What is GS LEAD?

**Graduate Scholars Leadership, Engagement, and Development**

GS LEAD, a National Science Foundation funded program, trains doctoral students in problem-solving, interdisciplinary teamwork, leadership, communication, and community engagement. While GS LEAD is targeted to transforming the education of STEM graduate students, a critical component of the program is the inclusion of diverse students from across campus to form multidisciplinary teams. The program is ideally suited for incoming doctoral students who have the potential to be outstanding leaders in their field, and who would benefit from early, focused training in critical professional skills that transcend discipline and prepare them for 21st century careers. Participation in GS LEAD includes a Summer Academy and a fall Challenge Course.

The University of Georgia Story

At the heart of all we do is heart. And it's the love we share for our students, for the state of Georgia, and for the people of the world that turns every potential possibility into something truly possible.

This is why we’re solving grand global challenges. This is how we’re serving communities and improving human lives. And this is the reason we give our students every opportunity to do more, achieve more and become more.

Wherever people are suffering, whenever communities are looking for stronger leaders, and whenever the world cries out for those who will bring better solutions, we are there to answer the call to service.

It’s more than our mission. More than our passion.

**It’s our commitment.**

**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

grad.uga.edu
The Summer Academy

The Summer Academy begins in mid-June and continues for six weeks with a break the week of July 4th. Doctoral students are immersed in a student-centered learning environment that fosters the development of critical transformative skills. Students selected to participate in the Summer Academy will receive a stipend and will be responsible for making their own housing arrangements during the summer.

“I have learned how to connect the inspiration I feel when hearing the narratives of those I serve with the ideas I have to make a difference in their lives.”
- Rachel Salyer (Kinesiology, College of Education)

The Grand Challenge Course

The fall semester Grand Challenge Course focuses on the central theme of building resilience and sustainability into underserved communities. Students work with community partners to understand and navigate the challenges that communities encounter in solving local issues. Throughout the semester they learn best practices in community engagement and solidify their Summer Academy training in ways that will allow them to incorporate these skills into their doctoral research and professional careers.

“I have made valuable connections with scientists, leaders, communities, farmers, and passionate individuals. We bonded as a cohort and will support each other as we proceed through graduate school.”
- Christian Andersen (Toxicology, Physiology & Pharmacology)

How to Participate

Participants must be incoming doctoral students and must be nominated by their graduate coordinator.

Incoming doctoral students interested in participating in GS LEAD should contact their Graduate Coordinator.