

**THE ADVANCED ACADEMY OF GEORGIA  
ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002**

**Mission**

The mission of the Advanced Academy of Georgia is to provide an enriched, residential early-entrance-to-college program for carefully selected bright and motivated high school juniors and seniors who are interested in accelerating their academic careers. The Academy seeks to provide opportunities for educational advancement in an environment that also supports students in developing the skills that will help to ensure their success, both in the Academy and as future leaders.

**Goals**

Academy Goal	University Mission	Bread and Butter Goal
Provide educational opportunities for extraordinary high school juniors and seniors.	Educational opportunities for exceptional students through initiatives such as the Honors College and the Advanced Academy of Georgia.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commitment to UWG's mission and goals.</li> <li>2. Enrollment management.</li> <li>3. Academic Programs</li> </ol>
Increase enrollment in the Advanced Academy while maintaining its diverse makeup.	Affirmation of the equal dignity of each person by valuing cultural, ethnic, racial, and gender diversity in students, faculty, and staff.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commitment to UWG's mission and goals.</li> <li>2. Enrollment management.</li> <li>5. The university experience.</li> </ol>
Develop skills that will assist students' success, both in the Academy and as future leaders.	Commitments that culminate in educational experiences that foster the development of leaders and productive citizens who make a positive impact.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Commitment to UWG's mission and goals.</li> <li>2. Academic programs.</li> </ol>

**Outcomes, Processes to Assess These Outcomes, and Assessment Results Where Appropriate**

Outcomes	Assessment	Results
52 students were admitted into the Advanced Academy of Georgia for the 2001-2002 year		Admission was down from previous year due to PSO questions and the general state of the economy.
Students placed in courses according to their levels of ability and preparation	Self-reporting by students, AP testing, SAT or ACT test scores, University GPA.	Students placed in advanced courses. One student completed 27 semester hours spring semester while maintaining 4.0 GPA.
Academy students were active in Academy and University leadership activities.		Individual students and Academy programs received numerous awards and recognition.

**An Example of How The Academy Used the Assessment of Goals and Outcomes to Change/Improve a Process**

Prior to year 2001-2002, orientation for students and parents, which included advising, class registration, moving into the residence hall, review of Academy policies and rules, opportunities to learn about campus activities, buying books, and paying fees, was all done on the same day. Staff 1. conducted a poll of parents regarding the experience and 2. debriefed during a staff meeting where the staff's opinions and those of the parents were discussed. Subsequently, orientation was significantly changed effective with the 2001-2002 entering class. Small group sessions were held throughout the summer to review policies and rules, explain and sign forms, sign up for meal tickets, and obtain student IDs. Students were advised and registered for classes as they were accepted. The actual move-in day consisted of students checking into the residence hall, obtaining their keys, and moving into their rooms. We held one two-hour group meeting, which was followed with free time for the students and parents to complete their moving-in activities without undue stress. In the same way, staff was able to attend to their responsibilities and be available to parents and students without undue stress. Response from parents, students, and staff was enthusiastically positive.

## **General Statement of Academy Condition**

The Advanced Academy of Georgia is generally in very good condition. One staff member has resigned and has yet to be replaced. The professional staff apartment in the Academy residence hall needs significant improvement. Student enrollment needs to increase; however, the application process continues throughout the summer. The physical condition of Gunn Hall needs some attention: the air handlers in the main lobby are not working up to full capacity, causing the lobby to be excessively hot in the summer and cold in the winter; hall windows will need to be replaced in the next few years (some have broken in recent years), and security screens for the first floors need to be installed. Carpeting and tiles need to be replaced. The Resident Assistants in Gunn Hall reflect our commitment to diversity: eight Caucasians, three African-Americans, and three international students (hailing from Nigeria, Catalonia, and Sri Lanka).

## **Achievements**

- Residence Hall programs were plentiful and of high quality, affording students opportunities for out-of-class learning, socialization, and personal growth.

## **Staff Productivity**

- Staff members attended a total of 17 employment-related conferences.
- The addition of an Assistant Residential Coordinator allowed for a stronger leadership team and provided double support for the Resident Assistants.
- Staff continues to work in excess of 40 hours per week.

## **Student Achievements**

- Our residence hall council was named Outstanding RHC of the year (university-wide)
- An Academy student was named Hall Council Member of the Year (university-wide)
- Four current and six former Academy students were awarded the University's prestigious Presidential Scholarships
- Current and former Academy students were honorees at the State University of West Georgia's Academic Honors Convocation:

Outstanding French Student, Academic Recognition Day Scholar, Outstanding Honors College Freshmen (2), Outstanding Honors College Sophomores (2), Outstanding Honors College Juniors (2), Outstanding Honors College Seniors (2), and the John J. Pershing Award for Scholarship

- 59% placed out of the first freshman English Composition requirements and earned placement in sophomore-level Honors literature courses
- 75% were enrolled in advanced mathematics courses
- 23% earned placement in accelerated and Honors chemistry courses
- Students are also enrolled in higher-level physics and biology classes
- Academy students are engaged in projects or original research through the departments of chemistry, psychology, math, and physics
- Students presented their research at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference, the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference, and at the Georgia Academy of Science
- Students took Honors classes in numerous departments throughout the University, including: mathematics, English, anthropology, psychology, biology, history, foreign language, physical education, political science, astronomy, economics, chemistry, sociology, philosophy, marketing, and accounting
- Academy students participated in a wide variety of community service projects, including: tutoring programs at local elementary schools, the local soup kitchen and children's home, a retirement center, A-Day for West Georgia, and the humane society
- Throughout the seven-year history of the Academy, its students have averaged a University GPA of 3.2
- 100% percent of Academy seniors (33) continued their university education after high school graduation; sixteen post-Academy scholarships were offered
- This year's graduating students were accepted into the following institutions: New York University, Georgia Institute of Technology, Colgate University, Georgia State University, State University of West Georgia, Johns Hopkins University, University of Chicago, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Georgia, Brown University, Duke University, Agnes Scott College, North Carolina State University, University of Rochester, Savannah College of Art and Design, and American University

- Students participated in the 2001 High School Fall Academic Bowl Tournament and won both the Most Valuable Player Award and the tournament championship

### **Other Awards, Distinctions, and Achievements**

- Our annual St. Patty's Day Café won Hall Council program of the year (university-wide)
- Student participated in the American Invitational Mathematics Exam
- Students were awarded AP credit in calculus, American government, United States history, psychology, biology, and chemistry