



397 Academy Drive, SW
Calhoun, GA 30701
Phone: 706.629.4591
Fax: 706.629.1272
Website: www.gcasda.org

STUDENT HANDBOOK



Accredited by:

Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools
Adventist Accrediting Association
And Georgia Private School Accreditation Council

TO KNOW, TO LOVE, TO SERVE

FACULTY & STAFF

Administration

Bruce Boggess, MSED Vice Principal for Academics
 Serge Gariepy, MEd Principal
 Susan Jenkins, BBA Business Manager
 A'Lisa Sorensen, MA, MA Vice Principal

Instruction

Lauren Anderson, BS Art
 Bruce Boggess, MSED US History
 Dori Boggess, MSED English, Learning Resources, Library
 Marty Briggs, PhD Science
 LeAnn Gariepy, BA English
 Robby Herr, MEcon Economics, Math
 Melissa Johnson, MAT English, Yearbook
 Ira Mills, MSED Science
 Patricia Muriel, MA English, Spanish
 Candace Nesmith, MMus Vocal Music
 Robbie Peterson, BS Physical Education
 Isaac Robles, MSED Math, STEM
 Evan Salter, BA Government, Religion, World History
 Shannon Scott, BS Religion
 A'Lisa Sorensen, MA, MA Freshman Experience
 Mark Torsney, MSED Instrumental Music, Studio

Support Staff

Matt Anderson Food Service Director
 Cheyenne Armstrong, AS Food Service Assistant
 Naila Betances-Diaz, BS Enrollment Services Director
 Jessica Burns, BA Assistant Women's Dean
 Mark Carr, AS Grounds Director
 Alexia Gariepy, BS Food Service Assistant
 Matt Gariepy, BS Maintenance Director
 Nancy Gerard, EdD Alumni and Development Director
 Deb Hagele, BS Administrative Assistant
 Cole Hagele, BA Athletic Director, Assistant Men's Dean
 Cali Hann, MS Women's Dean
 Christopher Harris, Ph.D LPC-MHSP Counselor, Guidance & Testing
 Sherril Harris, BA Assistant Business Manager
 Jeanne Hartwell, BA Registrar
 Albert Hernandez, BA Assistant Men's Dean
 Shannon Higginbotham, BA Team Support Coordinator
 Kalie Kelch, BA Marketing, Studio
 Randy Kelch, MA Information Technology Director
 K.C. Larsen, BS Work Coordinator
 Doug Nesmith, MEd Men's Dean
 Christian Peel, BS Instrumental Music and Magnify Studio Assistant
 Mariana Salter, BSW Campus Ministries, Assistant Women's Dean
 Dorothy Self, MSN Nurse
 Jodi Steele, MS Enrollment Services Assistant
 Tom Sterndale, BA Maintenance
 Brittany Woods, BS Donor Records
 Joshua Woods, MDiv Chaplain
 Beth Zeiss, MEd Alumni and Development Assistant Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION	1-3
History of Georgia-Cumberland Academy	
Our Mission	
Core Values	
Accreditation	
Appeal of Decision	
Asbestos Management	
Campus Guests and Visitors	
Parents in Support of GCA (PSGCA)	
Privacy	
Textbooks	
ADMISSIONS	4-8
Acceptance Policy	
Acceptance on Academic Probation	
Application Process	
A Relationship Build Upon Trust	
Documents Required On or Before Registration	
Immunizations	
Registration and Late Registration	
School Physical	
Physical/Mental Health	
Student and Parent Pledge	
ACADEMIC INFORMATION	9-14
Academic Credit	
Academic Probation	
Adding/Dropping Courses	
Class Membership	
Course Credit by Examination	
Course Load	
GCA Scholars	
Grade Codes in GCA Connect	
Grade Reports	
Grade Scale	
Graduating with Honors	
Graduation Acceleration	
Home School Credits	
Missed Work/Excused Absences	
Online Courses & Summer School	
Testing	

Graduation Requirements	
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS	15-28
FINANCIAL INFORMATION	29-35
Basic Financial Policies	
Bookstore	
Charges for Tuition, Room, Food	
General Fee	
Financial Assistance	
Foreign Currency/International Students	
Home Leave Transportation	
Laptop & Textbook Rental	
Medical Care Charges	
Refunds	
Remittance/Payments	
School Accident Insurance Coverage	
Student Bank	
Costs for 2023-2024	
Things That Cost Extra	
SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS.....	36-37

STUDENT HANDBOOK (38-56)

Fundamental Regulations
Attendance
Bullying/Harassment
Cafeteria Information
Campus Areas
Cell Phones
Cheating Policy
Contraband/Digital Media
Controversial Topics
Dress Code & Personal Appearance
Dress Code Standards
Dress Code Violations
Drug Testing
Exam Permits
Gym Policies
Headphone Policy
Media Policy
Physical/Mental Health
Police Presence
Sabbath Observance
Social Conduct

Student Leadership Positions
Technology Policy – Laptop Usage Agreement
Vehicles
Work Program
Work Program Policies
Worker Discipline
Write Ups

DORM HANDBOOK (57-64)

YOUR RESIDENCE HALL

YOUR ROOM

Boys and Girls Clubs
Bring for Your Room
Cell Phones
Cleaning Supplies
Dorm Security/Cameras
Electrical Appliances
Electronic Games
Evening Schedule
Fire/Storm Alarms
Food in Rooms
Graduation Weekend Policy
Laundry
Leaving Campus – Dorm Students
Mail
Pets
Piercing(s)
Pranks
Prescription Medicine
Residence Hall Staff
Room Charges
Room Cleanliness Check
Room Decorations
Room Locks
Roommates/Room Changes
Room Charges When Moving Out
Sickness & Medical Appointments
Telephones
Town Trips
Track Use
Valuable Items
Vandalism
Visitors
Weekend Services

VILLAGE STUDENTS (65)

Village Student Defined

All Dorm Rules Apply to You

Do Not Take Dorm Students Off Campus

GENERAL INFORMATION

HISTORY

Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) is a Seventh-day Adventist Christian school, offering coursework to boarding and day students in grades nine through twelve. The campus is located on 510 acres, five miles from Calhoun, Georgia. The rural setting offers beautiful views of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Emeline Hurlbutt operated a small orphanage in Northern California in the early 1900s. When Mrs. Hurlbutt inherited money from her mother in 1906, she asked Ellen White for direction regarding established health and education work. Mrs. White counseled her to focus her work in the South, rather than her native California. Mrs. Hurlbutt purchased land in Reeves, Georgia. In 1914 that land became the Hurlbutt Sanitarium, School and Farm.

Following the death of Emeline Hurlbutt, Lida Scott—another woman who exercised leadership—took the property and invested her own funds and leadership to continue health and education ministry through the 1930s. It was during this time that the Scott School was established, which continued into the 1950s. When the school and farm closed, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference purchased the land in 1961 for the purpose of establishing a boarding academy.

GCA opened in 1965 because of the commitment and generosity of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference constituency and leadership. One of the most memorable activities was the Penny Campaign to construct the music building.

More than 7,000 students have enrolled at GCA, with recent enrollments over 250.

Located near the rapidly developing I-75 corridor between Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia, GCA maintains a commitment to students from the Calhoun area, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, and the world church.

GCA is part of the Seventh-day Adventist educational system which currently has more than 1 million students attending some 6,000 schools in more than 100 countries.

OUR MISSION

The mission of Georgia-Cumberland Academy is to foster an educational environment of excellence where students, faculty and staff pursue a shared quest:

- To know Jesus as Savior and Friend
- To love God and those He brings into our lives
- To serve the church and society

CORE VALUES

We endeavor to pursue our mission in the context of a positive Christian environment with shared values that include:

- Spiritual growth
- Commitment to academic integrity
- Respect for God, people, and our world
- Following a healthy, drug-free lifestyle

ACCREDITATION

Georgia-Cumberland Academy is accredited by:

- Middle States Association
- GAPSAC (Georgia Private School Accreditation Council)
- Adventist Accrediting Association

APPEAL OF DECISION

At GCA, policies and decisions are generally made by staff and/or student committees. Academic decisions are generated by the Curriculum Committee and administrative decisions are generated by the Administrative Council.

There may be times when you feel these decisions are unfair.

You have the right to appeal decisions. In the case of a decision made by an individual teacher, the decision may be appealed to the principal or vice principal. In the case of policies or judgments rendered by a committee, an appeal may be made to the chairman of the committee, or in writing to the committee as a whole. In the event that the conflict isn't resolved on these levels, the issue may be appealed to the Academy Board.

ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT

An approved inspection and management plan for asbestos-containing building materials, required by the federal government, is on file in the school office and is available for review upon reasonable notice.

CAMPUS GUESTS AND VISITORS

In an effort to protect our students, Georgia-Cumberland Academy operates a closed campus. Guests, visitors, and former students must make arrangements to visit the campus, or our students, prior to coming to campus.

Guests coming to campus during regular class hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) should stop at the school office before visiting other parts of the campus.

Guests, visitors, or former students wishing to visit campus during evenings or weekends must make arrangements in advance with academy administration. The Academy will restrict the frequency of visits of non-students to campus. Parents of current students are welcome to visit their children without prior arrangements.

PARENTS IN SUPPORT OF GCA (PSGCA)

This organization is made up of parents of past, current, and future students of GCA, and others who have a strong interest in the success of GCA. All parents of current students are automatically members. This group provides an avenue for parents who are willing to share their time, abilities, and other resources with the school for the purpose of enhancing the program and making the quality of GCA life better for the students and the faculty.

PSGCA also helps to keep the parents of GCA students informed and involved in the events at the Academy. Formal group leaders have been appointed by the GCA Board. Any person willing to volunteer time, effort, or resources should contact the PSGCA leaders or the Development Office.

PRIVACY

Georgia-Cumberland Academy will release student academic and contact information (which may include the student's social security number) to the State of Georgia (as required under Georgia Hope Scholarship policy) and to Seventh-day Adventist colleges and universities. If parents and/or students do not wish to have this information distributed, they must contact the GCA registrar.

By enrolling as a student at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, parents and students understand that their picture and/or image may be used on our website or other publications and advertisements. If parents and/or students do not consent to the use of their picture or image they must contact the principal prior to enrollment. Application and enrollment will constitute consent to the use of pictures and images of students.

TEXTBOOKS

Textbooks constitute an important part of the curriculum. Some of the textbooks adopted may have factual errors and others may have differing opinions on important philosophical or religious issues. By using these books, the school is not necessarily condoning their ideas and will make necessary explanations.

ADMISSIONS

Applicants to GCA must submit the application form completely filled out along with two satisfactory recommendations to the Enrollment Office, and satisfy one of the following conditions at the time of enrollment:

- Graduate from elementary school (grade eight) with passing grades in English and math and have a composite score of at least 35% on either the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) or ACT ASPIRE.
- Transfer from an approved secondary school, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) of at least 1.67 and have a composite score of at least 35% on either the ITBS or the ACT.
- Be at least 14 years of age before August 15 of the current school year, have completed grade eight in a homeschool environment, and have a composite score of at least 35% on either the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) or another recognized achievement test.

ACCEPTANCE POLICY

Georgia-Cumberland Academy accepts students regardless of race, gender, religion or national origin, whose principles and interests are in harmony with the ideals and standards of the Academy as expressed in its mission and policy statements.

Although religious affiliation is not a requirement for admission, all students are expected to abide by the policies and standards of the Academy. It is expected that all students shall live in harmony with these standards, whether on or off campus.

Students are required to attend dormitory worship, vespers, Sabbath school, church service and to act in harmony with the holiness of the services.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy is not equipped to handle young people who have major behavioral, health, or scholastic problems.

Due to dormitory facility limitations and our commitment to proper supervision of students, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ may not enroll as dormitory students.

ACCEPTANCE ON ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students who do not meet the academic acceptance requirements may at times be accepted on academic probation. Often this probation will last at least one semester. Students with a personal history of failing grades, achievement test composite percentile rank scores below 35, who have received exceptional student (sometimes called special education) public or private school services, or who have had an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) may be considered for acceptance on academic probation. The

admissions committee or administrative council will make final decisions as to whether or not a student will be accepted on a probationary basis.

By accepting a student on academic probation, GCA is not making assurances of the ability of the Academy to meet the needs of the probationary student. GCA does not offer special education services and is not always able to meet the specific needs of the students with established Individualized Educational Plans. Academic success on the part of individual students will determine whether or not the students will be allowed to remain at the Academy and whether or not they are removed from probation.

GCA provides a regular high school academic program which is designed for those students who are able to perform at a standard academic level or above and reserves the right to require non-performing students to withdraw.

APPLICATION PROCESS—Online at www.gcasda.org

Applicants and their parents must:

- Read the GCA Handbook and other policy materials
- Fill out the online application

Before the application is taken to the Admissions Committee, the Enrollment Office must receive:

- Two recommendation forms completely filled out and signed
- Applicant's standardized test scores
- Applicant's transcript from previous school(s)
- Applicant's discipline and attendance records from previous school(s)
- Copy of applicant's social security card
- Copy of applicant's birth certificate

Administration will review the applicant's file and make a decision. The applicant will be notified of the decision by email.

The application process will require some time and must be completed before a student will be allowed to move into the dorm or attend classes.

A RELATIONSHIP BUILT UPON TRUST

The nature of a boarding school requires a trust relationship between all parties involved. Parents must have confidence that personnel working at the Academy are mature, professional, and responsible. Parents who bring their children to GCA must be able to leave the campus, confident that school personnel can be trusted. When parents have concerns or questions regarding an individual teacher or staff member, they are encouraged to contact the GCA employee directly.

Faculty, staff, and administrators must also be able to trust the young people who live on our campus. Though we recognize the limited decision-making skills of teenagers, we must have a basic trust relationship and confidence that a young person can be counted on to comply with school policies. Policies and procedures are in place to help keep students safe. When a young person or parent consistently disregards school policies or procedures, the overall safety and welfare of our students may be compromised.

When the trust relationship between the school and parents or students has been broken, and it becomes clear to school administrators that parents and/or students no longer respect school personnel, policies, or procedures, students will not be allowed to stay at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. The decision to remove a student from campus will be made by school administration and Administrative Council.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED ON OR BEFORE REGISTRATION

All students must have the following on file at the Academy on or before registration:

- An up-to-date immunization certificate
- A report of a recent (within one year) physical examination
- I-9 form—Employment Eligibility Verification (*International students must present a copy of their valid US Visa and I-20 form.*)

IMMUNIZATIONS

- Georgia law requires all students to have the following immunizations up to date:
- **Polio** - minimum of three, the last after fourth birthday
- **DTP** (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) - minimum of four, last after fourth birthday
- **MMR** (Measles, Mumps, Rubella) – two
- **Hepatitis B series** – three
- **Td** (Tetanus) **Booster** every 10 years
- **Varicella vaccine** - two - after first birthday. This may be waived if the student has history of chickenpox disease after 1 (one) year of age. Please indicate the date of the disease and description (mild, moderate, severe).
- **Meningococcal**
- **Tdap**
- **PPD** – tuberculosis

Additional requirements for international students and/or students who have traveled out of the USA: Tuberculin skin test - negative results.

If the student has had **BCG vaccination** and the Tuberculin skin test is positive, he/she must have a QuantIFERON TB Gold test to determine a diagnosis of TB. Negative results indicate there is no TB infection.

By law, your child has 30 days to update his/her immunization record or be excluded from attendance at school.

REGISTRATION AND LATE REGISTRATION

Students are expected to register on the day indicated in the school calendar and begin regular classes and work at the opening of the school year.

Those who must register more than one week late for either semester will be permitted to carry full coursework only at the discretion of the Curriculum Committee. Courses and extracurricular activities may be limited for those enrolling late. Those more than one week late may be denied admission.

Students who receive full credit for make-up or completion work will be expected to pay full tuition.

SCHOOL PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

All students entering GCA are required by Georgia law to have a school physical examination on file at the Academy. New students must provide a medical report that was completed no more than 12 months prior to registration. This requirement must be met for continued class attendance and enrollment.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH

The health and welfare of students, faculty, and staff at Georgia-Cumberland Academy must be the concern of all individuals associated with our school. In order to provide a safe environment, the Academy will require that all students, faculty, and staff participate in health screenings and may institute environmental restrictions or requirements as part of our efforts to reduce illness on campus. Students or families who refuse to participate in such requirements will not be able to attend GCA. These requirements may include temperature screening, blood tests, tests for various illness, and annual flu shots.

For students to be successful at GCA, their emotional and mental health is also important. GCA counselors, chaplains, faculty, and administrators may from time-to-time counsel students. Conversations of a counseling nature will take place when students seek assistance from GCA staff, or when faculty or staff initiate conversations with students as a result of observing issues causing concern. Counseling by GCA staff will be limited to assessment and immediate concerns that are within the scope of skills that can reasonably be addressed by professional teachers, chaplains, or guidance counselors. It should be understood that these conversations may take place without specific parental permission or involvement. If assessment indicates more serious issues that will require sustained counseling services, the Academy may require such counseling to be carried out by licensed professionals outside of GCA.

Students who become involved in self-harm, who discuss taking actions to hurt themselves, or who discuss or take actions of a suicidal nature, will be required to undergo psychological assessment by a licensed professional counselor of a parent's choosing, at the expense of the parents. These students will not be allowed to stay in GCA dormitories until such time as academy administrators decide that written evaluation from a licensed therapist warrants return to campus.

STUDENT AND PARENT PLEDGE

Each student who applies for admission to the Academy thereby pledges to willingly observe all its regulations, maintain a positive attitude, and uphold the Christian principles upon which the school is founded. By enrolling at GCA, students and their parents agree to support all announced and written rules, regulations, and policies, including random drug and/or alcohol screening and testing of the student.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

ACADEMIC CREDIT

GCA grants academic credit on the basis of the Carnegie Unit. A Carnegie Unit is equivalent to 180 days of 40-minute class periods. GCA is currently using 80-minute class periods.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Students receiving failing grades at any grading period (every 4 ½ weeks) will be placed on probation according to the following system:

Non-Critical Academic Probation:

- The student earns any number of F's at the first midterm
- The student earns their first F at any other grading period after the first midterm
- The student scores below the 35th percentile on the most recent standardized test

Critical Academic Probation:

- The student receives an F in any grading period after the student is placed on non-critical academic probation
- The student receives two or more F's in any other grading period after the first midterm

Students on non-critical academic probation may be required to modify their academic program or drop extra courses/activities. Their membership or participation in any touring group or team will be in jeopardy.

Students on critical academic probation will be dropped from touring groups or teams and will not be allowed to miss classes. Students who fail classes may lose all GCA financial aid and continued failing grades may result in the student being asked to withdraw. Students on critical academic probation may not hold, or run for, class or organizational offices.

Students are able to earn back eligibility for touring groups or sports teams, and are placed on non-critical academic probation, if their grades are no less than C- at a grading period after they have been placed on critical academic probation. Eligibility does not guarantee membership on teams or touring organizations.

If a student is able to earn back eligibility after being on critical academic probation, but then receives another failing grade, then they return to critical academic probation for the rest of the school year.

All students that receive multiple failing grades at any grading period will be required to attend strict study hall in the evenings during recreation. Village students that receive multiple failing grades at any grading period may not participate in recreation in the evenings and must attend strict study hall unless they are off campus. Students may be exempt from strict study hall when their grades are at a C- or higher.

ADDING/DROPPING COURSES

Student program changes must begin in the registrar's office and may include permission from parents. Students may add or transfer courses within the first two weeks of each semester. Students may drop a class through the first grading period (4 ½ weeks) of each semester and transfer to a standard level diploma course to satisfy any graduation requirements.

Requests to add or drop courses outside this policy will be referred to the Curriculum Committee.

Stipulations for performing groups may differ from these policies.

CLASS MEMBERSHIP

Class membership is determined by the number of units the student has earned in high school.

Seniors—To be eligible to join and continue in the Senior class the student must meet the following:

- Graduation requirements must be met by the end of the Senior year.
- Official transcripts from schools previously attended must be recorded in the registrar's office.
- Correspondence work must be completed and the transcript on file in the registrar's office.

Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen—

- Student must be taking enough coursework to have earned at least 16, 10, or 5 units by the end of the Junior, Sophomore, or Freshman year, respectively.
- Major coursework appropriate for the grade must be completed.
- Official transcript of previous coursework must be on file in the registrar's office (including all correspondence coursework).

COURSE CREDIT BY EXAMINATION

A student may, at the discretion of the Curriculum Committee, take a proficiency examination in selected subjects. Academic credit and a grade may be given. An examination fee may be charged.

COURSE LOAD

A full course load is six units per year. Students desiring to register for more than seven courses must petition the Curriculum Committee. Should the request be granted, the student must maintain a satisfactory scholastic average. A minimum of four units must be taken each school year.

GCA SCHOLARS

GCA Scholars is a program which provides academic support and enrichment for academically high-achieving students. Students will be admitted to this program based upon test scores and grade point average as established by GCA administration. The program will formally admit upperclassmen, but will provide opportunities and support for underclassmen, as well. Components of this program will include enrichment and support in the following areas:

- Standardized Testing
- Assistance with scholarship opportunities
- On- and off-campus enrichment experiences

GRADE CODES IN GCA CONNECT

- Missing (M) = Assignment has not been submitted. Grade may be recorded according to teacher discretion.
- "0" = Student has earned the zero or assignment was not submitted. Grade is affected.
- Excused (X) = Assignment has been excused. Grade is not affected.

GRADE REPORTS

The academic year is divided into two semesters. Only semester grades are recorded on the student's permanent transcript. Grades are recorded on GCA Connect each four and one-half weeks.

- Four and one-half week and quarter grades indicate the current level of academic performance and may guide the student in completing the course requirements. These grades are not recorded on the permanent record, nor do they affect the cumulative GPA.
- The grades earned at the semester are recorded on the student's transcript. It is from these grades that the student's cumulative GPA is calculated.

GRADE SCALE

Percentages used in calculating grades:

A = 94-100	A- = 90-93	B+ = 87-89
B = 83-86	B- = 80-82	C+ = 77-79
C = 73-76	C- = 70-72	D+ = 67-69
D = 63-66	D- = 60-62	F = below 60

Grades points used in calculating the GPA:

A = 4.0	A- = 3.7	B+ = 3.3
B = 3.0	B- = 2.7	C+ = 2.3
C = 2.0	C- = 1.7	D+ = 1.3
D = 1.0	D- = 0.7	F = 0

GRADUATING WITH HONORS

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.0-3.49 through the first semester of their senior year will be graduated with honors. Those with a GPA of 3.5 or higher will be graduated with high honors.

GRADUATION ACCELERATION

The general policy at Georgia-Cumberland Academy is to require four years of education on the secondary level for graduation. Exceptions may be made to accommodate outstanding academic ability as well as social maturity.

Permission to accelerate is requested through the Curriculum Committee. To qualify, a student must have a GPA of at least 3.5 and a composite score of at least the 85th percentile on ITBS or MAP tests.

The student must meet all GCA requirements for graduation.

HOMESCHOOL CREDITS

Home-schooled students must provide information showing that they have completed the eighth-grade level. Such data should be recorded on a transcript or a Course Verification Sheet (available from the Academy registrar) and may also include standardized achievement test scores, report cards, evidence of teacher lesson plans, portfolios, list of textbooks used, correspondence courses, etc.

The Academy has the authority to administer tests to determine a student's knowledge and may reduce the amount of accepted credit. Grades from home schools may be recorded as passing with no letter grade applied.

MISSED WORK/EXCUSED ABSENCES

After an excused absence, the student will have two school days before the make-up work is due. Refer to the course syllabi for individual class requirements.

How a student receives the make-up work from a teacher will be communicated by the teacher to their students in the class syllabus. Make-up work generated due to extended excused absences (i.e. illness) will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Students should be prepared for quizzes or tests on the day they return from an excused absence. Students can reference GCA Connect which will have current teacher requirements.

ONLINE COURSES & SUMMER SCHOOL

To receive credit at GCA, students must receive prior permission from the Curriculum Committee before sending or applying for online or summer classes.

The Academy may choose not to accept online, summer school, or other nonresident credit taken by any enrolled student unless the work has been previously approved by the Curriculum Committee.

Online courses, summer school, etc. may not be taken in place of regular courses offered by the Academy. Online courses taken during the summer should be completed before fall registration.

Online courses taken in the final year must be completed by the beginning of the second semester or the student must take the second semester at GCA.

When, due to unavoidable conflict in a student's program, an online course is approved, it will count as part of the regular course load.

TESTING

GCA has adopted MAP testing for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors. MAP testing is given twice a year and is more up-to-date, allowing teachers to see where students need more instruction. This testing is done during class time and covers math, language arts, and science. NAD schools are moving in this direction. In addition, it is an accreditation requirement for our school. Testing dates are provided by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Education Office.

GCA is a testing site for SAT, PSAT, and ACT. GCA will require juniors to take the ACT in the spring and seniors to take the ACT in the fall. GCA covers the cost of one test for juniors and one for seniors. The national testing dates can be found online and will be provided by our Testing Coordinator.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

	College Preparatory Diploma (Minimum GPA: 2.6) (25 units)	Standard Diploma (23 units)
Religion (One unit per year in attendance at an SDA secondary school)	4 units (1 each year)	4 units (1 each year)
English	4 units	4 units
Mathematics (Students must take at least one math course each year)	4 units (Algebra I, II, Geometry, & Pre-calculus or Statistics)	4 units (Algebra I, Geometry, plus 2 additional math courses)
Science	4 units (Biology, Physical Science, Chemistry & one additional advanced science)	4 units (Biology, Physical Science, plus two additional science courses)
Social Studies	3 units (World History, US History, Government & Economics)	3 units (World History, US History, Government & Economics)
Foreign Language	2 units (Two years of one foreign language)	0 units
Freshman Experience (Required for GCA freshmen)	1 unit	1 unit
Health & Physical Ed.	2 units (P.E., Health, Fitness)	2 units (P.E., Health, Fitness)
Fine Arts	1 unit	1 unit

Georgia residents will want to be acquainted with HOPE Scholarship Requirements. Those requirements are subject to change by the State of Georgia and may be reviewed at www.gafutures.org

*Students will be required to take 2.0 units under Health & Physical Education. One semester of STEM can be substituted for one semester of fitness.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Freshman Experience

1 unit

This class is an introductory course for all GCA freshmen. It includes extensive time spent understanding the technology we use here at GCA including but not limited to: GCA Connect, OneNote, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Outlook, OneDrive, and Microsoft PowerPoint. Students will work on note taking methods and study skills. Students will also work toward presenting a polished and professional presentation for their Freshman Project. In addition, GCA is committed to training our students in leadership skills and qualities. This will be a major focus of the class in the second semester. The Habitudes Faith-Based program will be used as a backbone for lessons in leadership qualities, relating it to many of the stories found in the Bible as well as understanding self and how it fits into God's plan for the student. Second semester will also feature in-depth instruction life skills, and career exploration as we prepare the students for success in their time at GCA.

STEM

.5 units

STEM is an elective class that teaches the development of problem-solving skills through the interdisciplinary combination of science, technology, engineering, and math. It is primarily a project-based class that uses skills in the four disciplines to design and create solutions for many real-world problems. Students will develop skills using the theories of engineering and computer science. Curriculum includes robotics, computer science, coding, 3D printing, and computer-aided design. The goal is to advance knowledge and skills in the four disciplines as well as in technical art, design, and a problem-solving mindset. Students will spend the semester collaborating and thinking/working through challenges that will help them prepare for future careers in any field.

(STEM may be taken to replace 0.5 units of Fitness.)

English Courses

English I – Applied English

1 unit

Applied English I is designed for freshman students who need to develop better reading, writing, and organizational skills before merging into a standard English program. The 6+1 Traits of Writing program will be introduced as a tool for composition and evaluation. Students will also read a variety of personal choice material including drama, short stories, poetry, and novels. Approved titles: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare; *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes; *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck.

English I – Introduction to Literary Studies

1 unit

This course is an introduction to literature and writing for ninth-grade students. Students are introduced to and practice the 6+1 Traits of Writing in order to facilitate written communication for creative writing and academic research writing. Students will also be instructed in public speaking, which will lead to a cross-curricular presentation project in the first semester. Literature studies focus on a variety of genres – drama, short stories, poetry, and novels. Approved titles: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee; *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare; *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes; *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck.

English II – World Literature

1 unit

In this course, students study literature from around the world (dramas, short stories, poetry, and novels) to gain an appreciation for all of God's children and develop empathy with their experiences. Literature studies focus on commonality of the human experience as well as cultural and social context of each piece. Writing instruction focuses on the 6+1 Traits of Writing in order to facilitate written communication for the purpose of higher education, literary analysis, and academic research. Students also create a writing portfolio that includes topics specific to varying areas of study. Approved titles: Greek Mythology; *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare; *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare; *Our Town* by Thornton Wilder; *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain; *Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Patton; *The Joy Luck Club* by Amy Tan; *Night* by Eli Wiesel; *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury.

English III – American Literature

1 unit

This course combines famous literary works in American history with a continued study of advanced formal and academic writing. Students study and practice the 6+1 Traits of Writing in order to facilitate written communication for the purpose of literary analysis, creative expression, and academic writing. Students also read both fiction and non-fiction texts, using non-fiction texts for research and support in writing. A portfolio of travel to New England literary and historical sites helps to create a cross-curricular link. Literature studies focus on the development of the American voice including the works of great American preachers, musicians, statesmen, poets, and scholars. Approved titles: *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne; *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald; *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck; *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller; "Walden"/"Nature"/"Self-Reliance" by Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau; *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry.

English IV – British Literature

1 unit

Literature studies for this course focus on classic British literature in order to appreciate a country that was so pivotal in the development of America. Students study a variety of literary time periods including medieval,

Elizabethan, Victorian, and 20th century while surveying multiple genres. Writing instruction focuses on the 6+1 Traits of Writing in order to facilitate written communication for the purpose of higher education, literary analysis, and academic research. Students focus on a cross-curricular assignment second semester that encapsulates areas of interest in a possible career choice, with the final project being a research project. Approved titles: *Beowulf*; Arthurian Legend; *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer; *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare; *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare; *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens; *Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens; *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen; *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding; *Animal Farm* by George Orwell.

English IV – AP English Literature and Composition

1 unit

This one-year advanced placement course engages college-bound seniors in the careful reading and critical analysis of classic and contemporary American and European literature. Through the active reading of a rigorous selection of texts, students will deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure for their readers. Writing assignments focus on the 6+1 Traits of Writing and include critical analysis of literature. Writing instruction focuses on developing coherence, unity, precision, structure, and stylistic maturity. This course is designed to prepare students to take the AP English Literature and Composition exam at the end of the school year with the possibility of college credit if a passing grade is achieved. Approved titles: *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka; *Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad; *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding; *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens; *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams; *Much Ado About Nothing* by William Shakespeare; *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James; *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare; *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare; *Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller; and *Gulliver's Travels* by Jonathan Swift. Poetry selections may include works by these authors: William Blake, Robert Burns, e. e. cummings, Lord Byron, Langston Hughes, T.S. Eliot, Geoffrey Chaucer, Alexander Pope, and John Milton.

Teacher recommendation required

\$120 non-refundable fee

Fine Arts Courses

Art and Art Appreciation

.5 units/semester

The purpose of this course is to provide each student with a basic understanding and appreciation of the visual arts. Students will learn the elements of art and design, the processes and materials involved in creating two and three-dimensional art, and the evolution of art past and present. During the school year, students will complete personal and group projects and presentations covering a variety of media, artists, processes, and styles. This art course focuses on developing individual creativity, nurturing an

appreciation of aesthetics, and using art as a positive change agent in our global community. **This class requires an additional fee of \$52 per semester.*

Drama “Testify Christian Theater”

.5 units/semester

Testify Christian Theater is an in-reach ministry designed to help bring people into a closer relationship with God through the art of theater. Members will perform skits and mimes for church services and various youth events. In addition to being an in-reach ministry, Testify is also a class at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. Therefore, members will learn basic theater terminology and dramatic techniques. Each member will also learn various aspects of proper speaking and reading techniques, and will perform for the class in a variety of ways that encourage abilities in public speaking. Additionally, each member will be required to participate in the Student Week of Prayer as an actor, director, and stage crew member. This will give them extensive preparation for all the parts involved in Christian drama. Students will be given grades based on their attendance, participation, memorization, improvement, assignments and class projects. **This class requires an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Media Productions

.5 units/semester

This course will cover the following four units of study: sound engineering, videography, video streaming, and video editing. Students will gain skills in running sound for live events and music recording projects, including sound for video. They will also learn the basics of videography, including composition, lighting, and storytelling. The skills they learn in this unit will aid in video streaming and editing, which will include the use of Adobe Creative Cloud. The core of the class is project-based, hands-on learning that will include putting skills to use for GCA programming. **This class requires an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Music

Any of the courses from the music section also qualify as fine arts. **These classes require an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Yearbook

.5 units/year

Yearbook and Photography are two classes combined into one. Yearbook students will develop the ability to use technology to design and create a recording of the school year, covering events, people, and history. Students will also learn about the deadlines, logistics, and elements of writing and creating a yearbook. **This class requires an additional fee of \$13 per semester.*

Foreign Language Courses

Spanish I

1 unit

This course is the first step to becoming fluent in Spanish. It is an introduction to the Spanish language and the rich culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Instruction is given in speaking, hearing, reading and writing in the target language. Class activities are geared towards enabling the students to communicate in Spanish with confidence.

Spanish II

1 unit

A continuation of Spanish I. Students continue to learn about the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Communication skills are improved and vocabulary and grammar bases are broadened. The class is taught mostly in Spanish and students are encouraged to speak mostly in Spanish.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Health & Physical Education Courses

Basketball

.5 units/semester

Basketball teams are provided for selected students who wish to improve on their basketball skills and knowledge. The basketball season consists of 12-17 regular season games and 1-2 tournaments a year. The goal of the basketball program is to inspire the students to grow in the likeness of the character of Christ through teamwork, integrity, and hard work.

(Additional cost involved – See page 34)

Fitness

.5 units/semester

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and cardiorespiratory endurance activities. Students will learn the fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. Students will create their own personalized fitness program and follow it throughout the course. Personalized fitness goals will be determined and pursued. Students are required to wear GCA approved attire.

Gymnastics

.5 units/semester

This course is designed for students with a previous background in gymnastics or students who adapt quickly to the gymnastics program of skills. The gymnastic team travels, sharing their skill and belief in Jesus.
(Additional cost involved – See page 34)

Health & Wellness**.5 units**

This course includes principles of health and their meaning to the individual and the community; counsel in the writings of Ellen G. White; acquaintance with current advances in health knowledge and healthful living. (Required course for freshman year.)

Physical Education**.5 units**

The program consists of the rules, fundamental skills and participation in team sports, and promotion of physical fitness. Students are required to wear GCA approved recreation attire. Cost will be billed directly to student account. (Physical education is a required course for freshmen.)

Soccer**.5 units/semester**

Soccer teams are provided for selected students who wish to improve on their soccer skills and knowledge. The girls' soccer season consists of 10+ regular season games during the second semester of the school year. The guys' soccer season is year-round with a NACA Tournament during the first semester. The goal of the soccer program is to inspire the students to grow in the likeness of the character of Christ through teamwork, integrity, and hard work.

(Additional cost involved – See page 34)

Volleyball**.5 units/semester**

The Varsity Girls' volleyball team is provided for selected students who wish to improve on their volleyball skills and knowledge. The volleyball season consists of 10-12 games in the regular season and a tournament. The goal of the volleyball program is to inspire the students to grow in likeness of the character of Christ through teamwork, integrity, and hard work.

(Additional cost involved – See page 34)

History & Social Studies Courses**American Government****.5 units**

This course is an introduction to the background, origins, development and operation of the government of the United States. Following an introduction to modern political philosophy, the course deals with political participation and the Constitution. Students explore the three branches of the Federal Government. A unit on civil liberties emphasizes First Amendment rights.

Economics**.5 units**

As an introduction to the world of economics, this course uses an online multimedia presentation of economic situations to help the student learn and understand the importance of financial literacy in everyday life. The course is designed to prepare the student to be an informed consumer, a wise investor, and a responsible steward of available resources. Related areas of study

include economic implications of current events and the increasingly global nature of economic activity.

United States History

1 unit

A survey course covering pre-colonial times to the present. Deals with ideas, trends, events, and leaders in political, military, social, cultural, and religious history. Considers the relevance of history to the present and future. Recognizes the contributions of a wide variety of cultures in the American experience. This class includes a New England study trip. Costs for the trip are built into tuition.

World History

1 unit

A survey of the past considering the origin and growth of Western Civilization and its place in the broader world. Special emphasis is placed on the origin and development of Christianity and its role in shaping history.

Mathematics Courses

Algebra I

1 unit

This course introduces algebraic concepts such as the theory and application of variables, graphing, linear equations, inequalities, basic exponent properties, and polynomial operations.

Minimum passing grade: C-

Prerequisite: GCA Placement Test Score

Algebra II

1 unit

This course is an extension of Algebra I which emphasizes polynomials, exponent manipulations, matrices, functions, and an introduction to trigonometry.

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C- in Algebra I

Calculus (Dual Enrollment through SAU)

1 unit

This course is offered through Southern Adventist University as a dual-enrollment course that requires either college credit for Pre-Calculus or a math ACT score of at least a 24.

Fee Charged

Bridge Math

1 unit

This is a Senior math course designed to “bridge the gap” from high school math to college-level math. This is accomplished by reviewing many of the math concepts introduced from previous math courses while also introducing the student to new math concepts that will help them in college. The following concepts will be covered: math ACT preparation; essential mathematics; essential algebra and statistics; geometry and reasoning; triangles, quadrilaterals, and other polygons; measurement; linear systems of

equations; probability and statistics; polynomials; quadratic functions; advanced functions and relations.

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry (offered every other year for juniors and seniors)

(For standard diploma students)

Consumer Math

1 unit

This course covers problem-solving strategies in consumer-oriented situations dealing with budgets, checking and savings accounts, risk management, debt management, investments, mortgages, income taxes and deductions.

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry (offered every other year for juniors and seniors)

(For standard diploma students)

Geometry

1 unit

This course covers relationships between figures, figure measurements, and the classification of figures. Deductive and inductive reasoning are used to justify properties and theorems.

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C- in Algebra I

Pre-Algebra

1 unit

This course is intended for students who need further preparation for Algebra I and aims to develop fluency with rational numbers and proportional relationships. Topics covered include percentages, basic operations, solving equations and inequalities, measurements and data, probability, and polynomials. Ultimately, the goal is to provide students with a solid foundation that will allow them to have greater success in other more advanced math classes that they plan to take at GCA.

Prerequisite: GCA Placement Test Score

Pre-Calculus

1 unit

This course is an extension of Algebra II which emphasizes trigonometric identities, functions, inverses, and their graphs; decomposition of fractions; and an introduction to limits.

*This course may be taken for college credit for an additional fee. **Teacher recommendation required***

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C- in Algebra II

Statistics

1 unit

This is a course in which students will be introduced to the major concepts of data description, probability, interpretation of data, and statistical problem solving. Students will learn the course concepts through hands-on experimentation and investigation. They will analyze existing data as well as data collected through surveys, observational study, or experiments. They will then display the data in different ways, analyze it, and draw conclusions based

on the results. The four main components of the course are: exploring data, data collection, probability, and inference.

This course may be taken for college credit for an additional fee.

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C- in Algebra II

Music Courses

Camerata Singers

.5 units/semester

Provides opportunities to develop performance skills and knowledge in ensemble singing. Limited to 16-20 performers and may include any style period. Covers performance and production, analysis and theoretical studies, historical and cultural influences, creative aspects of music and appreciation of music. Stresses balance of individual progress and group success. Because of the size and the touring involved, members are required to remain in the group the entire year. A participation fee of \$200, along with a uniform and tour fee are required. Private voice lessons may be required for those belonging to this organization. Students must pass an audition to be considered for this select ensemble. Also a current GPA approaching 3.0 is required upon entrance, and must be maintained throughout the school year. Students must be enrolled in the GCA Chorale. **This class requires an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Concert Band

.5 units/semester

Selected by audition, this organization provides opportunity for those interested in improving their skills on wind, brass, and percussion instruments to participate in performances for special occasions here on campus and on tours throughout the conference. The band serves both as a witnessing and a public relations organization for GCA. Because of the touring involved, members are expected to remain in the group for the entire semester, and preferably the entire year. Uniforms are required, and a touring fee may be required. Private instrumental lessons are encouraged and may be required for some students. **This class requires an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Chorale/Music Appreciation

.5 units/semester

Provides opportunities to develop performance skills and knowledge in mixed choral singing. Covers performance, production, and basic conducting. Stresses individual progress and group experiences. Performances on campus and within the Georgia-Cumberland Conference are included during the school year. **This class requires an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Praise Band

.5 units/semester

This course is dedicated to developing young musicians for service in our church. Emphasis is placed on what it means to worship God and how to effectively lead music in the worship service. Students will learn how to work together with other musicians to produce a blended sound that is conducive

to worship. In addition, students will learn how to speak up front, how to engage the congregation, and how to listen for their part. Selected by audition, students enrolled in this class lead in worship at GCA for vespers, Sabbath School, and church services, in addition to visiting area schools and churches in the conference a few times each semester. **This class requires an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Private Lessons

.25 units/semester

Private instruction in keyboard, voice, string, and band instruments is available to the student desiring to either begin or improve skills on an instrument or voice. Lesson charges vary based on the instructor.

String Orchestra

.5 units/semester

Selected by audition, this ensemble provides opportunities to develop performance skills in string ensemble repertoire. The String Orchestra serves both as a witnessing and as a public relations organization for GCA. Several performances and tours are scheduled each year. Students should plan to be in the group for the entire year, maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0, and stay off critical academic probation. Uniforms are required and a touring fee may be required. **This class requires an additional fee of \$26 per semester.*

Worship Leadership

.5 units/year

This course is dedicated to developing students to serve in church leadership positions, especially in the area of music. The course will cover leadership methods (especially servant leadership), interpersonal skills, problem-solving practices, music theory, songwriting, rehearsal procedures, and recording techniques. The class will also focus on helping students grow spiritually through Bible study and discussion. The purpose of this class is to equip the praise band leaders with the skills they need to lead their peers in praise band and run their band as effectively as possible, both musically and interpersonally. **Teacher recommendation required.**

Religion Courses

Religion I (Freshman Bible)

1 unit

Freshman Religion is an introductory course to the foundational ideas of the Bible and the Biblical worldview. Students will work together to study the Scriptures and the world around us to answer some of the fundamental philosophical questions of life such as where we came from, if God exists, and if so, what is He like. During the first semester, students will explore evidence for God's existence and then His character, using the Bible and the natural world. The class will then study God's love and how He has shown it to us through Jesus—particularly his birth, death and resurrection. During the second semester, students will study the creation story and how it is crucial to the ideas and themes of the Bible, thus gaining an understanding of the

Biblical worldview. The year will finish with an exploration of our identities in God and our relationship with Him. Through these areas of study this course will help students build and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus.

Religion II (Sophomore Bible)

1 unit

Sophomore Religion covers our connection with God throughout the history of the Bible. Looking through the lens of specific Bible stories, students will learn to better understand their faith. Beginning with the life of David, students will grow to see what it looks like to be a true leader and to live after God's own heart. The class will further explore God's extreme love for us through the story of Hosea, evaluating God's design for His people to live the best life. In the second half of the year, the study will move into the New Testament, looking specifically at the life of Jesus and the most important messages He left, as well as the experiences shared in the book of Acts. In-depth study will allow students to evaluate what it means to be part of God's church and how best we can fulfill God's desire for us to share the gospel with the world. In this year, sophomores can grow to better understand God's love for them and His design for their lives through the examples in the Bible.

Religion III (Junior Bible)

1 unit

Junior Religion explores the Bible as a basis for what is valid, and how the Bible has endured throughout the ages as the Word of God. During the first semester, students will study in depth why the Bible can be trusted and how it can impact our lives today. Then, using the life of Daniel, the class will discover how he saw many victories in his life through a strong belief in God and how he learned that God is sovereign. During the second semester, the class will study the book of Revelation, and discover that God gave it to us as a comfort and reassurance that God's truth and His people will triumph. This class will also explore the development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; God's leading through the contributions of key people and the revival they experienced; and the importance of the third angel's message and our own personal revival today through the grace of Christ. Throughout the year, juniors will learn that God and His Word can be trusted and we have nothing to fear with Him at our side.

Religion IV (Senior Bible)

1 unit

Senior Religion is the capstone course that is meant to look at the big picture concepts of the Bible and how students can apply them in their own lives. This course will help prepare students to enter the adult world after graduation, whether that will be college, career, or any other path where God leads them. The year will start with a focus on discussing the views and beliefs of others. Students will be able to understand and healthfully interact with other perspectives and cultures. The major religions and worldviews in today's global society will be explored, while students are shown how to ground themselves in a solid Biblical foundation. During the second half of the year,

students will focus on building and maintaining healthy relationships, and explore the factors that affect one's relationships. The year will conclude with an in-depth study on the Gospel of John and how to build a solid relationship with Jesus that the student can keep with them as they venture out after graduation.

Science Courses

Anatomy and Physiology

1 unit

Anatomy and Physiology is the study of the structure and function of the human body. Some major areas of study include structure and function of body systems, fundamental concepts of homeostasis, principles of body organization, and histology. The goal of this course is to provide a knowledge base that is essential to students interested in various health-related fields and offer students the opportunity to be better prepared for educational routes beyond high school. Lastly and most importantly, the instructor will strive to bring students to a higher level of appreciation for the design, balance, and capability of the human body and for the loving and intelligent God who created it.

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C- in Chemistry

Biology

1 unit

Biology is designed to introduce students to scientific processes, skills, and understanding as related to a wide range of life science topics. Content area includes the nature of scientific inquiry, introduction to cell biology, genetics, the origin of life, taxonomy and ecology. Labs and hands-on activities are an important part of conceptual learning in this course. Development of skills that allows for the identification of basic questions that guide good scientific investigation will be emphasized. Lastly and most importantly, credit and praise will be given to our Creator God who made every living thing and who seeks a personal relationship with each one of us. *Credit for Biology is required for graduation.*

Chemistry

1 unit

Chemistry is a laboratory class involving the study of matter and its reactions. The emphasis of the course is increasing the student's ability to use the scientific method and scientific reasoning to explore and analyze chemistry concepts. Students will see that studying the structure and properties of matter leads to appreciation of God and His creation. Laboratory experiences will allow the student to test classroom concepts and increase a sense of wonder and enjoyment of the scientific process.

Teacher recommendation required

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C- in Algebra I and Physical Science.

Co- or Prerequisite: Algebra II

College Chemistry (*a dual credit college course*)**1 unit**

College Chemistry is a two-semester course that is an introduction to the fundamental laws and accepted theories of chemistry. Areas to be studied include stoichiometry, atomic and molecular structure and bonding, states of matter, thermochemistry, chemical equilibrium, kinetics, thermodynamics, acids and bases, oxidation-reduction and electrochemistry, descriptive chemistry, and nuclear chemistry.

This course is dual credit; it satisfies requirements for both high school science and college-level General Chemistry. Students may earn up to eight semester hours of college credit (four each semester) for CHEM 151 and CHEM 152 through Southern Adventist University. Students may enroll in College Chemistry for high school credit without enrolling for college credit. *There is an additional fee per semester for college credit (dependent on SAU tuition rates).*

Teacher permission required. *Prerequisite: Minimum grade of B in both high school Chemistry and Algebra II*

Environmental Science**1 unit**

Environmental Science focuses on the interrelationships of ecosystems and humans, understanding God's design for our stewardship of the earth along with its benefits for us. Throughout the year the class will use interactive labs and projects as well as a collection of scientific films to explore pollution, agriculture, biodiversity, and humanity. The class will explore how it fits into our past, present, and future as well as the hope of God's final restoration of our planet. (*For standard diploma students*)

Health Care Science**1 unit**

Health Science is a course of study that incorporates the full range of current scientific evidence supporting human health. It covers a broad variety of topics including food science, exercise, nutrition, optimal health principles, physiology, disease, and current issues in healthcare. It also covers a variety of health careers and supports the creation health principles. Curriculum additionally requires the reading of current scientific reports, laboratory experiments and field trips, exploring the wide exploration of components that impact human health. Upon completion of the course, students are expected to understand all the fundamentals that contribute to good health and the scientific process of the elements in our lives that affect the human body. (*For standard diploma students*)

Physical Science**1 unit**

Physical Science is a laboratory course focusing on basic topics in physics and general chemistry, including motion, forces, energy, the composition and structure of matter, and chemical reactions. The emphasis of the course is development of scientific reasoning skills and acquisition of knowledge that

will allow the student to pursue further studies in the physical sciences. The student will be shown how physical laws and the properties of matter point us to a better understanding and appreciation of our Creator God.

Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C- in Algebra I or taking concurrently

Physics

1 unit

Physics is a laboratory course involving the study of the interactions of matter and energy. General topics include laws of motion, application of forces, energy, work, power, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism. Special emphasis is placed on understanding the physical phenomena that a person encounters in everyday life.

Prerequisites: Minimum grade of C- in Algebra II, Chemistry and Geometry or teacher permission

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Georgia-Cumberland Academy endeavors to offer Christian education at the lowest possible cost. We reserve the right to change the rates charged at any time in order to meet government regulations and/or changing economic conditions.

BASIC FINANCIAL POLICIES

- The account for the applicant for previous years at GCA must be paid before the student is permitted to enroll for the current school year.
- There must be a signed financial contract for the current school year and the account must be kept current.
- Monthly balances, or other approved financial agreements, must be paid within 60 days, or the student may be suspended until payment is made.
- Parents are responsible for any variation in the budget listed in the financial agreement, including student payroll shortfalls and family-solicited donors that fail to make their contribution.
- If a student is on financial aid, all payroll checks are required to be applied to the GCA school bill in accordance with the financial plan and until all financial plan obligations are met.
- Test permits are required at the end of each semester (December/May). Accounts must be current before students are allowed to take semester tests.
- Students who receive full credit for make-up or completion work will be charged full tuition for the semester involved.

BOOKSTORE

GCA maintains a bookstore which provides basic school supplies. Purchases for school supplies can be charged on the monthly statement (if current).

CHARGES FOR TUITION, ROOM, FOOD

The Academy has adopted a basic flat rate for tuition, dormitory, and cafeteria. Dorm students are billed for a dorm room and food, in addition to tuition charges.

Students are expected to take good care of their dorm rooms and will be charged extra for any damages. Ample food is available in the cafeteria. Food is not to be taken from the cafeteria. Dorm students are not to get food for or share food with village students. Village students should not ask for or receive food from dorm students. Doing so will result in disciplinary action.

Village student billing does not include a dorm room or food; they are expected to pay for meals eaten in the cafeteria. Village students can scan

their keycard at the cafeteria when they want to eat a meal. All meals are charged to the account the following month. For the 2023-2024 school year, meals are \$8 each. Each 10th meal within a calendar month is free. The cafeteria does not have à la cart pricing. Any food or drink item from the cafeteria incurs the full \$8 meal charge.

GENERAL FEE

The yearly general fee covers certain student services, such as: student accident insurance, Student Association dues, boys/girls club dues, class dues, school yearbook, library fees, and a technology fee.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Financial assistance is granted to families based on several factors, including family income, number of children in church school, and funds available. Families requesting financial aid will need to apply through Blackbaud Financial Aid Management™. There is a \$45 application fee. Students who receive a grade of F on their transcript at semester time may lose financial aid for the next semester.

Contact Susan Jenkins, GCA business manager, if you need to apply for financial aid.

FOREIGN CURRENCY/INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

All fees must be paid in United States dollars. Contact the business office to make direct deposits. All international students must pay their fees in advance, with the first semester fees paid on or before registration in August and second semester fees paid on or before the day second semester begins.

HOME LEAVE TRANSPORTATION

Procedures for making GCA home leave transportation reservations:

Make reservations using our online portal only. Charges will be applied to their account after home leave. Contact the business office for instructions or see email notifications announcing home leave transportation.

No refunds or credit for transportation reservations that are not used unless advance notice is given.

A \$20 late fee will be charged to your account if reservation is submitted past the published due date or if a driver must wait more than 15 minutes past the published arrival/departure time.

LAPTOP AND TEXTBOOK RENTAL

Laptops and textbooks are rented; therefore, they must be returned when the student withdraws or the school year is over. There will be a replacement cost/charge for those items that are lost, damaged or have excessive wear.

MEDICAL CARE CHARGES

The school nurse provides limited medical care if a student becomes ill while in attendance. A copy of medical insurance and prescription cards (front and back) must be on file for student medical treatments when the student is ill and is taken to the doctor. Students without health insurance will need to pay a medical deposit of \$250 to cover doctor visit charges and other health-related expenses. Unused funds will be refunded at the end of the year.

Co-payments are the responsibility of the student or parent at the time medical care is provided. Some insurance will not be accepted at the clinic where we take students. Parents will be billed directly in those instances. Parents will also be charged for a medical trip to a healthcare provider's office or clinic, cost dependent on the time of the visit, including transportation time.

There is a \$25 charge for any trip to a medical care facility.

REFUNDS

Flat Rate—If a student withdraws from GCA, the flat rate is prorated and any additional charge or refund is made.

General Fee & Laptop and Textbook Rental—50% is refundable during the first two weeks at GCA.

Cafeteria—If a student has been absent from campus for more than 7 days a written request may be given to the business office. This refund does not apply to regularly scheduled home leaves or school-sponsored trips.

REMITTANCE/PAYMENTS

GCA uses Blackbaud Tuition Management™ for billing, invoicing, and payments. Each family will be enrolled in Tuition Management™ upon admittance. There is a \$50 annual fee to use this application however, GCA will cover this fee, unless a family chooses not to use Tuition Management™ for payments (exception for families paying the year in full, up-front). Payments for miscellaneous and optional items can be made on Tuition Management™ or with cash/check in the Business Office.

SCHOOL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE

School accident insurance is limited coverage, primary for the first \$500 only, then entirely the family's responsibility. Coverage for students begins when they leave home for school, if riding school transportation, and continues until the time they arrive back home on school transportation, from the opening day of school until the end of the school year.

This is only accident insurance and does not cover illness or previous medical problems.

In addition, the school carries worker's compensation insurance on every student for any accident which might occur while the student is working for the school. It is the student's responsibility to file a claim with the school nurse and the business office within 24 hours of any accident.

STUDENT BANK

Each student may keep money in the student bank operated in the business office. Parents may send checks directly to the business office for the student bank. Checks must be payable to the student and clearly marked "student bank." Parents may also send money through Tuition Management™ under the Student Bank option in increments of \$5. The business office receipts the money and will disburse it only upon the signature of the student involved. The Academy is not responsible for money left in the student's room, etc.

Students wishing to cash large checks need to allow three banking days for this service. Checks must be made payable to the student or to cash. Checks made payable to Georgia-Cumberland Academy cannot be cashed.

Sufficient money for transportation, clothes, and personal needs should be arranged between parents and students before the money is needed. GCA cannot advance or loan money to students.

COSTS FOR 2023-2024

VILLAGE STUDENTS: Tuition—\$13,590

General Fee—\$803

Book/Laptop Rental—\$480

Entrance Payment due on or before registration (August 13): \$2,635

Pay by July 25 to receive early payment discount applied to financial plan—\$350

Please contact the business office to set up a financial plan to determine your monthly payment

Payment per financial plan is due the 20th of each month—September-June

DORMITORY STUDENTS: Tuition—\$13,590

Dormitory—\$4,830

Cafeteria—\$5,540

General Fee—\$803

Book/Laptop Rental—\$480

Entrance Payment Due on or before registration (August 13): \$3,670

Pay by July 25 to receive early payment discount applied to financial plan—\$750

Please contact the business office to set up a financial plan to determine your monthly payment

Payment per financial plan is due the 20th of each month—September-June

Discount for Full Year Paid in Advance*

Payment must be received by August 31:

Village—Up to \$744

Full Dorm—Up to \$1,262

(cash or check only for discount)

No discount if payment is made with credit card or if receiving financial aid.

*** Not available for international students**

If receiving subsidy, contact business manager

You may be eligible for financial assistance.

Contact:

Naila Betances-Diaz, Enrollment Services Director
762.226.0634
nbetances@gcasda.org

or

Susan Jenkins, Business Manager
706.625.7159
sjenkins@gcasda.org

THINGS THAT COST EXTRA

AP Classes	\$120 non-refundable fee
Art Classes	\$52 per semester
Basketball	\$425
Camerata	TBD
Drama Class	\$26 per semester
Dual Credit per Hour.....	\$160 and up
Graduation Fee	\$175
Gymnastics.....	\$375
Home Leave Transportation	varies according to destination
International Fee.....	\$3,000
Fine Arts Class Fee.....	\$15-\$52 per semester (Art, Band, Choir, Drama, Praise Band, & Yearbook)
Medical Trips, Calhoun	\$25
P.E. Uniform.....	\$15 and up
Returned Check Fee.....	\$35 per check
Soccer	\$425
Special Travel	charged per trip (contact business manager for prices) <i>(Groome Transportation, commercial shuttle, available to Atlanta airport. Call 800-896-9928 for reservations. Cost approximately \$50.)</i>
Volleyball	\$425

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Academic Scholarship—(Village students receive 50% of total scholarship amount.)

- \$690—Awarded to applicants and returning students for academic performance--all A's & B's or 3.0 and above.
- \$690—Awarded to applicant for outstanding achievement on testing. Applicant must have a current ITBS composite score of 90th percentile or higher. This is awarded one time in their first year.
- \$690—Awarded to eighth graders for leadership potential. Applicant must have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, remain in good standing at local school, with no major discipline in the past school year, and must be referred by the principal as having leadership potential (this scholarship is limited to one student from a GCC school per five students enrolled in the eighth-grade class). This is awarded one time in their first year.

Conference-Sponsored Summer Work Match—GCA matches 25%, up to \$2,000 in earnings, sent directly to the Academy from a Seventh-day Adventist youth camp, church or other conference-sponsored summer work program.

Early Payment Discount

Pay your Entrance Payment in full by July 25 to receive an early payment discount applied to your financial plan. \$750 - Dorm / \$350 - Village

Freshman Band Instrumental Scholarship

- \$5,000 over the course of four years. By audition during the eighth-grade year only.

GCC Worthy Student Endowment

This endowed scholarship fund provides assistance to students who are members of a Georgia-Cumberland Conference church (or whose family are active members). Church pastors and/or church boards will verify the family involvement of all scholarship applicants. Decisions concerning scholarships will be based on recommendations from the home church, verification of financial eligibility and satisfactory work, social and academic development.

Multi-Child Discount—\$510/child attending GCA as dorm students; \$255/child attending GCA as village students.

Other Scholarships are given to students who are:

- Proficient at an advanced level in music
- In financial need

These scholarships are reviewed annually.

An audition may be required.

Seventh-Grade Adventist Education Incentive—For students who attended 7th grade at an Adventist school = \$350 (village students receive \$175).

Student Scholarship Organizations (SSO)—Available only to Georgia students.

Contact:

Naila Betances-Diaz, Enrollment Services Director

762.226.0634

nbetances@gcasda.org

or

Susan Jenkins, Business Manager

706.625.7159

sjenkins@gcasda.org

STUDENT HANDBOOK

FUNDAMENTAL REGULATIONS

Each institution has rules and guidelines that must be followed in order for individuals to remain at the institution. The fundamental regulations of GCA are based upon the doctrines and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. These regulations are linked to biblical standards for a Christian lifestyle. Following are the guidelines for Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

Any change or addition to rules and guidelines stated to the students by school administration or deans verbally will have the same weight as those stated in print in the handbook.

The rules stated in this book are specific for the school or dorm. It is assumed that all students will automatically follow rules of common sense. If common sense is not used, students may have consequences for rules not specifically stated in the handbook.

Experience has shown there are some practices, whether on or off campus, which should not be permitted by students enrolled at GCA. Students involved in any of these activities will be subject to discipline. All discipline decisions will be made by Administrative Council or administration.

If a student commits a major infraction of school regulations or continues to be a disciplinary problem after numerous warnings, the result may be suspension, withdrawal, or dismissal from GCA.

Administrative Council determines the length of suspension. An off-campus suspension indicates that a student must make a major change in actions or attitude, and that the next time school guidelines are broken he/she may be asked to withdraw from GCA.

Administration or the dean may ask student(s) to leave the campus premises while an incident is being investigated and until a decision has been made.

All students who receive major discipline are placed on citizenship probation upon their return. Citizenship Probation (CP) is a specified period in which students who have had major discipline should not find themselves in any further disciplinary situations.

Any student who is on a sports team or enrolled in a touring organization can be reconsidered for the team or group if they are off citizenship probation. Any student who is in a leadership role loses that position for the school year.

Upon their return, students may have campus restrictions. Examples of this may include:

- Dorm bound (may only leave dorm for classes and/or work)
- Room bound (may only leave room to use bathroom or to find dean)
- Reverse campus bound for village students (may only come to campus for classes and work)

If a student is suspended, dismissed, or asked to withdraw from school, they are not allowed on campus or to any school event without permission from administration.

The following infractions will result in the student's withdrawal or dismissal from the Academy **on the first offense**:

- Using, possessing, handling, or furnishing narcotics, alcohol, illegal drugs/misusing prescription drugs, or any of the paraphernalia associated with the above, including vapor pens or devices. Students are to refrain from using any substance to "get high."
- Being in the dormitory of the opposite sex without proper permission
- Being in an area that is off limits alone or with another individual without permission
- Entering or leaving the dorm through any access other than the doors, at any time (except in an emergency)
- Entering or leaving the dorm during unapproved hours—before breakfast or after 8 PM, unless it is an approved activity
- Possessing or using firearms, weapons (including knives), BB guns, firecrackers, or incendiaries of any kind
- Shoplifting or possessing stolen goods

Depending upon the severity of the infraction, the following scenarios or violations of GCA standards may result in disciplinary action including but not limited to disciplinary warning, probation, suspension and/or withdrawal:

- Involvement with another person in sexual or intimate behavior or activity
- Advocating or professing a lifestyle or engaging in activities that are not in harmony with the beliefs and standards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Being disrespectful and insubordinate to faculty
- Being in another's dorm room without their specific permission.
- Using or possessing tobacco in any form
- Gambling and/or betting
- Stealing

- Using profane language, indulging in lewd or suggestive conduct, possessing, or displaying obscene literature or pictures, visiting inappropriate websites, sending or receiving inappropriate messages
- Engaging in dishonesty or deception, protecting violators of school rules, cheating on an examination, or in any other phase of school life
- Destroying any school property, vandalism, or defacement of any kind
- Improper social conduct
- Meeting in a deliberately planned, secretive manner, or being in an unsupervised building or area either on-campus or while participating in off-campus school-sponsored activities.
- Disseminating or promoting atheistic ideas, undermining Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values, or school regulations, by continuous criticism
- Engaging in anything dealing with the occult, including, but not limited to music, literature, games, fortune telling, role-playing games, symbols, and paraphernalia
- Conspiring to, or participating in, hazing or initiations, fighting, physical confrontations, committing any act that endangers, injures, degrades, or discriminates against a fellow student
- Entering or leaving any school building by means other than the regular entrances; making or possessing keys for school buildings or equipment, breaking locks, doors, or windows to enter/exit locked places; tampering with school lights, computer equipment, wiring, or telephone lines
- Leaving campus or school functions without proper permission or riding in unauthorized transportation
- Possessing matches, candles, and lighters on campus
- Computer misuse, including having a personal computer, iPad, tablet or Kindle on campus
- Creating a Wi-Fi hotspot from a personal device while on campus
- Possessing external digital assistant devices on campus such as Alexa or Google Home
- Emotional instability leading to harming or threatening to harm oneself or others
- The usage of social media to promote non-GCA standards in addition to mocking, harassing, bullying, or posting pictures of other students without their permission

EVERYTHING FROM A-Z

ATTENDANCE

GCA students are expected to meet all appointments. Credits are issued based on a minimum number of minutes in class. A student who accumulates more than six absences, excused or unexcused, in any course during a semester may not receive credit for that course. Attendance is taken and notices are sent by email to parents and students when a student is absent or tardy. It is the student's responsibility to contact their teachers in the event of an absence to find out what was missed, what assignments are due, and to clarify any questions.

Excused Absences—The acceptable excuses for an absence are: GCA-sponsored outings, sickness, emergency medical appointments, or a death in the immediate family. Non-emergency medical appointments should be arranged during regularly scheduled home leaves.

In case of illness, excused absences will be issued only when the dorm student's name has been placed on the sick list by the campus nurse or dean. Students on the sick list must stay in their dorm rooms until the next day. They may not go to recreation. Disregarding the sick list policy will result in receiving unexcused absences for the day.

Parents of village students should telephone the attendance personnel if the student is absent. The village student should not attend recreation if classes were missed because of sickness.

Unexcused Absences—If a student skips an appointment, or does not make proper arrangements to be excused, the absence will be considered unexcused and coursework cannot be made up for classes.

It is the responsibility of the student to see that absences and tardies are cleared promptly.

Attendance Point System

At the beginning of each quarter, each student has a credit of ten (10) points. Points are deducted as follows:

- Minus one point for each unexcused tardy
- Minus five points for each unexcused absence from a class
- Minus three points each for chapel or prayer circle unexcused absence

Attendance Discipline Levels—

Level 1 – 10 points and a warning with a \$25 fine

Level 2 – 15 points and a warning with a \$50 fine

Level 3 – 20 points and a 1-day suspension

Level 4 – 30 points and a 2-day off-campus suspension

Level 5 – Continued attendance issues and potential withdrawal from GCA

BULLYING/HARASSMENT

GCA strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students; therefore, bullying and cyberbullying in any form are not tolerated.

Bullying is any act that causes another person physical or mental harm, fear, intimidation, or a sense of exclusion and may include unwelcome verbal, written, or physical conduct directed at a student that has the effect of:

- Physically, emotionally, or mentally harming a student
- Damaging, extorting, or taking a student's personal property
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional, or mental harm
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property
- Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing someone by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs) which has the effect of bullying as listed above.

Students who are involved in bullying or sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion. The Academy will, when appropriate, refer students involved in making physical threats, sexual harassment, or bullying to law enforcement.

Sexual Harassment includes behavior characterized by the making of unwelcome and inappropriate sexual remarks or physical advances.

In the event that you feel inappropriate verbal or physical contact is being made, please report it to a staff member or the conference superintendent of education. Prompt action will be taken to investigate and ensure the safety of all.

CAFETERIA INFORMATION

The GCA cafeteria serves a lacto-ovo vegetarian diet using the freshest and finest supplies. We will do our best to accommodate special dietary needs, such as a vegan diet, if requested. Three meals are served each day, with the exception of Sunday, when only brunch and supper are served.

Because food is sold at a flat rate, food cannot be taken from the cafeteria unless authorized by the nurse or the deans. Students may not eat in the gymnasium lobby during regular mealtimes. In addition to the cafeteria, students may use the student center as a lunch space for meals brought in from off campus.

The cafeteria serves meals to guests who have meal tickets purchased from the business office. Village students are considered cafeteria guests and must pay for any meal they eat in the cafeteria. Village students can scan their key card before eating and the charge will be applied to the bill the following month.

CAMPUS AREAS

The GCA campus is divided into upper, center, and lower campus.

In general, upper campus includes the classroom buildings, courtyard, and promenade. These locations are open during the school day and for various scheduled meetings.

Center campus includes the gazebo, fountain, student center patio, and the grassy areas between the residence halls. Center campus closes at 7pm unless sundown is earlier. Staff will direct students to appropriate locations if necessary.

Lower campus includes the Wally Fox Wellness Center, track, and fields. The main lobby, gym 1, weight room, and racquetball court area in the Wally Fox Wellness Center are open during the school day and until 8pm for rec.

Students are not to be in areas where there is no supervision unless approved by a staff member.

Parking lots should not be accessed unless being dropped off, picked up, driving off campus with proper permission, accessing a drop off meal, or with permission from a staff member.

The elementary school grounds, playground, and the pond are off limits.

CELL PHONES

Experience has shown that most students struggle with the responsibility of having a smart phone—especially in managing their time and the content they choose to watch. There will be cell phone restrictions regarding times allowed.

Students should secure their cell phones in their purse, pocket or book bag. Cell phones should be turned off during classes or other meetings. Cell phones are not to be seen or used in the classrooms, library, assemblies, Sabbath

meetings, or after lights out, etc. If a phone is used in an inappropriate time, place and/or volume, the phone will be confiscated and given to the vice principal or dean. Cell phones will be confiscated if used to break any school policy. *(Forgetting to turn off the cell phone is not a sufficient excuse.)*

Cell phones capable of accessing the internet must have filters in place and operating. Cell phones found to have no filters, or which are capable of accessing inappropriate material will be confiscated. **Parents are urged to provide their children with phones that are NOT capable of internet access.** "Smart Phone" data packages should be limited.

It is recommended that each student have a permanent name on their cell phone or case for easy identification. Dorms may require this as part of their protocol.

Do not use another's cell phone without their specific permission. No cell phone photographs are to be taken in restrooms, locker rooms, etc. at any time.

Confiscated phones will be held as follows:

- **First offense, two days**
- **Second offense, one week**
- **Third offense, referred to Ad Council**

Cell phones/digital devices may be searched to ensure only appropriate content is on the device.

CHEATING POLICY

Cheating is a form of dishonesty and will not be tolerated. Cheating may include, but is not limited to:

- Copying homework from someone or using the internet inappropriately to find answers
- Using notes of any kind during quizzes or exams
- Communicating with another student through any means during quizzes and tests
- Claiming papers from another student are your own
- Plagiarizing any printed material (using printed material without proper documentation)
- Turning in AI generated work as your own

Cheating will result in the following:

First Offense—

- Teacher-student consultation
- A zero for the assignment
- Conference with an administrator

- Notification to parents

Second Offense—

- The above, plus review of conduct by Ad Council for further disciplinary action with recommendation that the student be suspended from school

Third Offense—

- Student may be asked to withdraw from GCA

CONTRABAND and/or DIGITAL MEDIA

Georgia-Cumberland Academy reserves the right to search a student's room, backpacks, cars, and personal property including all digital media such as laptops, smart phones, etc. on the campus or at any of its off-campus activities and confiscate any contraband at any time. Confiscated items may not be returned.

CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS

In an effort to decrease conflict, students are to refrain from displaying paraphernalia that would provoke a negative response—especially those of a political nature. Staff may ask students to remove an item and/or confiscate it.

DRESS CODE & PERSONAL APPEARANCE

Clothing worn by GCA students should always be neat, clean and modest. The clean-cut look will be expected rather than the faddish, slovenly, or bizarre.

We will continue to use Lands' End for uniforms and Atlanta Custom Graphics (<http://atlantacustomgraphics.com/>) for a selection of outerwear options.

To purchase uniforms, please refer to our Lands' End uniform list on their website at <http://www.landsend.com> and search for GCA under the school link using our code: 900187535. There is also a link to Lands' End on the GCA website.

- The GCA logo must be applied to all items purchased through Land's End. When ordering, if you don't see the step to have the logo included then you are not ordering through the GCA school list. To find GCA approved clothing enter code 900187535 under the school link.
- We urge all families to order uniforms early in the summer so that they will have the required uniforms in time for the beginning of school. It will take at least two weeks to receive items that are ordered.

- If a uniform item does not meet our requirements for fit or appearance, students will not be able to stay in classes.
- We will stock a limited number of uniform items at GCA for purchase and immediate wear if a student's uniform does not meet guidelines for fit or appearance.
- You can order from Lands' End and if it doesn't fit, return it for exchange or refund.
- Watch for announcements from Lands' End regarding sales. You might be restricted to only one item at sale price, but over time you can save significant money.

Student must be in vespers attire during the school day if they don't have school uniform items.

DRESS CODE STANDARDS

General

- All dress code policies apply on campus or campus/school events. This includes returning to campus for an event when you are signed out, leaving campus, or on school transportation.
- All clothing must be properly sized to fit the student. Clothing must not be too tight or too baggy.
- Dress, skirt, or skort length must be within 3 inches (1 key card) from the top of the knee.
- Underwear of any style should never be visible.
- Shoes or sandals must be worn when a student is out of the dorm.
- Hats should not be worn in classroom buildings, cafeteria for lunch, chapel, or church but may be worn for rec.
- All pants and shorts should be worn above your hips. No boxers, underwear or skin showing.
- Sleepwear is not acceptable out of dorms.
- Do not wear any jewelry items such as necklaces, bracelets (including "friendship bracelets"), leather bands, chokers, rings, earrings, or similar items.
- Clothing should not advertise or reference alcohol, cigarettes, etc. or have slogans or pictures that are offensive, or suggestive of a lifestyle out of harmony with Christian principles.
- Shirts/Sun Dresses—tops may be sleeveless but may not be cut in a fashion that makes undergarments or straps visible. The material over the shoulder should be at least two inches wide.
- No backless or partially backless shirts may be worn.
- Tops should be long enough to cover midriff.
- Tops must not reveal cleavage.

- When sheer garments are worn, the clothing seen underneath must meet academy standards.
- When shorts are allowed, they should not be ragged or cut off and must be finger-tip length. Volleyball and gymnastics uniform shorts are only appropriate in those classes.
- Running shorts must have spandex underneath that extend to fingertip length.
- Makeup should be modest. Dark, distracting, or bright makeup is not within dress code.
- Hair color must be of a natural shade.
- Leggings, jeggings, yoga pants, or anything of the same style can be worn for recreation.

School Day Uniform

- Polo shirts, outerwear, skorts, skirts, and shorts must be purchased from Lands' End, the GCA business office, or Atlanta Custom Graphics with the GCA logo affixed.
- GCA uniform coats, jackets, sweaters, and crew-neck sweatshirts are available through Lands' End. GCA uniform jackets and athletic-style zip-ups are available through Atlanta Custom Graphics.
- Students are required to wear the GCA uniform during the school day (8:00 AM to 5:05 PM), unless actively exercising in the gym and workout rooms. This includes all outerwear during the colder parts of the year.
- Uniforms must be worn in classes, classroom buildings, the library, administration building, as well as to lunch in the cafeteria.
- Light khaki or navy blue docker style pants can be purchased from Lands' End but can also be purchased from any store.
- Plain blue jeans are allowed as part of the dress code. They must be one color, without tears, frays, holes, embellishments, additions, etc.
- Polo shirts must be worn underneath approved outerwear items such as sweaters, vests, or coats.
- A solid color undershirt may be worn under the uniform.
- New students must wear a polo shirt or button-down shirt if they don't have school uniform items.
- All students are required to wear closed-toe shoes (i.e. loafers, tennis shoes, etc.). Flip-flops, slides, sandals, crocs, high heels, or any other kind of footwear along these lines are not allowed.
- Hose and tights must be a solid color.
- Doo rags and bandanas are not uniform items.
- Hoodies, non-uniform sweatshirts (whether organizational or not), and all other cold-weather coats and jackets are not approved uniform items. The GCA Administration encourages students to show pride in their organizations by wearing their hoodies, sweatshirts, t-shirts, etc. around campus outside of the school day.

Sabbath

- Men—You must wear dress slacks, button-up shirts (tucked in at all times) or dressy polo shirts, church shoes (not black tennis shoes) for all Sabbath services. A tie is not required for Friday vespers. Ties are required for Sabbath School and church—however, gentlemen may wear a blazer or suit coat with a button-up shirt without a tie.
- Women—Dresses, skirts, blouses, and loose-fitting dress slacks, must be worn to all Sabbath services. If participating on stage, dresses and skirts should be at knee length or longer.
- Hoodies or hooded jackets are not appropriate attire for vespers or church programs.
- Spaghetti-strap or strapless dresses are not permitted.
- Clothing worn to church is to be worn to lunch on Sabbath.

Banquets

- Banquet dresses must be modest and elegant (not sexy) and will be approved by a committee or designated staff member. The committee or designated staff member will review dresses based on modesty, not on style. A style may be appropriate on one person and inappropriate on another. Dresses must be cut high enough to be modest and to adequately cover your body. Short banquet dresses must be no shorter than a key card length from the knee in length.
- Dresses must have two straps. No strapless or single strap dresses will be considered.
- Dresses with slits above knee will not be considered.

Swimming

- Only modest, one-piece swimsuits are to be worn at any GCA function or school-sponsored trip and must be approved by the dean. (A two-piece swimsuit, covered by a shirt, is not acceptable).

DRESS CODE VIOLATIONS

Students who repeatedly violate dress code violations will be subject to discipline that can include suspension, loss of privilege, or other major discipline.

DRUG TESTING

In an effort to ensure a drug-free campus, and to give students very solid reasons to resist pressures to experiment with drugs, GCA will randomly test students for the presence of common illegal drugs at any time of the year, including summer.

Possession and/or use of illegal substances will be reported to the Gordon County Sheriff.

By enrolling at GCA, students and their parents agree to drug and/or alcohol screening and testing.

Testing for drugs will occur at random intervals throughout the school year. Testing for alcohol will occur at the time use is suspected. Students can also be tested when the use of drugs is suspected or alleged. In these cases, the school will cover the cost, unless the test results indicate drug use.

If a student tests positive for illegal substance(s), evades a test, or is deceitful in their sample, he or she will be required to withdraw from school.

Incidents in which students self-report substance use prior to a report, investigation, and/or accusation will not automatically prompt a zero-tolerance infraction. GCA will do their best to offer support to a student in need.

EXAM PERMITS

Students must be financially cleared to receive exam permits.

GYM POLICIES

- Tennis shoes are to be worn for any activity on the gym floor.
- The gymnastic equipment, climbing rope, etc. in Gym 2 should not be used unless there are qualified spotters and adequate supervision.
- No basketballs or volleyballs should be kicked like a soccer ball.
- Soccer balls should only be used during scheduled coach led soccer practice.
- No one should be in the equipment room except gym workers and staff members. If you need equipment, ask a staff member to check it out for you.
- The stage is off-limits except for supervised groups, such as gymnastics.

HEADPHONE POLICY

Headphones of any type are not allowed during the school day with the exception of use in the dorm, gym lobby, workout room, and outdoors.

MEDIA POLICY

All media usage including music, video, and social media should adhere to the standards of a Seventh-day Adventist Christian campus.

All media should be viewed or heard with headphones.

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH

The health and welfare of students, faculty, and staff at Georgia-Cumberland Academy must be the concern of all individuals associated with our school. In order to provide a safe environment, the Academy will require that all students, faculty, and staff participate in health screenings and may institute environmental restrictions or requirements as part of our efforts to reduce illness on campus. Students or families who refuse to participate in such requirements will not be able to attend GCA. These requirements may include temperature screening, blood tests, tests for various illness, and annual flu shots.

For students to be successful at GCA, their emotional and mental health is also important. GCA counselors, chaplains, faculty and administrators may from time to time counsel students. Conversations of a counseling nature will take place when students seek assistance from GCA staff, or when faculty or staff initiate conversations with students as a result of observing issues causing concern. Counseling by GCA staff will be limited to assessment and immediate concerns that are within the scope of skills that can reasonably be addressed by professional teachers, chaplains or guidance counselors. It should be understood that these conversations may take place without specific parental permission or involvement. If assessment indicates more serious issues that will require sustained counseling services, the academy may require such counseling to be carried out by licensed professionals outside of GCA.

Students who become involved in self-harm, or who discuss taking actions to hurt themselves, or who discuss or take actions of a suicidal nature, will be required to undergo psychological assessment by a licensed professional counselor of a parent's choosing, at the expense of the parents. These students will not be allowed to stay in GCA dormitories until such time as academy administrators decide that written evaluation from a licensed therapist warrants return to campus.

POLICE PRESENCE

Georgia-Cumberland Academy has a working relationship with the Gordon County Sheriff's office. From time to time, there will be police presence on campus for training, observation, meetings, and walk-throughs.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

The Sabbath is observed from sundown on Friday to sundown on Saturday. During Sabbath hours, we ask that you choose the rich blessings of spending special time with God through avenues such as vespers, church, school-planned Sabbath afternoon activities, personal or group Bible study, Christian music, etc. A staff member may speak to you to remind you of these Sabbath opportunities if they see that you are not in compliance.

The sports fields, weight room, and gymnasium are closed and not to be used during the Sabbath hours.

SOCIAL CONDUCT

GCA is committed to a concept of positive social development and encourages broadening of the academy experience by participating in a varied program of cultural and recreational activities, which will provide opportunities for wholesome association.

Our basic policy for association between young men and women is "hands off." Therefore, handholding, back rubs, "piggyback" rides, etc. are not appropriate. Sexual or physically intimate behavior between students is not allowed, and students who violate this standard are subject to suspension or dismissal.

Mixed seating may be allowed on the bus provided there is adequate supervision. Seating will be separate at sundown.

The dorms of the opposite sex are always off limits (vacation times included) unless specific permission is granted by both deans.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Holding office is an honor granted to students. Hard work, fair representation, and working together should be the aim of each officer. Officers may be recalled by a majority vote of their constituency.

Students elected to a presidency must have at least a 3.0 GPA. Eligibility for all other offices is a 2.5 GPA.

Students may hold only one office if they are president of any organization or an SA officer. Students must maintain satisfactory attendance, citizenship, and GPA in order to remain in office.

Students on critical academic or citizenship probation may not hold or run for offices.

Students have the privilege of holding many positions of leadership on campus. Some students will be elected to an office by their peers, others will be appointed by staff. Holding a student office is an honor which comes with great responsibility.

The SA (Student Association) officers are elected at the end of each school year to serve during the next school term. SA offices include president, vice

president/student senate chair, social vice president, religious vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

Each class will also elect officers. Class offices include president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, parliamentarian, pastor.

Student senators provide representation for student groups. In addition, National Honor Society, some music groups, and certain campus publications offer titled leadership positions.

Resident Assistants and dorm club officers are selected by the deans.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY – LAPTOP USAGE AGREEMENT

The computer and all software, data, and all data files initially installed shall be the property of GCA. Any files created or saved on the computer also become the possession of GCA. If the computer is lost or stolen, it will be replaced according to fair market value of a similarly equipped machine. The parent is responsible for all related charges not covered by the manufacturer's warranty. Payment is due within 30 days of invoicing. Warranty does not cover intentional damage or evidence of intentional damage.

Obligations for Usage

Filtering and monitoring software will be placed on the student's computer. Any attempt to disable, alter, or circumvent the controls or settings of this software will result in major disciplinary action.

Email

As with all software on student's computers, email messages are not private or the possession of the student. All emails are subject to monitoring and become the property of GCA.

Vandalism

Vandalism will result in major disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy hardware, data of another user, internet, or the uploading or creation of computer viruses.

Damage Fee

The student will be assessed any repair fee for damage that is caused by neglect, \$25 minimum. If the damage is deemed malicious, a fee, up to the replacement value, will be assessed along with a \$50 fine.

Security

If a security problem is noticed, the student must immediately notify an administrator. Additionally, the student may not use another individual's account or passwords.

Acceptable Use Policy

The campus information network provides students with access to many educational resources. The network/laptop is provided for coursework, research, and communication. Students are expected to be considerate and responsible. Students should not bring personal devices such as laptop, tablet, Kindle, iPad, etc. on GCA campus or connect to GCA network.

The student agrees to abide by the following usage rules:

- Use of school technology resources is for academic purposes.
- Student's external drives may not contain games, executables, or be independently bootable.
- Programs on GCA computers are not to be copied.
- Students must not reconfigure the hardware or software on any GCA computer.
- Students must properly care for all computer equipment and are responsible for damages caused by misuse or abuse of equipment.
- Students must not use the internet for any illegal purpose.
- Students must not give out passwords or attempt to discover passwords or other measures the school uses to control access to the internet.
- Students must visit only internet sites that are consistent with moral purity.
- Use of GCA computers and technology for inappropriate activities (games, movies, illicit material, etc.) is prohibited.

End of the Year

All students return their laptops to the school at the end of the school year. The laptop must be clean before being returned. Computers will be evaluated for abnormal wear. Damage charges may be assessed.

Consequences for Violating Guidelines

The Administrative Council will impose discipline for violating GCA computer guidelines.

VEHICLES

All students operating vehicles on campus agree to:

- Display GCA ID sticker on the windshield of your car.
- Operate vehicles in a careful and responsible manner.
- Grant GCA the right to search vehicles.
- Keep radio low enough so it cannot be heard outside the vehicle while on campus.
- Maintain vehicle liability insurance (must be on file with vice principal for village students, or with the dean for dormitory students).

- Lose vehicle privileges for violating GCA rules.

Village Students

Before bringing a vehicle on campus, village students must secure permission from the vice principal and fill out paperwork. Village students agree to:

- Park vehicles in the front parking lot whenever they drive them to campus, not behind dorms, gym, or music building.
- Refrain from giving rides to GCA dormitory students.

Dormitory Students

Before bringing a vehicle on campus, dormitory students must secure permission from the dean and fill out paperwork. Dorm students agree to:

- Follow all dorm campus leave policies.
- Park vehicles in assigned spaces in the parking lot behind the women's residence hall (girls) or in the front parking lot near the men's residence hall (boys) upon arrival on campus.
- Use vehicles only to travel home on weekends and/or home leaves.
- Senior driving privileges may apply second semester.

WORK PROGRAM

Students employed by GCA are issued paychecks twice each month. Students may endorse their checks to be applied to their school bill or may take their checks (with written permission from parent). The business office will not cash payroll checks.

Students and parents should recognize that student income from work is usually used in calculating the amount parents must pay each month. If students decide to take their paychecks and not apply their income to their balance due it will increase the amount parents must pay.

WORK PROGRAM POLICIES

(International students are not allowed to work on campus).

GCA work policies apply to all students (village and dormitory students).

- A student will not be allowed to work at GCA until we have a copy of the student's social security card, birth certificate, and an I-9 form on file.
- Students must be at least 14 years of age before they can work at the Academy and must be 16 or older to work more than three hours per school day.
- In general, GCA dormitory students are expected to work.
- Students receiving financial aid must work.

- Job placement will be based on financial need and job availability. Dormitory students will have priority, followed by village students under the age of 16.
- Job placement will be done by the work coordinator in conjunction with the supervisors.
- Transfers between job assignments may be made during the school year if the work coordinator considers the transfer necessary.
- Hours worked by students employed on-campus may be limited based on financial need.
- Students are expected to meet their work obligations and to make arrangements with their work supervisor when they must be absent. Failure to make prior arrangements will result in an unexcused absence.
- Students must clock in and out using their key card (unless salaried worker) to keep an accurate record of hours worked.
- Students must come to the business office to sign their payroll checks in a timely fashion.
- The Academy is not responsible for missed work time due to illness, excused absences, layoffs, or the unavailability of jobs.
- Students who are terminated from their jobs due to their own poor work habits or disciplinary problems may not be given other employment through the Academy. This will increase the parent's financial responsibility for tuition.
- Students working at the Academy during the summer must make arrangements at least one week in advance when taking family vacations or needing time off work.
- A student can be fired immediately in the event of gross negligence and/or insubordination. Any student fired from a job may be subject to disciplinary action by the Administrative Council and may not be given any other Academy-sponsored employment.
- Students that have been terminated from two jobs may be asked to withdraw.
- A student who quits or is fired from a job will forfeit all financial aid.

WORKER DISCIPLINE

The following steps will be taken when a student habitually performs unsatisfactorily at work. This includes but is not limited to not showing up for work, not clocking in and out, not being on task, etc.

- Level 1 – 4 work related write-ups, no gym, rec or intramurals for 1 week
- Level 2 – 8 work related write ups, \$25 fine
- Level 3 – 12 work related write ups, \$50 fine with one day suspension

- Level 4 – More than 12 work related write ups, loss of job

WRITE UPS

In an effort to keep parents informed about infractions, GCA uses a documentation system to report behavior. Discipline depends on the severity and/or volume at which write ups are received. Students and parents are welcome to request additional details in response to a write up.

DORM HANDBOOK

Dormitory living provides students the opportunity to develop self-reliance and self-discipline. Dormitory life is fun. You meet all kinds of people and learn to get along with them.

Students should be conscious of the complexity of personalities in this home of many individuals and should go the second mile in doing their part toward the peaceful operation of the dormitory.

Please keep in mind that dorm rooms, hallways, etc. are for dorm residents only unless permission is granted from the dean on a case by case basis. Guests may check in with a desk monitor or dean in the main lobby.

*Note: Due to dormitory facility limitations and our commitment to proper supervision of students, individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ may not enroll as dormitory students.

YOUR RESIDENCE HALL

Each residence hall has four bathrooms, four laundry rooms, a chapel, recreation room, guest room with private bathroom, plus the dean's and assistant dean's apartments and the dean's office.

Females are not allowed in the men's residence hall, nor males allowed in the women's residence hall, unless they have specific permission from the deans. If you are in the wrong area, you are jeopardizing your stay at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. If an unapproved guest enters your room, it is your responsibility to ask them to leave and to notify the dean immediately.

YOUR ROOM

The rooms in each dormitory at Georgia-Cumberland Academy are set up for double occupancy. No private rooms are available.

Each room is furnished with:

- One set of bunk beds (standard twin)
- Sink
- Two built-in study desks
- Two chairs
- Built-in storage cabinets and closets
- Mirror
- Window blinds or shade
- Individual room heat/AC unit
- Carpet
- Smoke detector (must not be covered in any way)

- One ceiling light, one light over mirror
- Microwave oven and refrigerator (supplied by GCA—you may not bring your own)
- Telephone jacks
- All dorm rooms are set up the same, leaving no space for extra furniture

Each student is held accountable for the condition of the room. Students will be responsible for paying the costs to restore the room to original condition at the time the student moves out of the room. It is the resident's responsibility to remove all personal belongings and clean their room. The room should be inspected and approved by a dean before leaving the dormitory.

BOYS' AND GIRLS' CLUBS

The Boys' and Girls' Club officers are selected by the dean for the school year. They plan activities, conduct workshops, run the dorm store, plan banquets, etc. The president must not hold any other office at GCA.

Village students are always invited to all club events. Parental permission may be required, and all dorm rules apply. Some activities may have additional costs.

BRING FOR YOUR ROOM

You will need to provide your own linens (mattress cover, bedding, towels, etc.), mattress pad, vacuum cleaner, waste basket, laundry basket, detergent, cleaning supplies, clock, desk lamp, alarm clock, personal items, and you must have a working telephone (other than a cell phone).

CELL PHONES

Dorm students are allowed to have one cell phone on campus. Dorm students will turn in their phone each night. They may be picked up in the dorm lobby or dean's office the next morning. Failure to turn in a cell phone at night will result in disciplinary action. Cell phone speakers should not be heard outside of students' rooms.

CLEANING SUPPLIES

You will need to furnish your own cleaning supplies for your room.

DORM SECURITY SYSTEM/CAMERAS

Tampering with any part of the dorm security systems will result in monetary fines and additional punishment.

Students should be appropriately dressed in hallways since cameras are continually running.

ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

Appliances such as hot plates, coffee makers, toaster ovens, and toasters **are not permitted** because of the fire hazard. Any of the above-mentioned items will be confiscated by the dean.

ELECTRONIC GAMES

Please do not bring any kind of electronic game consoles. The only electronic devices allowed are the GCA-provided laptops and personal cell phones. All other devices will be confiscated by the deans.

EVENING SCHEDULE

Dorm Worship

Dorm worship begins as soon as recreation ends, about 8:05 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. Please go directly to the dorm chapel after recreation and sit in your assigned seat. Attendance is required and will be taken by your resident assistant. Should you arrive late, you will be counted absent and will be fined \$1 payable to the dean that evening during study hall.

Study Hall

Strict study hall takes place Sunday-Thursday. Please be in your room during this time. If your resident assistant must look for you, you will be room-bound for the rest of the evening.

During strict study hall you are to remain in your own room, leaving only if you have received permission from your resident assistant. If you need to study with someone, you will be asked to wait until after strict study hall. All visiting, showers, appointments with the dean, etc. must be done before or after strict study hall. (Please note that showers need to be taken before lights out).

Your resident assistant will check on each of you every thirty minutes and note what you are doing at that time. Resident assistant's check sheets are given to the dean and filed. This is done so when parents call concerning your study habits, they can be told what you do during study hall.

Lights Out

At this time, you should be in your own room/bed with your lights out and your cell phone turned in to the dean.

Not going to bed on time will result in a meeting with the dean and further consequences, if necessary.

Extra lights will only be given if your resident assistant believes that you haven't wasted time on the phone and have been studying during study

hall. To receive extra lights, please ask your resident assistant before lights out.

Saturday night the lights out will usually be later than weekdays.

FIRE/STORM ALARMS

Please respond appropriately to any fire/storm alarm that may sound in the dormitory. NOTICE—Falsely activating the fire alarm will result in a \$200 fine, plus probable suspension.

FOOD IN ROOMS

Having food in your dorm room is a privilege. Any food in a student's room should be kept in metal or sealed plastic containers at all times to discourage unwanted insects and rodents. Students are not to bring food or drinks into the residence hall for the purpose of selling it. If food choices or food cleanup is not handled responsibly, your room will lose food privileges and all food will be confiscated.

GRADUATION WEEKEND POLICY

All freshmen and sophomores are expected to leave school upon completion of their final exams in May in order for rooms to be available for parents and guests of the graduating class. All juniors and seniors are requested to stay through the graduation weekend and participate as requested by the school administration. All campus and residence hall regulations are in effect through graduation weekend.

LAUNDRY

There are four laundry rooms in each Residence Hall. Each room has two washers and three dryers. There is no cost to use the machines. Your RA may assign you a day of the week to do laundry. No laundry may be put in the washing machines after lights out. Items left in the laundry room are collected and taken to Goodwill after a period of time.

GCA is not responsible for lost or stolen articles and clothing left in the laundry room. It is important that your clothing is marked for identification.

LEAVING CAMPUS – DORM STUDENTS

Sign in/out process

Each time dorm students leave campus they must sign out at the front desk of their dorm. The person taking students off campus must also come to the desk to sign them out.

Campus Leave Requests

Every time students leave campus and miss a required appointment or class they must also fill out a Campus Leave Request (including home leaves).

Required appointments include classes, work, dorm chapel, dorm study hall, vespers, church, eventide, overnight, week of prayer meetings, school assembly, etc. Each Campus Leave Request must be turned in and signed by a dean before the student leaves campus.

Consequences for leaving GCA incorrectly

Consequences for failing to sign in/out or filling out a Campus Leave Request correctly will result in fines. Certain offenses or repeated offenses will result in more severe consequences which may include suspension or dismissal.

Students may leave the GCA campus:

- With a GCA faculty member
- With someone on the parent-approved list of acceptable drivers (*In order to be on the parent-approved list, individuals must be at least age 21 or a relative*)
- In certain cases, students may drive themselves or others off campus:
 - For home leaves and weekends, if all parents involved give permission for the specific home leave or weekend
 - Senior driving privileges (*Only applies 2nd semester*)

MAIL

Outgoing mail can be taken to the business office. The mail goes out around 9 a.m. and the incoming mail is sorted after lunch. Mail is passed out in the Residence Halls.

Letters and packages should be addressed to (Student's Name), c/o Georgia-Cumberland Academy, 397 Academy Drive, SW, Calhoun, GA 30701.

PETS—No pets allowed.

PIERCING(S)—Students are not allowed to pierce themselves or anyone else in the dormitory.

PRANKS—Pranks are not permitted unless approved by the dean.

PRESCRIPTION MEDICINE—Prescription medicine must be given to the nurse.

RESIDENCE HALL STAFF

The desk is a vital business area of the residence hall; therefore, only the desk worker has authority to be in there. If you need to get your message, ask the desk worker to get it for you. We will not hold your room key behind the desk. Only the desk worker answers the telephones and uses the intercom.

It is your responsibility to check the bulletin board and white board daily for messages.

ROOM CHARGES

Students may be charged for broken, destroyed, stained, etc. items throughout the year when necessary.

Upon checkout of the dormitory, staff will inspect rooms for cleanliness and damages. Charges will be applied to the final invoice.

ROOM CLEANLINESS CHECK

Your dormitory room is for your use and enjoyment. You are completely responsible for its care, including the walls, furniture, doors, windows, screens, refrigerator, microwave, carpet, and blinds.

Your rooms will be regularly checked for cleanliness by deans and resident assistants.

ROOM DECORATIONS

- Your room needs to reflect Christian standards. No posters promoting drugs, alcohol, or tobacco. No bizarre, lewd, or suggestive pictures.
- Please don't hang anything on the outside of your door without permission.
- Please don't put hooks with adhesive (or anything with adhesive) on block walls, cabinets, desks, or doors. Any sticker or sticker residue or tape left on walls or doors or windows or furniture in dorm rooms will result in fines.
- No bumper stickers on doors, walls, mirrors, windows, or furniture.
- Following fire code requirements, nothing may be suspended from the ceiling, including flags, Christmas lights, posters, sheets, etc. No cords may be strung above the ceiling tiles.

ROOM LOCKS

The school cannot be held responsible for missing articles and valuables. If you lose or break your key, there is a replacement charge. Having in your possession a residence hall master key may result in major discipline including suspension or dismissal. A \$1.00 fine will be charged for opening your door if you lock your key in your room.

If you are seen picking a lock, carding a door, or using another student's key card without permission, you will be fined \$50.00, and also be subject to further discipline.

ROOMMATES/ROOM CHANGES

Living in the dorm is not necessarily about rooming with your best friend, but more about getting along with people. After the first three weeks of school any room change will cost \$20, except for one free room change at the Christmas break. There may be different policies between the men's and women's dorms.

ROOM CHARGES WHEN MOVING OUT OF THE DORM

When students withdraw from GCA, they must check out of the dorm properly. Before you move out of your room, it must be clean and inspected by the dean. You are financially responsible for any damage done throughout the year, no matter who did it or how it happened. Students must also return their textbooks and computer to the business office and computer help desk. Do not leave them in your room.

SICKNESS & MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS

You must see the nurse or dean to determine whether you will be placed on sick list. Once you are placed on sick list, you are in your room all day with no visitors. Failure to meet these conditions may result in unexcused absences for the day. You will not be allowed to go to recreation or the cafeteria. All meals will be brought to students from the cafeteria. Make sure you know the nurse's office hours.

TELEPHONES

All rooms must have a wall/desk phone to be used for calls transferred from the front desk. Telephones are provided in the lobby for you to use for outgoing calls. If you are habitually late getting off the phone or misuse it, the dean has the right to take your phone privileges away.

TOWN TRIPS

Town trips are scheduled most weekends during the school year. A sign-up sheet will be available at the front desk before each trip.

TRACK USE

Students may exercise on the track in pairs or groups from 6-8am, Monday-Friday. Permission must be received from the dean if wanting to exercise alone.

Schedule

A Days- Females

B Days- Males

VALUABLE ITEMS

Unfortunately, theft does occur. In order to discourage theft, please do not bring large sums of money or expensive items that could be easily taken. GCA cannot accept responsibility for stolen or vandalized items. Put your money in your student account.

VANDALISM

In order to keep the residence hall in good condition, we are enforcing a very strict policy to keep the dorm clean and damage free. If you break anything in the residence hall, make plans to replace it. You will be charged for all damages whether the cause of the breakage was intentional or accidental.

VISITORS

Prior permission from the dean/administration is required for all off-campus visitors.

WEEKEND SERVICES

Weekend services are required for all students on campus. Unexcused tardies and absences are not permitted. Students should not go back to the dorm between sabbath school and church unless given permission by the dean. Please take care of all your needs in the restroom and at the drinking fountain before each meeting. Please refrain from getting up in the middle of a service unless it is necessary. Please remain seated until your row is dismissed after the worship service. Gum, candy, drinks, food, hats, etc. are not to be in the dorm chapel or the sanctuary.

VILLAGE STUDENTS

VILLAGE STUDENT DEFINED

Students living with their parents, grandparents, aunts, or uncles within reasonable driving distance may register to attend as village (non-resident) students. As such, they are invited and encouraged to participate in all Academy activities.

All school rules and policies apply to village students. In addition, the following policies specifically apply:

Village students—

- Must have permission from the dean to enter hallways, resident rooms, etc. beyond the front lobby.
- Must make arrangements with the respective dean in advance for overnight stays in the dorm. A charge of \$15 per night will be made. Several telephone numbers must be left with the dean in case of emergency.
- Are encouraged to attend weekend services and activities here at the Academy.
- When present on campus, must participate in services and scheduled activities.
- Will comply with the dress code and other regulations that apply to dorm students.

You are privileged to be able to live with your parents or relatives and attend GCA. Our dormitories are operated so that young people whose homes are too far from the Academy may still receive a Christian education.

ALL DORM RULES APPLY TO YOU

When you are in the dormitory, all dormitory rules apply to you. Please know and follow these rules.

DO NOT TAKE DORM STUDENTS OFF CAMPUS FOR ANY REASON

Village students may not let dorm students into their vehicle or take them off campus. Loss of driving privileges and/or further discipline may occur.

Arrangements must be made through the dean, by the parent of the village student, to take a dorm student off campus. The PARENT must come into the dorm and sign the student out—no exceptions.

Dorm students must properly fulfill all requirements to leave campus for the day or overnight.