

General Information

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

The name, role, and scope of Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College have been subject to change since its opening in 1908 as the Second District A & M School. In 1924 the South Georgia Agricultural and Mechanical College was organized, and the physical property of the Second District A & M School was adapted for college use. Change occurred again in 1929 when the institution became Georgia State College for Men and again in 1933 when it became Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, named for Abraham Baldwin, a signer of the United States Constitution and the first president of the University of Georgia.

Throughout these years and these changes, the College has experienced steady growth from its first enrollment of 27 students in 1908 to an enrollment of 3,600 students in the fall semester of 2008. The College reaches approximately 20,000 people annually through its bachelor's degree programs, college transfer programs, career technological programs, public service and economic development programs, and special services. Students are enrolled from 154 of Georgia's 159 counties, 12 other states and 10 countries. In 2006, ABAC became a State College of the University System of Georgia, allowing the College to expand its offerings to include bachelor's degrees in selected fields.

In 1933 when the College became Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, instructional emphasis was placed on programs in agriculture, forestry, and home economics. Emphasis on these programs continues although the College now reaches thousands of students in popular programs of study such as nursing.

The uniqueness of ABAC lies in its dedication and service to all the people in Georgia. In addition to offering specialized programs in the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the College also features a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree in Rural Studies and two Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs in Diversified Agriculture and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management as well as a total of 50 two-year transfer and career programs

ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIPS

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, 30033-4097, Telephone 404-679-4501) to award Baccalaureate and Associate Degrees. Inquiries to the Commission should relate only to the accreditation status of the institution, not to general admission information.

The College is accepted by the Veterans Administration for the training of veterans under the G.I. Bill of Rights.

The College and its faculty/staff are affiliated with numerous national, regional, and state associations, including:

- American College Health Association
- Council for Adult and Experiential Learning
- Council for Opportunity in Education
- Georgia Association of Colleges
- Georgia Association of Special Programs Personnel
- Georgia Collegiate Press Association

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Georgia Political Science Association
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Head Start Association
National HEP CAMP Association
National Junior College Athletic Association
National League for Nursing
North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture
Professional Association of Georgia Educators
Society of American Foresters
Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel
Southern Criminal Justice Association

MISSION STATEMENT

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is a residential institution offering certificates, associate degrees in a broad array of disciplines, and baccalaureate degrees in targeted fields. With a state-wide mission in agriculture and strong programs in the liberal arts, nursing, business, the natural and physical sciences, the social sciences, and physical education, the College serves students with diverse educational career goals. Associate of Applied Science degrees prepare students for entry into a career field. Associate of Arts and Associate of Science degree programs provide the first two years of study toward a baccalaureate degree. Baccalaureate degrees in selective fields may be pursued by students holding an associate's degree.

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is a student-centered institution. As a point of access to higher education, the College provides a learning support program for under-prepared students. Evening, off-campus, and online courses furnish educational opportunities for individuals who are unable to attend classes in the traditional setting. Intercollegiate and intramural athletic programs and numerous student organizations offer students opportunities for physical and social development. Modern, state-of-the-art apartments provide the convenience of on-campus residence.

Vitally involved with the educational and economic development of South Georgia, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College continually strives to expand its service to the region. Public service programs include special-interest activities and courses, occupation-enhancing classes, youth enrichment courses, and performing and visual arts events. The College also provides administrative services and facilities that enable community and state organizations, as well as other units of the University System of Georgia, to bring seminars, meetings, and upper-level and graduate instruction to the region.

The College's goal is to contribute to a better-educated Georgia. To that end, it engages in a comprehensive planning and assessment process, enabling it to build upon its strengths and correct weaknesses. The College's faculty, staff, and administration are committed to excellence in preparing students to be informed, productive citizens in the Twenty-First century.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is committed to helping students realize their potential. For this reason, student assessment is part of the College's educational program. From the time a student applies, until leaving, participation is expected in a series of tests and surveys designed to assist college personnel in accurate advisement and course placement, to gather information on satisfaction

with college programs and services, and to measure academic and personal achievements. These tests and surveys will be used to help a student achieve individual goals and to improve college programs and services.

A student's earnest and sincere participation on tests, learning tasks, exit exams and surveys will provide the College with accurate information to be used in planning effective programs and services. Students should take seriously their participation in these activities.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College is committed to providing lifelong learning opportunities for all Georgians. Established in 1940, the Public Service and Business Outreach Center provides a link between the college and the communities it serves. An extension of the traditional on-campus learning process, continuing education programs are developed in response to educational demands and requests of citizens, professional and business groups, governmental agencies, and civic groups. Instructional services consist of non-degree work primarily designed for the purpose of upgrading skills for career/professional development, personal interest, and enrichment.

Entrance to non-credit programs is not based on educational background, and no grades are given in most classes. The only requirement for enrolling in most classes is interest and a desire to learn.

The Public Service and Business Outreach Center is located on the first floor of Weltner Hall. Additional information may be obtained on the web at www.abac.edu/psbo or by emailing psbo@abac.edu.

THE ARTS CONNECTION

The Arts Connection is located in the Carlton Center on the ABAC campus. It represents another aspect of the College's commitment to continual learning and public service by seeking to broaden the cultural perspectives of South Georgians through a variety of programs and activities. The Arts Connection has developed a multi-county arts alliance through which it presents arts in education programs, professional performances, festivals, arts camps, and residencies by professional dance and theater groups. In addition, the Arts Connection has launched a program to recognize and sustain the folk life of South Georgia. The Arts Connection attracts participants from virtually all walks of life.

ALLIED STATE AGENCIES

The work of Abraham Baldwin is complemented by the continual, informal cooperation of other state-level agencies and institutions located in Tifton. Together, they assist the College in providing work experience, internships, and job placement for students, additional expertise in agricultural research, coordination of conferences and seminars, facilities, and research and writing opportunities for faculty members.

The College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at the University of Georgia has two related units at its Tifton Campus that complement the mission of ABAC. One of these units is the UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center (TCCC). The other unit is the Coastal Plain Experiment Station. The program of the TCCC is directed toward full development and utilization of the social and economic potential of the region and the state. Its objectives include 1) increasing agricultural and forest production through continued research and the application of research findings; 2) advancing developments in marketing and utilization of farm and forest products; 3) aiding community development and solving problems related to lifestyles and social interaction; 4) furthering labor training and utilization to provide

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more skilled workers in the various areas of agribusiness and to help general farm workers in coping productively with increasing farm technology.

The Experiment Station has approximately 100 scientists in various specialized areas who are engaged in research and development in the plant and animal sciences. The proximity of the station's personnel to the College contributes to an invigorating climate of inquiry and study for students, faculty, and staff. Many ABAC students find part-time employment at the Station, and some ventures are shared jointly by the two institutions.

A third allied state agency is the State Museum of Agriculture, popularly known as the Georgia Agrirama. Its aim is to preserve and exhibit the culture of South Georgia through a restored settlement of the late nineteenth century. The two dozen restored buildings at the Agrirama range from an 1896 farmhouse to a steam-powered cotton gin and provide a living history museum for the people of the state.

Two other state offices, the Georgia Department of Labor and the Department of Natural Resources, contribute to ABAC's efforts to provide job placement and work experience for its students. The Department of Labor, in cooperation with the College, provides employment assistance for students whose education has prepared them for direct entry into the job market. The Department of Natural Resources works with faculty members in the forestry and wildlife programs of the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources and helps provide work experiences for students in the areas of game and forest management.

ABAC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Anyone who has completed a minimum of 10 semester hours of college credit is eligible for membership in the ABAC Alumni Association. Only those who have earned 30 or more hours are considered active alumni. The Ag Alumni Council, a special interest group of the Association, consists of alumni from agriculture, family and consumer sciences (home economics), forest resources and veterinary medicine.

The purpose of the Association is to promote activities designed to strengthen and enrich the education and extracurricular programs of ABAC so the College can make a maximum contribution to the economic, social, cultural, and spiritual life of Georgia and the surrounding area.

An alumni reunion weekend called Celebrate ABAC is held in the spring of each year and continues to grow in numbers and enthusiasm. Awards are presented to alumni annually who have excelled in various professions.

There are no dues, but financial requests are made through the ABAC Foundation. Contributions to the Foundation fund alumni activities including Celebrate ABAC weekend, the awards program and alumni scholarships as well as other campus activities.

ABAC FOUNDATION

In 1954, businessmen in Tifton and Tift County organized the Greater Baldwin Association to advance the cause of education by supporting programs and activities of the College which could not be funded through the budget allocated by the state. In 1974, in order to achieve closer identification with the College, the name of the organization was changed to the Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Foundation. The purpose remains the same. Funds made payable to the Foundation are used for purchasing any needed equipment and property, providing academic and athletic scholarships, campus improvements, and other projects and activities which the board of directors may deem appropriate.

The Foundation accepts gifts of cash, securities, trusts, real estate, gifts-in-kind, life insurance, bequests or a combination thereof. All gifts to the Foundation are tax

deductible.

LOCATION OF THE COLLEGE

ABAC is located in south central Georgia on a 421-acre tract of land on the north side of the city of Tifton alongside Highway I-75.

The College is also readily accessible via U.S. Highway 41, which is within one-half mile of the campus. ABAC is approximately 64 miles from the Florida state line via I-75 and 110 miles from the Alabama state line via Highway 82.

Tifton is served by major airlines through airports at Albany, GA, Macon, GA, Valdosta, GA, and Tallahassee, FL.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

A campus map is available at www.abac.edu/map.

ABAC LAKESIDE—Housing is provided for 489 freshman students at ABAC Lakeside on the north shore of Lake Baldwin.

ABAC PLACE APARTMENTS—The 14-acre ABAC Place apartment complex is located on the west side of campus. It includes housing for 835 students, most in 4-bedroom, 2-bath units.

AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BUILDING—This 39,000 square foot building houses offices for the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources, seven classrooms, an outdoor animal science lab, and a multipurpose classroom.

BOWEN HALL—This building houses classrooms, faculty offices, the Dean's office for the School of Human Sciences, and the Regional Police Academy. The studio for art students is also located in this building.

BRITT HALL—Located on the north side of the campus, this two-story building contains a portion of the School of Science and Mathematics, three biology laboratories, a chemistry laboratory, classrooms, and faculty offices.

CARLTON CENTER—This facility of 42,000 square feet serves as the central learning resources center for the college. The Baldwin Library is located on the second and third floors of the Carlton Center. It supports teaching and learning at ABAC by providing collections that enhance the curricula, reference and research assistance to identify information, instruction that fosters information literacy, services that are responsive to the needs of its constituents, and access to information beyond its walls. Fax and delivery services are also available to provide information to ABAC students taking courses at remote sites. The Carlton Center also houses media production facilities, the Student Success Center, Student Support Services, Math and Writing labs, the Advising Center, and a coffee shop on the ground floor. The building is designed to serve the needs of students, faculty, and the community.

CENTRAL DISTRIBUTION PLANT—This building provides heating and cooling for most of the campus.

CHAMBLISS BUILDING—Containing 45,000 square feet, this building houses the faculty and staff of Agricultural Engineering and Agricultural Equipment Technology. Classrooms and a wide variety of laboratories used by students in many different programs of study are located in the building.

COMER HALL—This dormitory building houses students when no housing is available at ABAC Place and ABAC Lakeside.

CONGER HALL—This three-story building houses the School of Business, the offices for Georgia Southwestern State University, Office of Information Technology and

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Institutional Research, faculty offices, flexible classroom space, computer labs, and an auditorium. The ABAC microcomputer labs are located on the second floor. The college's Computer Center is located on the first floor.

DEVELOPMENT-ALUMNI HOUSE—Located on the north side of the campus, this building houses the Office of College Advancement, the ABAC Foundation, and the ABAC Alumni Association. This building was built in 1967 and was renovated for its present use in 1990 and again in 2008. It overlooks Lake Baldwin, a recreational area for faculty, staff, and students.

DONALDSON DINING HALL—This building provides a seating capacity in excess of 600. It is used almost exclusively for student meal service.

DRIGGERS LECTURE HALL-CHAPEL—This non-denominational chapel is used for recitals, concerts, lectures, and weddings.

ENVIRONMENTAL HORTICULTURE BUILDING—Containing approximately 20,000 square feet and opened for use in Fall 2001, this facility provides offices, classroom and laboratory space for instructional purposes in all the Environmental Horticulture programs. All classrooms and labs offer faculty and students a professional teaching and learning environment. Also, English, mathematics, science, and agricultural classes are taught in the building on a space available basis. Laboratories include computer and graphics (information technology), turf and grounds equipment technology, ornamental plant identification, pest management, a teaching greenhouse, and a ceramics lab.

EVANS HALL—This building is used for administrative offices for the President, Public Relations, and Fiscal Affairs. It is the former Health Center for the college, renovated for its present use in 2007.

FOREST LAKES GOLF CLUB—This nine-hole, 91-acre golf course, located five miles northeast of the campus, is used as a learning laboratory for students in many different areas of study at ABAC. Tifton ophthalmologist Larry Moorman and his wife, Debra, donated the course to the ABAC Foundation, and the college now has complete use of the facility. It also remains open for public play.

GAINES HALL—This building is awaiting renovation.

GRAY HALL—This building is located adjacent to Britt Hall. It contains laboratories for physics and chemistry, classrooms and faculty offices.

GRESSETTE GYMNASIUM—This 42,000 square feet physical education facility contains faculty offices, classrooms, special rooms for weight lifting and personal contact sports, and a large basketball court with seating capacity for approximately 2,500. Adjacent to the complex is an Olympic-sized swimming pool.

HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING—This modern, well-equipped building contains the offices, classrooms and laboratories for the School of Nursing and Health Sciences. It is also home for the Student Health Center.

HERRING HALL—This former residence hall is awaiting renovation.

HOWARD AUDITORIUM—Equipped with a large stage and a capacity for over 300 people, the auditorium is the center of many college and community activities, including concerts and plays.

INFORMATION CENTER—This building is located between Lewis Hall and the Health Sciences building. Information and campus maps are available to campus visitors.

J.G. WOODROOF FARM—The 200-acre college farm is used in such academic programs as agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal science, wildlife, forestry,

environmental horticulture, veterinary medicine, and more.

J. LAMAR BRANCH STUDENT CENTER—Located directly behind Tift Hall, the J. Lamar Branch Student Center contains the administrative offices of Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and the student offices of the Student Government Association, Campus Activities Board, Student Judicial Council, and the student communications media, including the student newspaper, "The Stallion," and WPLH, the student radio station. The building also houses the Bookstore, Post Office, and Nickelodeon multi-purpose room.

JOHN HUNT TOWN CENTER—This building contains the Student Housing office as well as a game room, fitness room, computer lab, kitchen, meeting room, and a convenience store.

KING HALL—This building houses general classrooms, computer labs, faculty offices, and the School of Liberal Arts offices.

LEWIS HALL—This former residence hall is presently awaiting renovation.

MUSIC BUILDING—Centrally located on campus, the music building houses classrooms, laboratories, practice rooms, rehearsal areas and offices of the vocal and instrumental programs of the college.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION OUTDOOR FACILITIES—Situated along the west side of the campus is a 40-acre physical education outdoor sports complex. It features a baseball field, tennis courts, a softball field, a soccer field, an intramural softball field and a field for soccer and intramural sports. In addition, a putting green is located near Lake Baldwin. ABAC also features stables for students' horses and a rodeo arena. These facilities are open to college students, faculty, and staff.

PHYSICAL PLANT WAREHOUSE—This facility houses the supply center for the college. It contains a warehouse storage area and offices for the administrative staff of Plant Operations and Procurement.

RED HILL ATHLETIC CENTER—This building houses dressing rooms for baseball, tennis, and softball.

THRASH GYMNASIUM—This facility is used for classes in physical education, intramural sports, and other student activities. It is connected to Howard Auditorium by a rotunda.

TIFT HALL—This building is in the process of renovation.

WELTNER HALL—This building houses the Public Service and Business Outreach Center, Office of ABAC Police, and the Office of the College Assistance Migrant Program. In addition, Georgia Department of Education Supervisors of Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics are located in this building.

YOW FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE BUILDING—This 20,000 square foot facility provides classroom, laboratory, and faculty office space for the forest and wildlife management programs.

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