A Brief History of Georgia State University

Georgia State University is a public doctoral research institution that was founded in 1913 in Atlanta, GA. Initially an outgrowth of the Georgia Institute of Technology called The Evening School of Commerce and later incorporated into the University of Georgia as The Atlanta Division of the University of Georgia, GSU encapsulates the expansion, cooperative efforts, and spirit of civic engagement unique to downtown Atlanta. From its acquisition of a unique mission in 1961 as Georgia State College (and Georgia State University in 1969), GSU continues to grow and evolve while retaining the university’s core commitments to teaching, research, and public service.

Georgia State University’s mission is to offer educational opportunities for traditional and nontraditional students at both the graduate and undergraduate levels by blending the best of theoretical and applied inquiry, scholarly and professional pursuits, and scientific and artistic expression. As an urban research university with strong disciplinary-based departments and a wide array of problem-oriented interdisciplinary programs, the goal of the university is to develop, transmit, and utilize knowledge in order to provide access to quality education for diverse groups of students, to educate leaders for the State of Georgia and the nation, and to prepare citizens for lifelong learning in a global society.

Approximately 32,000 undergraduate and graduate students were enrolled as of fall 2013. Total undergraduate student enrollment totaled 24,864, total graduate student enrollment totaled 6,631, and total professional student enrollment totaled 673. Out of the total students enrolled, 18,794 were female and 13,373 were male. Students who identified as American Indian totaled 87, as Asian totaled 4,088, as Black/African-American totaled 11,842, as Hawaiian/Pacific Islander totaled 45, as Hispanic totaled 2,550, as Multiracial totaled 1,395, as White totaled 12,737, as Non-resident alien totaled 1,406, and students who chose not to report their race totaled 1,974.

Eight schools and colleges constitute the university: The Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing and Health Professions, the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the College of Law, the Honors College, the School of Public Health, and the J. Mack Robinson College of Business. GSU offers 260 degree programs in 100 fields of study. The admissions process is selective.