A strong start can make all the difference in a great finish.

“The Success Academy did a lot for me! It helped me get settled into college, make wonderful friends and create relationships with my peer mentors. I learned how to manage all that college had to offer. I also learned how to take advantage of being downtown. I learned basic success skills like communicating and working with faculty, how to take effective notes and how to utilize resources like the resume workshop, scholarship resource center and writing loft.”

— Khadeeja Rayner

“In the beginning, it [the summer semester] might feel like it’s the toughest task you’ll ever attempt, but once you’ve completed it, you’ll have accomplished something you didn’t know you could do!”

— Ridah Malik

“The Success Academy is a great way to become acclimated with your new school and gain a head start in your classes. You’ll meet others in the academy and gain many friends, as well as become more studious.”

— Kinte Milbry

All students listed above are from the summer 2013 cohort.

The Georgia State University Success Academy is your opportunity to get into Georgia State in 2014.

Participation in the Success Academy is limited, so don’t delay!

### Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Success Academy Confirmation Deadline</td>
<td>Monday, April 1, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success Academy Reception</td>
<td>Friday, May 2, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Success Academy Reception</td>
<td>Friday, May 16, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success Academy Orientation</td>
<td>June 5-6, 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submit the Participation Form at:

http://success.students.gsu.edu/success-academy/participation-form/

For more details about the Success Academy, contact Georgia State University’s Office of Undergraduate Admissions or visit our website.

Andra Brantley, MBA
Admissions Counselor III and Success Academy Liaison
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
200 Sparks Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
successacademy@gsu.edu • 404-413-2032

http://success.students.gsu.edu/success-academy/
The Success Academy is your opportunity to get on campus early and start using the resources, meeting the people, taking the initiative and developing the skills to make the most of your college education.

**Success Rates**

Georgia State University’s Success Academy gives you a unique and exciting opportunity to quickly establish yourself at Georgia State and set yourself up for academic and interpersonal success. Through the Success Academy, you will:

- Develop strong study habits and academic skills
- Begin fulfilling degree requirements
- Increase your likelihood of attaining or maintaining HOPE Scholarship eligibility
- Learn about a wealth of resources for support and guidance
- Make enduring friendships

**Program Basics**

The Success Academy consists of programs, activities and services that work together – and with you – to put you on the path to college success:

- Individualized study skills and learning-style assessments
- Academic skills workshops including time management, memory and concentration, how to read a textbook and how to talk to your professor
- Peer mentoring
- Academic coaching
- Introduction to key faculty and staff
- Individualized guidance and support from Financial Aid, University Advisement Center, Scholarship Resource Center and more
- Residential Living-Learning Community (optional)

**Opportunity Adventure Action**

The Success Academy offers you support and guidance while inspiring you to new levels of academic achievement, extracurricular involvement and leadership development.

**Program Requirements**

To enroll in the Success Academy you must complete the following:

- Fill out the online Participation Form
- Complete FAFSA for 2013-14
- Complete FAFSA for 2014-15
- Complete Georgia State Housing application (optional)
- Sign Commitment Statement to participate for all three semesters

**Academic Requirements**

The summer semester of the Success Academy consists of seven credit hours, and fall semester credit hours will be determined by GPA. All credit hours count toward the 120 hours required to graduate. See below for requirements:

- Students earning 2.5 or higher GPA in summer will take a full course load of 13 hours in the fall and spring
- Students earning a GPA lower than 2.5 will receive additional academic support, and will take fewer than 12 credit hours in the fall

**Success Rates**

Success in college takes commitment and engagement – in the classroom and out – so the Success Academy asks for your full participation in a range of specific programs and activities:

- On-campus hours during summer from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (for non-residential students)
- Mandatory attendance at select academic and co-curricular events throughout the year
- Commitment to enroll in designated core curriculum classes in summer 2014, fall 2014 and spring 2015 (all core courses will count toward your major, regardless of major)

**Participation Requirements**

The Success Academy is an opportunity that comes only once. The individual guidance and coordinated support you'll receive are unique to the program and can help ensure your early and ongoing college success.
Success Academy Information

Success Academy is a multiple semester initiatives designed to support students academically and socially through their college transition and integrate them to university requirements and expectations by proving necessary academic and social support. Students are invited to participate in Success Academy (summer) because they fall in the lower quartile of the applicant pool for first-year students.

Success Academy students have a prescribed co-curricular program for the summer, fall and spring semesters.

**Success Academy**

- Begin matriculating as students during the summer semester through the bridge program
- Take GSU 1010 in the summer instead of the traditional fall timing
- Remain in cohort style for the English 1102 experience
- Begin the fall semester with 7 academic credits: GSU 1010 (1), English 1101 (3), and a course in Social Science (3)

Success Academy is composed of different policies and procedures related to the following areas: 1) Summer Bridge program (Success Academy) 2) Mentorship, 3) Academic support, and 4) Personal/Social Development.

The initial cohort of Success Academy students finished the fall 2012 semester with a 3.02 institutional GPA and a 93.3% retention rate.

**Summer Bridge Program (Success Academy)**

The bridge academy introduces students to the full collegiate experience by providing integration opportunities for social and academic acclimation through mentorship, academic support, personal development, and academic advising.

- Academic courses for the summer include GSU 1010, English 1101, and a Social Science course in the Core Curriculum.
- Students take advantage of the urban university setting by participating in Atlanta-Based Learning, the experiential learning component of the GSU 1010 course.
- Personal development

**Mentorship**

- Success Academy participants are assigned a Peer Mentor. The mentor will be with the group for the summer, fall, and spring semesters. Ideally, the mentor would remain with the same group through the spring semester. In the event that the mentor is not able to remain on staff for the spring semester, a new mentor will be assigned to the cohort.
o Attend GSU 1010 course weekly during the summer
o Attend co-curricular programs together during the fall and spring semesters
o Complete one-on-one Connection Reports within the first six weeks of classes during the fall and spring semesters
  ▪ Identify potential or current risk factors
  ▪ Refer students to campus resources
  ▪ Affirm student’s ability to be successful in college

Academic Support

- Workshops are planned for the summer, fall, and spring semesters of the first year of students’ matriculation at Georgia State University. Workshops focus on enrollment processes (Advising, Registration, FAFSA, etc.), career preparation and professional development (Branding, Resume Writing, Interview Skills, Study Abroad, etc.), and personal development (Leadership style, Conflict Resolution and Mediation, etc.)

- *Study Hour* is an initiative that will provide Success Academy students the opportunity to participate in structured study sessions and meet with the Peer Mentor staff outside of class and complete Connection Reports on a weekly basis. The Supplemental Instruction classroom space and the Learning Center in the residence hall would be ideal for this initiative.

- The Academic Recovery Plan (ARP) is a structured achievement plan for Success Academy students whose cumulative GPA drops below a 2.5 during the summer, fall, or spring semesters. Students will have an Freshman Learning Community (FLC) hold placed on their accounts until they complete the requirements outlined in the ARP, which include the following:
  o Meet with their assigned Academic Advisor;
  o Meet with their assigned Academic Coach three times each semester (at least once prior to the midpoint);
  o Attend Academic Success Workshops (at least one prior to the semester midpoint); and
  o Complete at least one Connection Report with his or her Peer Mentor (prior to the semester midpoint).

The Academic Recovery Plan is introduced and communicated to students whose GPA falls below a 2.5 after grades post, prior to the beginning of the next semester.

- The Academic Advisors assigned to Success Academy meet with all students to ensure consistent advising. Each advisor communicates registration information to the Office of Undergraduate Studies once course registration begins. Additionally, they account for students who have met with them as it relates to the Academic Recovery Plan.
Success Academy students meet with their GSU 1010 instructor once individually during the bridge program (Success Academy) and twice with their Academic Coach over the course of the fall and spring semesters: once prior to the midpoint and again after the midpoint. The purposes of these meetings are to increase student-staff interaction time, identify strategies for academic and personal success, and refer students to appropriate campus resources.

Personal & Professional Development

The Success Series are a set of workshops designed to grow students as people and budding professional. All events and programs are based on the programmatic themes of social competence, self-awareness and identity formation, and PI Life (Purpose and Integrity). Workshops will be facilitated by staff of various campus offices. Programs will be evaluated for student learning. Possible campus partners include Student Leadership, Office of the Dean of Students, Office of Civic Engagement, and University Housing.

Success Academy students receive a weekly electronic newsletter, “In the Know”, from the Office of Undergraduate Studies. The newsletter highlights university initiatives and programs, enrollment processes (registration, FAFSA, etc.), two university offices and resources, one student organization, workshop announcements, and campus involvement opportunities. The newsletter is produced by the Graduate Assistant for Special Programs.

The Panther Excellence Program and Success Academy Council (soon to be known as Council of Scholars) is the programming and leadership development based organization for students in Panther Excellence Program and Success Academy.
Schedule and Requirements for Success Academy

Summer (7 hours)
- GSU 1010 New Student Orientation (1)
- Engl 1101 English Composition I (3)
- Hist 2110 or PolS 1101 Survey of U.S. History or American Government (3)

- Individual Meeting with Academic Coach (twice during summer)
- Individual Meeting with Peer Mentor (once during summer)
- Individual Meeting with Academic Advisor (twice during summer)
- Attend Supplemental Instruction sessions weekly
- Attend 3-4 Workshops on Academic Success
- Must earn a GPA of 2.5 during summer in order to register full time in fall

Fall (12-13 hours)
- Engl 1102 English Composition II (3)
- Hist 2110 or PolS 1101 Survey of U.S. History or American Government (3)
- Math course from Core relevant to major (3)
- Humanities, Social Sciences, or Science Lab (3-4)

- Individual Meeting with Academic Coach (three times during semester)
- Individual Meeting with Peer Mentor (twice during semester)
- Individual Meeting with Academic Advisor (twice during semester)
- Attend Supplemental Instruction sessions weekly
- Attend 2-3 Workshops on Academic Success

Spring (12-13 hours)
- Hist 1112, Pols 2401, or Spch 2050 World History since 1500, Global Issues, or Media, Culture, and Society(3)
- 9-10 additional hours based on recommendation of Academic Advisor
✓ Individual Meeting with Academic Coach (three times during semester)
✓ Individual Meeting with Peer Mentor (at least once during semester)
✓ Individual Meeting with Academic Advisor (twice during semester)
✓ Attend Supplemental Instruction sessions weekly
Assessment and Evaluation

Success Academy End of Term Evaluation Feedback (Fall 2013)

Qualitative feedback

- What, if anything, do you like most about the Success Academy program?
  - I love the bond from the peer mentors and how they want to sincerely see each and every success academy person succeed.
  - I got ahead in credits and didn’t have to take as many classes during the fall and spring.
  - I like that I got to be familiar with campus before fall semester, and I got to meet new people. Also, I like that I am slightly ahead of others.
  - The cohorts, the bond I built with both my cohort and those in success academy
  - It prevents failure in your first year, allowing for any help you may need.
- 26 total responses were recorded.

Quantitative Assessment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>True</th>
<th>False</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>I met with my advisor for at least one scheduled appointment.</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>My Academic Advisor was knowledgeable about the courses required for my major.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>I met with my Academic Advisor prior to the semester mid-point (Oct 8th).</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>My visit(s) the University Advisement Center were helpful in forming my spring 2014 schedule</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I have met with my Academic Advisor since the semester mid-point.</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>I understand the role of my Academic Advisor during my time in college.</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- During the fall 2013 semester, Success Academy students reported expending their energy on the following skills and practices in the following percentages:
  - Taking lecture notes: *More often than not OR Often/Frequently* - 88%
    - Suggestion
      - Require Note Taking workshop for all Success Academy students
  - Communicating concerns or inquiries about course material or assignments to faculty and exercising effective time management skills: *More often than not OR Often/Frequently* - 74%
    - Suggestions
      - Require a Faculty/Professional/effective Communication AND Time Management workshop for all Success Academy students.
      - Require GSU 1010 faculty to facilitate a lesson on professional/effective communication with faculty.
• Reading or preparing course material prior to class: *More often than not OR Oftentimes/Frequently*: 83%
  • Suggestion
    • Require Workshop or emphasis on this skill in GSU 1010.
• Students rarely or infrequently utilized faculty office hours. Fifty-eight percent (58%) report not or under-utilizing the hours. Only 17% report frequently using this resource.
  • Suggestion
    • See first suggestion.

• Peer Mentor

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
<th>% favorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>I consider my Peer Mentor a person who I could confide in, if I needed to talk about something serious.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>My Peer Mentor role modeled habits for academic success</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>My Peer Mentor was knowledgeable of campus resources that pertained to my needs</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• 69% of students who responded agreed that Academic Coaching helped them attain or make progress toward a goal during the fall semester.

• During the Summer 2013 term, students ranked their resources in value as follows:
  • Supplemental Instruction (#1 resource, 41%; #2 resource, 27%)
  • Peer Mentor (#1 resource, 32%; #2 resource, 39%)
  • Academic Advising (#1 resource, 22%; #2 resource, 32%)

• Academic Coaching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Not helpful</th>
<th>Helpful</th>
<th>Most helpful</th>
<th>Total Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Personal accountability</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Identifying campus resources</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Identifying strategies for personal success</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Identifying strategies for academic success</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
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