

# General Information

## HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

On February 20, 1908, an area high school called the Second District Agricultural and Mechanical School opened its doors to 27 students in Tifton, Georgia. This was the beginning of the college known today as Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC). In 1925 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 the 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. Instructional emphasis was placed on programs in agriculture, forestry, and home economics

Throughout these years and these changes, the College has grown to an enrollment of 3,326 students in the fall semester of 2009. 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 152 of Georgia's 159 counties, 17 other states and 11 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.

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 and a Bachelor of Science degree in Rural Studies and Bachelor of Applied Science degree programs in Diversified Agriculture and Turfgrass and Golf Course Management as well as 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:

- 15<sup>th</sup> Century Society
- Agricultural and Applied Economics Association
- American Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation & Dance
- American Association of Critical Care Nurses
- American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences
- American Chemical Society
- American Choral Directors Association (ACDA)
- American College Health Association
- American College of Sports Medicine
- American Council on Exercise

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American Education Research Association  
American Heart Association  
American Historical Association  
American Mathematical Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Political Science Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Quarter Horse Association  
American Red Cross  
American Society for Plant Taxonomy  
American Society of Agronomy  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
Associated Writers and Writing Programs (WPA)  
Association for the Study of Literature and Environment  
Association of Southeastern Biologists  
Botanical Society of America  
Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Chemical Education Division of the American Chemical Society  
College Media Advisers  
Cook County Cattlemen's Association  
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Eastern Forest Technician Schools  
Crustacean Society  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Florida Cattlemen's Association  
Georgia Agribusiness Council  
Georgia Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation  
Georgia Association of Colleges  
Georgia Association of Developmental Education  
Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences  
Georgia Association of Historians  
Georgia Association of Special Programs Personnel  
Georgia Athletic Trainers Association  
Georgia Cattlemen's Association  
Georgia Certified Landscape Professional Association  
Georgia Chapter of The Wildlife Society  
Georgia Collegiate Honors Council  
Georgia Collegiate Press Association  
Georgia Communication Association  
Georgia Educators Association  
Georgia Electric Vehicle Education Program  
Georgia Farm Bureau  
Georgia FFA Alumni Association  
Georgia Forestry Association  
Georgia Green Industry Association  
Georgia Junior College Athletic Association  
Georgia Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges  
Georgia National Association of Teachers of Singing  
Georgia Nurses Association  
Georgia Political Science Association  
Georgia Theatre Conference  
Gulf Coast Association of Creative Writing Teachers  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
International Arthurian Society, North American Branch  
International Association for Plant Taxonomy  
International Reading Association

International Trumpet Guild  
Jane Austen Society  
Jazz Educators Network  
Mid-Western Political Science Association  
Modern Language Association  
Music Educators National Conference  
Music Teachers National Association  
National Agri-Marketing Association  
National Alliance of Two Year College Athletic Administrators  
National Association for the Education of Young Children  
National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics  
National Association of Developmental Educators  
National Association of Teachers of Singing  
National Athletic Trainers Association  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Collegiate Honors Council  
National Council for Teachers of English  
National Council on Family Relations  
National Educator Association  
National Fastpitch Coaches Association  
National Head Start Association  
National HEP CAMP Association  
National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association  
National Junior College Athletic Association  
National League for Nursing  
National Strength Training and Conditioning Association  
National Student Nurses' Association  
New Chaucer Society  
North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture  
Phi Delta Kappa  
Professional Association of Georgia Educators  
Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics  
Society of American Foresters  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
South Atlantic Modern Language Association  
South East Athletic Trainers Association  
Southeastern American Society for 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies  
Southeastern Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel  
Southeastern Section of The Wildlife Society  
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society  
Southern Criminal Justice Association  
Southern Historical Association  
Southern Political Science Association  
Southern States Communication Association  
The Wildlife Society  
Tift County Cattlemen's Association  
Toni Morrison Society  
Two Year and Community College Chemistry Consortium  
Two-Year College English Association, Southeast  
United States Tennis 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. Students may also pursue Baccalaureate degrees in selected fields.

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 housing provides the convenience of on-campus residence life.

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](http://www.abac.edu/psbo) or by emailing [psbo@abac.edu](mailto:psbo@abac.edu).

## **STATE MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE**

The State Museum of Agriculture and Rural Life in Tifton became a part of ABAC in 2010. Its aim is to preserve and exhibit the culture of South Georgia through a restored settlement of the late 19th century. The two dozen restored buildings at the museum range from an 1896 farmhouse to a steam-powered cotton gin. The 95-acre site provides a living history museum for the people of the state. The museum is also used as a laboratory for a variety of ABAC classes.

## **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 ABAC 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 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

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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.

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**

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.

Anyone who has completed a minimum of 15 quarter or semester hours of college credit at ABAC is eligible for membership in the ABAC Alumni Association if they pay an annual membership fee of \$35. Graduates automatically receive one year of free membership in the Association. Some special interest alumni groups may be formed at the discretion of the ABAC Alumni Association. One such group is the Ag Alumni Council, which consists of alumni from agriculture, family and consumer sciences (home economics), forest resources and veterinary medicine.

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.

### **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 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](http://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, and an outdoor biofuels learning laboratory.

**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, four biology laboratories, 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. 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 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.

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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. 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 former office 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.

J.G. WOODROOF FARM—The 200-acre college farm is used to provide experiential learning opportunities to enhance critical thinking and problem solving in academic programs such as agronomy, agricultural engineering, animal science, wildlife, forestry, and environmental horticulture.

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.

STATE MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE—Features on this 95-acre site include buildings characteristic of a traditional late 19<sup>th</sup> century farm community, a grist mill, a cotton gin, a sawmill, a school house, a turpentine still, a feed and seed store, a 1.3 mile railroad system with a 1917 Vulcan Iron Works steam locomotive, and the Tift House, the original Victorian home of H.H. Tift, Tifton's founder and the man who provided the impetus behind the location of the Second District A&M School in Tifton.

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 original classroom and administration 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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