta.edu/career/>.

OFFICE OF TESTING

The University is designated as a national test center for the administration of standardized tests. The Office of Testing assists students with university requirements. Many tests are given in specific areas to students for placement, proficiency, or admission to specialized programs. Information about specific tests and their administration is available in the Office of Testing. Some of the available tests of interest to graduate students are the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), Law School Admission Test (LSAT), Miller Analogies Test (MAT), National Teacher Examination (NTE), and Independent Study Examinations (ISE). In addition, other College Board and Educational Testing Services examinations are available.

The Office of Testing is located in Powell Hall-West, First Floor. You may contact us by telephone at 229-245-3878 or by the World Wide Web site: <www.valdosta.edu/testing/>.

OFFICE OF ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG EDUCATION

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) Education began in the Fall of 1996. VSU acknowledges the fact that alcohol and other drugs can have a significant impact on the university community. We are taking a proactive stance in educating students on issues related to alcohol misuse and drug use, preventing students from developing substance abuse problems, and providing referrals for those who become chemically dependent. Through a variety of services, the Office of AOD Education is helping VSU affirm itself as an institution that provides a safe and healthy environment for students to receive a quality education. The following services are available:

Assessment and Referral. If you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol or other drugs, you can obtain an assessment, at no cost, to determine the extent of the substance abuse problem. Upon completion of the assessment, a referral to an appropriate agency will be made. It is up to the individual to follow through on the referral. All phases of this process are voluntary.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Veterans Affairs Office is part of the Office Financial Aid. A full-time counselor assists all veterans in completing applications for benefits, making adjustments in payments, providing tutorial assistance, updating enrollment certifications, and with other services to assist veterans with their education. Veterans enrolled in physical education courses can be certified to the Veterans Administration for VA benefits when the courses will be credited toward the completion of their approved educational program. It must be documented that credit cannot be granted for the courses based upon prior military training or experience. Veterans should refer any problems to the Veterans Office for assistance. Telephone 229-333-5935.

JUDICIAL AFFAIRS

The Judicial Affairs Office is responsible for the student disciplinary process on campus. The office is located in the University Union. Telephone 229-333-5941. The office assists students, staff, and faculty in the determination of the most appropriate disciplinary measures needed regarding alleged violations of the VSU Student Handbook's Student Code of Ethics. The office's primary mission is to redirect student behavior toward the ultimate goal of the university, the successful completion of degree requirements and productive participation in today's society. <www.valdosta.edu/judicial/>.

DRUGS

Valdosta State University, as a regional university within the University System of Georgia and recipient of federal funds, supports and complies with the Drug Free Work Place Act of 1988 and the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989, and the Drug Free Postsecondary Education Act of 1990.

Faculty, staff, and students of Valdosta State University are advised that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of illicit drugs and alcohol is prohibited, and violations of this policy will result in appropriate disciplinary action, to include suspension or termination.

Faculty, staff, and students are expected to adhere to the policies of the institution, observe the basic rules of good conduct, and observe all local, state, and federal regulations relative to illegal drugs and alcohol. Violations of such regulations, including misdemeanor or felony convictions during the course of one's employment or enrollment, will result in appropriate disciplinary action. This policy is subject to modifications, and said changes will be publicized. Questions regarding this matter may be directed to the Office of Personnel or the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

STUDENT REGULATIONS

General Expectations

Inasmuch as Valdosta State University is an institution committed to the quest for knowledge, truth, and wisdom, all students are expected:

- to examine critically and otherwise to evaluate themselves, their knowledge, and their society;
- to commit themselves to genuine enlightenment rather than to inflexible adherence to limited knowledge;
- to respect the regulation and order of the university community, which must exist for real learning to take place;
- to respect and obey the laws of the State of Georgia and the United States;
- to respect and obey the Code of Ethics as set forth by the Student Government Association in the University Handbook;
- to assume full responsibility for their individual and collective actions;
- to participate seriously and purposefully in campus life as both student and person;
- to make mistakes because they are "students," but to profit from these mistakes by maturing eventually into fully-participating, responsible, educated leaders in whatever careers they select.



AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

The Americans with Disabilities Act, Public Law 101-336, extends the prohibition against discrimination on the basis of disability in Section 504 to all programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments, regardless of whether those entities receive federal financial assistance. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that no otherwise qualified disabled individual can be denied access to or participation in any federally funded activity or program solely on the basis of disability.

Equal Opportunity Statement

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of the institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as Title XI in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs

Students who feel they have been discriminated against on the basis of their sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap, should contact the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs and Multicultural Affairs. Through the use of due process procedures appropriate action will be taken to address instances of discrimination and sexual harassment. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs/Multicultural Affairs Office, 1208 North Patterson Street. Telephone 229-333-5463.

Special Services Program

The Special Services Program is committed to helping students pursue their educational goals to the fullest extent of their abilities. The program is responsible for coordination of services for students with disabilities. The primary objectives are to provide reasonable accommodations and assure that campus programs and activities are accessible to students with disabilities. Some of the services available to meet the needs of students include classroom and testing accommodations, textbooks in alternate formats, individual tutoring, instruction in learning strategies, access to adaptive technology, and referral to other services.

Eligibility for provision of services requires students to provide current documentation of a disability that meets Georgia Board of Regents criteria. All of the services are provided at no charge. For more information, contact the Special Services Program, 1115 Nevins Hall. Telephone 229-245-2498 (voice); 229- 219-1348 (TTY).



STUDENT RECORDS

Mr. Gerald E. Wright
Registrar

The Office of the Registrar maintains the academic records of students and issues transcripts of records and certificates for various governmental agencies.

Students are encouraged to check with the Registrar's Office when questions arise concerning academic status. All students have a permanent record to which only they and authorized personnel have access, and it is to the student's advantage to check this record periodically. Official transcripts are provided upon written request of the student. All undergraduate and graduate work constitutes a complete academic record. Portions of that record will not be deleted when transcripts are provided. All grades assigned remain on the student's permanent record and transcript. Two weeks' processing time should be allowed for the preparation of transcripts and certifications.

Transcripts of academic records from other universities and high schools are not provided. The student must contact previous institutions attended for those transcripts. It is also the student's responsibility to contact testing agencies for test score reports.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 AND AMENDMENTS

Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) for Post-Secondary Institutions dealing with Student Educational Records

In accordance with the policy of the Board of Regents of the State of Georgia and under the provisions of The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), Valdosta State University maintains various educational records for each matriculating student. VSU affords students certain rights with respect to these educational records, and these rights include:

(1) The right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the University receives a request for access. Students should submit to the registrar, the dean of the appropriate college, the head of the appropriate academic department, or other appropriate official, written requests that identify the record(s) they wish to inspect. The University official will make arrangements for access and notify the student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. If the records are not maintained by the University official to whom the request was submitted, that official

shall advise the student of the correct official to whom the request should be addressed. VSU's official contact person for such record requests is the Custodian of Official Records in the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. There will be a nominal fee for the retrieval and reproduction of any record requests.

(2) The right to request the amendment of the student's educational records that the student believes are inaccurate. Students may ask the University to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate. They should write the University official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate. If the university decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, the University will notify the student of the decision and advise the student of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the University in an administrative, supervisory, academic or research, or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the University has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the University may disclose education records without consent to officials of another school in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Directory information: Valdosta State University publishes student information in the form of directories, programs, etc. Students who desire that directory information not be released without consent should notify the Office of Student Affairs in writing. The following is considered directory information unless notification is received to the contrary:

Student's name, address (local and home), telephone listing, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, degrees and awards received, class schedule, photograph, full- or part-time status, e-mail address, and the most recent previous educational agency or institution attended by the student.

Educational records may be furnished to a requesting party in compliance with a judicial order or pursuant to any lawfully issued subpoena.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failure by Valdosta State University to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-4605. Telephone 202- 260-3887.

The following are exceptions within FERPA, and students should take note of them:

- A. Students do NOT have access to the financial records of parents of students.
- B. Students do NOT have access to letters of recommendation placed in records prior to January 1, 1975.
- C. Personal records of instructional, supervisory, and administrative personnel are NOT open for review and inspection by students.
- D. The professional records of the institution's medical staff are not open for review and inspection by students. However, physicians or other appropriate professionals of the student's choice can review these records.



COMPUTING AND DATA NETWORKING FACILITIES

Mr. Thomas J. Archibald

Assistant to the President for Information Technology

VSU was recognized nationally in October 2001 by *Yahoo! Internet Life* magazine as one of the “Top 100 Most Wired” campuses in the United States and is known in the University System of Georgia as a technology leader. The following briefly describes this robust computing environment.

The university operates a variety of sophisticated, state-of-the art computing and data networking facilities to support its academic, research, and administrative activities. The facilities include several powerful UNIX-based central servers, 2,800 microcomputers, 65 high-end workstations and 40-45 distributed file servers, all of which are interconnected via a high-speed data network.

Located in the Computer Center in Nevins Hall, three Hewlett-Packard 9000 large-scale business servers support all student- and finance-related processing as well as various other applications software systems. These three computers together comprise a total systems environment that provides one of the largest and most modern centers in the University System. VSU has a complete implementation of the SCT Banner Student Information and Financial Aid Systems, which greatly enhance student support operations such as admissions, registration, advising, and financial aid processing. Student registration and general access can be easily accomplished via the Web, the Campus Pipeline “portal,” Touchnet kiosks, or the EPOS Integrated Voice Response system. Business and Financial computing operations are supported with software from the PeopleSoft Corporation. All systems utilize the Oracle database product.

The Data Communications Center in Ashley Hall operates:

- 1 Sun Ultra Enterprise 3000 providing electronic mail services for the students, faculty, and staff and DS1/DS3 circuit access to the state-wide PeachNet and other national and international networks.
- 2 Sun 450 servers, one for the Campus Pipeline web “portal” product and one for video streaming.
- 1 Sun Ultra Sparc 10 provides mailing list services.

- 3 Sun 420R servers: one supports VSU's popular and heavily utilized World Wide Web site and its thousands of pages; a second acts as the WebCT online course server; the third provides additional live and archived video streaming, to include interface with VSU-TV.
- 1 Sun SparcServer 1000 performs DHCP and acts as the main name server for the campus, allowing VSU to be "registered" with Internet and utilize the short address of <valdosta.edu>.
- 2 Sun E220R servers provide secondary support services for DNS, Mail, Web, and WebCT.
- 1 Compaq Proliant 2500 NT server supports web page development.

A very extensive and sophisticated fiber-optic based data network provides Ethernet/ Fast Ethernet (10/100 Mbps), Gigabit Ethernet, and ATM communications between all servers and microcomputers. The 20 miles of fiber and 62 miles of copper wire connect all main campus buildings, as well as three on North Campus, the VSU Regional Center for Continuing Education, Plant Operations, and 12 buildings adjacent to the main campus. Additional remote dial-in modem access is supported, as well as outside access via Georgia's PeachNet to the Internet.

In addition to the "hard-wired" network described, VSU has also implemented an impressive wireless data network. Over 80 wireless access points have been installed in 17 buildings around the campus to create an "umbrella" of coverage unrivaled by any school in the University System. All 1,800 students in the eight residence halls have wireless capability; seven academic buildings and the Library are supported, as well as three student "hang-out" locations. To increase utilization, 10 roll-around carts with 20 wireless laptops have been provided to various academic departments for student check-out to use in classes.

Microcomputers are provided to every faculty member and all staff in administrative offices. A total of 800 microcomputers are available to students in 29 labs, with 10-50 machines each, located throughout the campus. A special-purpose AutoCAD Lab for VSU's pre-engineering program is in Nevins Hall. The College of the Arts also runs AutoCAD products in support of its Interior Design program and specialized software in the computerized Music lab. Three labs are installed at Kings Bay Naval Base to support VSU operations at that location. All machines have the campus standard software installed: -Microsoft Office Pro or XP (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access), communications/e-mail products (Netscape, Internet Explorer, Eudora, and others) and Virus protection software. Various microcomputer servers, Sun and Silicon Graphics high-end workstations, local networks, and other facilities are located in the various colleges and administrative offices to provide additional support to students, faculty, and staff.

VSU's Odum Library operates two student computer labs with 20 PCs each, has 50 more PCs in student-friendly locations throughout the building, and has 35 Galileo workstations. In January 2001, the Library implemented a new web catalog, called GIL (Galileo Interconnected Libraries), which is now used by all University System schools. GIL provides not only a web-interfaced catalog but also the Georgia State Union Catalog, making it possible to place electronic requests for books held by other USG libraries.

Specific information on the above can be obtained at the Information Technology division offices located in Ashley Hall, Second Floor (South) or at its HELP-Desk in Ashley Hall, Room 114.