TRANSPORTATION

Getting Around Athens

**BUSES**

**UGA BUSES**
Download the Official UGA mobile app

- Your orientation folder contains a bus guide. Use it to look up routes and times, and remember the UGA bus schedule is different at night, on weekends and during school breaks

**ATHENS TRANSIT**
Download the Official UGA mobile app or visit http://www.athenstransit.com/

- Athens Transit is now on the Google Maps app
- The Athens bus picks people up and drops people off at locations both on and off campus, depending on the bus number. The ride is free for students, staff, and faculty with a UGA ID Card in hand.
- For non-UGA riders, it costs $1.75 per adult (age 18-64).

**MEGABUS**
http://www.us.megabus.com/

You can go round-trip from the Athens Multi-modal Transportation Center to the Atlanta MARTA Civic Center Station on the MegaBus. On Sundays, the Athens pick-up/drop-off location is in East Campus Village. Price ranges from $1 to $12 for a one-way ticket, depending on how far in advance you purchase tickets. You can only purchase tickets online. Reservation fee is $0.50. Megabus also goes to other locations in the United States for low prices.

**GREYHOUND**
https://www.greyhound.com/en

Athens Station: 4020 Atlanta Highway, Bogart, GA 30622; 706-549-2255
Greyhound is the largest provider of intercity bus transportation, serving more than 2,300 destinations with 13,000 daily departures across North America. Go to the website for ticket information, times and routes.

**BIKING AND WALKING**

**BIKE ATHENS**
www.bikeathens.org

The website above has information about where safe places to bike are, as well as a listing of stores where you can buy a bike. Also, this website provides a map of crosswalks and safe places to walk.

**PARKING**

**ALTERNATIVE PARKING SERVICES**
https://tps.uga.edu/atp

For those who commute to campus by foot, bike, or bus, UGA allows you to park for free 22 times in designated areas over the academic year (2 times per month).

**TAXIS AND APPS**

**TAXIS SERVICES**
https://www.1800taxiusa.com/athens-ga-taxi-services.html

You can also Google "Athens, Georgia Taxi Services" to find more options. Expect to wait at least an hour during the weekends for a taxi pick-up. You will have to call ahead for a ride, as hailing a taxi does not work in Athens.

**UBER AND LYFT**

Mobile apps, such as Lyft and Uber, allow students with smartphones to submit a trip request which is then routed to Uber drivers who use their own cars. They are often cheaper than taxis, but the prices can surge during busy periods.

**GROOME SHUTTLE**

http://www.groometransportation.com/
706-612-1155 or 855-360-0010

For $41.00 one way or $82.00 round-trip you can go from Athens to the Atlanta Airport or vice versa. 24-hour reservations are required.
Rideshare apps like Uber and Lyft are very popular in Athens.

1. Request your ride while waiting inside- Minimize the time that you’re standing outside by yourself with your phone in your hand. Instead, wait inside until the app shows that your driver has arrived.

2. Confirm your driver before getting in the car- Both Uber and Lyft provide you with the type, color, and license plate of the car that will be arriving to pick you up. Make sure that the description of the vehicle matches the information provided in the app before getting into the car.

3. Have your driver confirm your information- Ask the driver to confirm your name before you get in the car. Your driver sees your first name in their app, and your driver’s first name is displayed to you in your app. To safely exchange names, you can ask, “Who are you here to pick up?”

4. Share your trip details with loved ones- Both apps allow you to share your location, driver’s name, photo, license plate, and ETA (estimated time of arrival) with friends and family. You can also text or call a loved one when you’ve safely made it home.
### Buying a Used Car

1. **Make sure that you are ready to purchase a car!** While it is helpful to have, there comes many costs and responsibilities. Determine your price range and then look for the “Car for Sale” ads on campus bulletin boards, in the local newspaper, or online.

2. **Have a reputable mechanic** (e.g., Walmart - NOT someone the car seller recommends) to examine the car in detail. Many local repair shops or service stations will inspect the vehicle for a fee. Be sure that they will test drive the vehicle!

3. **Obtain the VIN number** from the owner and check the car history through CARFAX. The report will tell you whether or not the car has been in an accident, how many owners have owned the car before, how the car is maintained, etc.

4. **Check the price of the car** on Kelly’s Blue Book and make your offer. The owner may or may not agree on a lower price. When you reach an agreement, you pay the amount and obtain the “Title of Ownership” from the seller. This is also known as the “pink slip”.

5. **Check the title of ownership** carefully before you make the payment and also have the previous owner sign it over to you. Make sure you have the title of ownership signed to you by the owner before you hand your money over.

6. **Get the car insured** in your name and bring the insurance documents to the Georgia Department of Driver Services. Be careful when choosing your car insurance company. There are different rates and types of insurance you can have. The most important thing to remember is that you must have insurance if you own and drive a car in the United States.

You will also need to register the car in your name and new license plates will be issued. Put on the new license plates and your car is ready for use.

**REMEMBER ALL OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND COSTS THAT YOU INCUR IF YOU PURCHASE A CAR:**

- Auto Insurance
- Fees for Tax, Title, and Tag (license plate)
- City parking fees and university parking fees
- General preventive maintenance expenses for your car
- Safety seats for children under the age of four
- Property Tax (you must pay every year)
Georgia recognizes valid driver licenses issued to and held by residents of other counties as long as the “Out of County” license is valid (not expired).

“If the foreign license is not printed in English, the driver must also have an International Driving Permit (IDP) or similar translation issued in accordance with the provision of the Convention on Road Traffic, any similar treaty, international agreement, or reciprocal agreement between the United States and a foreign nation. Non-US citizens must obtain an IDP from their home country prior to coming to the U.S."

Generally, you may drive in Georgia for up to one year on a valid foreign or International license. However, if a non-US citizen establishes residency in Georgia, they must obtain a Georgia driver’s license within thirty (30) days. A non-US citizen would be considered a resident of Georgia if they meet any of the following criteria:

• If a person accepts employment in Georgia, and enrolls their children in private or public school within ten days after the commencement of employment; or...
• If a person has been present in the state for 30 or more days.

Collect the documents needed for non-citizens to obtain a Georgia driver’s license

If you have a license from another country or U.S. state, you must present your Out of Country/International license or identification card to receive a Georgia license or identification card.

Out of country licenses/permits/ID cards are returned to non-US citizens with the following exceptions: commercial licenses and permits.

If you have a license/permit/ID card from another U.S. state, you must surrender the license/permit/ID card.

Social Security Number Requirements: you must provide either a Social Security Number or a letter of ineligibility for a Social Security Number (Form SSAL 676)

Social Security Number (SSN): Non-citizens who have permission from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work in the U.S. can apply for a SSN. To apply for a SSN or for further details on social security numbers for non-citizens visit, please visit www.ssa.gov. If you are eligible for a SSN, apply for one and wait to get your card. After receiving your card, you may apply for a Georgia Driver’s License.

Letter of Ineligibility: If you are NOT eligible for a SSN, you must obtain a letter of ineligibility, Form SSAL676, from the Social Security Administration. The Social Security Administration will give you this letter if the DHS has not given you permission to work in the U.S. In order to get the letter, you must complete the application process for a SSN and be rejected for a number by the Social Security Administration. The rejection letter they send to you is what you need to take to the DDS to apply for your license in Georgia.
Identity & Lawful Presence Requirements: you must present the following original documents. *only originals are accepted!*

For F-1, F-2, J-1, J-2 status: unexpired passport with valid U.S. visa, a valid I-94, AND I-20 (F-1/F-2) or DS-2019 (J-1/J-2). You may print out your electronic I-94 form from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection webpage: www.cbp.gov/i94

• If you are on a different type of visa, you will need to visit the DDS website for more information.

Proof of Residency: you must present 3 of the following:
• Utility bill issued within the last sixty (60) days with your current address
• Bank statement issued within the last sixty (60) days with your current address
• Currently valid rental contracts (your lease) and/or receipts for rent payments made within the last sixty (60) days
• Employer verification, including, but not limited to, one of the following:
  - Paycheck or paycheck stub
  - Letter from employer on company letterhead stating the applicant’s full name and home address
  - W-2 for current or preceding calendar year

Complete the necessary requirements for receiving a GA driver’s license

1. You must be at least 18 years old.
2. You must pass the Knowledge Exam.
3. You must pass the Road Skills Test.
4. You must pass the Vision Exam (bring your glasses or contacts!)
5. You must present the documents listed above.

NOTE:
To learn more about the knowledge exam, please review the Georgia Driver’s Manual on the DDS website. The cost of applying for a Regular Non-Commerical Driver’s License (Class C) is $20. Class C is the type of license you should apply for (there are other types of license types that are paid for drivers, motorcyclist, etc.).

Please note: You will receive a temporary paper license, and the permanent plastic license will be mailed to you within 30 days.

Examples of a Georgia Driver's License

Old Version

New Version
Getting a Georgia Drivers License

The Athens Department of Driver Services is located at 1505 US-29 Athens GA. You should call ahead to make an appointment: 1-866-754-3687 (Select Option 4) or (678) 413-8400 (Select Option 4.)

- The reservation system lines are open from 7:00am until 5:15pm Monday through Friday. Appointments can be made for any location in the state up to 90 days in advance. Customer Service Centers conduct testing during most business hours. The last test of the day is scheduled about an hour and a half before closing to allow time for testing, license issuance, photo and license printing.

- Without a reservation, you will be worked in between scheduled appointments, but there is no guarantee that you can be served on a particular day.

Making an appointment

Effective January 1, 2008, Georgia law requires DDS to verify all immigration documents presented by non-citizens through the U.S. Custom and Immigration Service (USCIS) via a program known as SAVE (Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlement.)

In most cases, the SAVE verification can be completed immediately during your application for a driver’s license. In some cases, verification may take several days or several weeks. Until the documentation is verified by USCIS, DDS will be unable to issue a driver’s license or identification card. If the SAVE verification is unsuccessful, the customer will be given a form with further instructions.

Once immigration documentation is verified with USCIS, a Georgia driver’s license or identification card may be issued with an expiration date that matches the immigration documentation expiration date, up to 5 years. If there is no expiration date on the immigration documentation, a driver’s license/permit/ID card can be issued for 5 years if the customer is verified through SAVE as a lawful permanent resident (LPR), asylee or refugee. If the customer has any status other than LPR, asylee or refugee, and there is no expiration on the immigration documentation, the maximum term available is one year.

A note about lawful presence:

Need more information?

**DDS Website**
https://dds.georgia.gov/

**Georgia Driver’s Manual**
http://www.eregulations.com/georgia/driver/

**Athens Customer Service Center**
1505 US Highway 29 North
Athens, GA 30601
Phone: 706-552-4427
Hours: Tuesday – Friday 8:00am–6:00pm
Saturday – 8:00 am – 12 noon
Closed Monday and Sunday
Getting Around Athens

PARKING ON CAMPUS

Use the UGA Parking Map available at [https://tps.uga.edu/sites/default/files/parkingpriorityjune2019.pdf](https://tps.uga.edu/sites/default/files/parkingpriorityjune2019.pdf) to decide the areas which are convenient for you to park. You are not guaranteed your first choice of a parking area.

Parking lot fees are determined by their proximity to the central part of campus. Permits cost between $20-40 per month, depending on location. A permit will allow parking within its permit area only.

Motorcycle or scooter passes are $10 a month.

Your status (Undergraduate Resident, Commuter Student, Graduate Assistant, etc.) determines your priority level for each parking lot.

If you require access to handicapped parking, indicate this when you make your lot selection.

Current decals or hang-tags should be removed before your vehicle is sold or traded.

You can only use the permit assigned to you – do not transfer your permit to another person.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PARKING?

If you are planning to drive your vehicle to school and park on campus, you must register your vehicle with the parking services by visiting [https://tps.uga.edu/parking](https://tps.uga.edu/parking).