



For Students by Students: Guide for UF Freshmen

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Introduction

In the beginning of Fall 2017, seven students met in a class that focused on implementing creativity into our chosen fields. This course was focused on ideas written about by Twyla Tharp, and in reading her words, we found ways to improve our own work. We explored across campus, learning about the hidden nooks and crannies that help students to succeed. We were introduced to countless professors, advisors, and experts that broadened our minds. We taught each other about how we succeed in our fields and gave each other ideas of how to apply these techniques to our professions and passions!

It became clear to us that many of these tools and tips were unknown to students, and we felt that this was a missed chance to utilize the tools of our university. We dedicated our time to create a guide, for freshmen new to the area, to the best (in our opinion) of the Gainesville area! As we note in the disclaimer, this guide is merely our best current thinking, and solely our opinions and ideas. Then again, we hope that's why you will read it because it was written and tested by students like yourself. We hope in your time at the University of Florida you explore some of the opportunities we wrote about, add to your own experiences, and pass on what you learn to the students who come after you!



2017 Mining Creativity Class: Jennifer Smith, Lauren Adler, Caroline Parkhill, Sofia Forwood, Sofi Zacarias, Safia Boustique, and Juan Beltran. Not pictured: Joey McGinn.

Chapter 1: Food

The Freshman Fifteen is NOT a myth! Here in Gainesville we have a wide variety of places to grab a quick bite to eat, sit down and study with a large cup of coffee, eat ice cream with friends, and even go on a fancy date. Below we have provided you with popular eateries On and Off the UF campus. Scroll down to the tables, pick a restaurant that makes your tummy grumble and click on the links to learn more about it! We understand the struggle of a college budget, so remember to look out for daily or seasonal deals. Some popular ones to get you guys started include: \$3.99 Burgers at Social on Mondays, \$6.99 Large Poke Sticks at Gumby's Pizza on Tuesdays, and \$5.99 Burritos at Tijuana Flats on Thursdays.

On Campus Eateries

Name of Restaurant	Location	Type of Food	Menu	Hours
<u>Starbucks</u>	<u>Locations Differ</u>	Coffee, tea, pastries, sandwiches.	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Tijuana Flats</u>	1720 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32602	Mexican	<u>Menu</u>	Everyday: 11am-9pm
<u>Chipotle</u>	1432 W University Ave, Gainesville	Mexican fast food grill	<u>Menu</u>	Monday-Sunday: 10.45am-10pm
<u>Chick fil a</u>	<u>Locations Differ</u>	Fast food chicken/ salads	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Chomp it	<u>Locations Differ</u>	Fast food salads, chicken tenders, burgers...	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Subway</u>	<u>Locations Differ</u>	Sandwiches and Salad	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Croutons</u>	<u>Exact Location</u>	Salads	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Designer Greens</u>	1702 W University Ave E, Gainesville, FL 32603	Salads/ Sandwiches	<u>Menu</u>	Monday-Friday: 11am-1.30pm Saturday-Sunday: 12pm-7.30pm
<u>Grill Fresh</u>	17 NW 17th St, Gainesville, FL 32603	Healthy bowls	<u>Menu</u>	Sunday-Thursday: 11am-10pm Friday-Saturday: 11am-11pm
<u>Moes</u>	<u>Exact Location</u>	Southwestern fast food	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Swamp</u>	1642 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32603	American food	<u>Menu</u>	Everyday: 11am-2am
<u>Relish</u>	1702 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32603	Fast food burgers	<u>Menu</u>	Monday-Saturday: 11am-3am Sunday: 11am-1am
<u>Wendys</u>	<u>Exact Location</u>	Fast food burgers and salads	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Social at Midtown</u>	1728 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32603	Sports Bar and Grill	<u>Menu</u>	Everyday: 11am-2am
<u>Pizza by the Slice (Italian Gator)</u>	1728 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32603	Pizza	<u>Menu</u>	Monday-Friday: 11am-2.30am Saturday: 5pm-2.30am Sunday Closed
<u>Sushi Chao</u>	1620 W University Ave Ste A, Gainesville, FL 32603	Fast Sushi, poke bowls, boba tea and asian cuisine.	<u>Menu</u>	Monday-Friday: 11am-10pm Saturday-Sunday: 12pm-10pm
<u>Tatu</u>	1702 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32603	Japanese and Sushi	<u>Menu</u>	Monday-Friday: 11am- 2am Saturday: 6pm- 2am Sunday: 6pm-10pm
<u>Panda Express</u>	<u>Exact Location</u>	Asian	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>
<u>Pita Pit</u>	1702 W University Ave C, Gainesville, FL 32603	Pitas	<u>Menu</u>	Everyday: 11am-2am
<u>Au Bon Pain</u>	<u>Exact Location</u> sd.ufl.edu/dining/hours/RegularHours.aspx	French Café Bakery	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Hours</u>

Off Campus Eateries

Name of Restaurant	Location	Type of Food	Menu	Hours
<u>Pascals</u>	112 NW 16th St, Gainesville, FL 32603	Coffee Shop	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Fri: 8am-7pm Sat-Sun: Closed
CYM Coffee Shop	5404 NW 8th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32605	Coffee Shop		Mon-Fri: 7am-7pm Sat-Sun: 8am-7pm
<u>La Tienda</u>	2204 SW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32608	Mexican	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Thurs: 11am-9:30pm Fri-Sat: 11am-10pm Sun: 11am-9pm
El Indio	407 NW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32601	Mexican	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 9am-10pm
<u>Felipe's Mexican Taqueria</u>	1209 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Mexican	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 11am-10pm Friday: 11am-11pm Saturday: 11am-12am
<u>Boca Fiesta</u>	232 SE 1 St, Gainesville, FL 32601	Mexican	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sat: 4pm-2am Sun: 11am-11pm
<u>Liquid Ginger</u>	101 SE 2 Pl, Gainesville, FL 32601	Sushi/Chinese	<u>Menu</u>	Mon: 5pm-10pm Tues-Fri: 11:30am-3pm & 5pm-10pm Sat: 5pm-10:30pm Sun: 12pm-3pm & 4pm-10pm
<u>Dragonfly</u>	201 SE 2nd Ave #104, Gainesville, FL 32601	Sushi/Japanese	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Wed: 5pm-10pm Thursday: 11:30am-2pm & 5pm-10pm Friday: 11:30am-2pm & 5pm-11pm Saturday: 5pm-11pm
<u>Bento</u>	3832 W Newberry Rd, Gainesville & 3841 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville	Japanese	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Thurs: 11am-10pm Fri: 11am-11pm Sat: 11:30am-11pm Sun: 11:30am-10pm
<u>Yummy House</u>	3102 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32608	Authentic Chinese Food	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 11am-2:30pm & 5pm-9:30pm
<u>Vale Food Co.</u>	3841 SW Archer Rd Suite B, Gainesville, FL 32608	Bowls, Acai, Avocado Toast	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 10:30am-10:30pm
<u>3 Natives</u>	1023 FL-24, Gainesville, FL 32601	Acai Bowls & breakfast	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Fri: 9am-6pm Sat: 9am-8pm
<u>Keke's Breakfast Cafe</u>	4062 Plaza Blvd Suite 10, Gainesville, FL 32608	Brunch	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 7am-2:30pm
<u>Peach Valley Cafe</u>	3275 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32608	Brunch	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 7am-2:30pm
<u>Civilization</u>	1511 NW 2nd St, Gainesville, FL 32601	Brunch	<u>Menu</u>	Mon: Closed Tues-Thurs: 11am-2pm & 5:30pm-9pm Fri: 11am-2pm & 5:30pm-9:30pm Sat: 10am-2pm & 5:30pm-9:30pm Sun: 10am-2pm
<u>Flying Biscuit</u>	4150 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605	Brunch	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Fri: 7am-3pm Sat-Sun: 7am-4pm
<u>Metro Diner</u>	2130 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32608	Brunch	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 6:30am-8pm Fri-Sat: 6:30am-8:30pm
Bagels and Noodles	1222 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Bagels and Thai Cuisine	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sat: 6:30am-9pm Sun: 6:30am- 3pm

Name of Restaurant	Location	Type of Food	Menu	Hours
<u>Maple Street Biscuit</u>	3904 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608	Southern Breakfast and Lunch	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Thurs: 7am-2pm Fri-Sat: 7am-3pm Sun: Closed
<u>OAK</u>	15 SE 1st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Southern Food	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Wed: 11am-10pm Thurs-Sat: 11am-2am
<u>Emilianos</u>	7 SE 1st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Latin	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Thurs: 11am-10pm Fri-Sat: 11am-10:30pm Sun: 10am-3pm
<u>Mi Apa</u>	114 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32607	Latin	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 7am-10pm Fri-Sat: 7am-11pm
<u>Blaze Pizza</u>	3617 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608	Pizza	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 10:30am-11pm Fri-Sat: 10:30am-12am
<u>Satchels Pizza</u>	1800 NE 23rd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32609	Pizza/Italian	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Mon: Closed Tues-Sat: 11am-10pm
<u>Gumby's Pizza</u>	15 SE 1st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Pizza	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 11am-3am Fri-Sat: 11am-4am
<u>Hyppo</u>	214 SE 2nd Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Gourmet Ice Pops	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 11am-10pm Fri-Sat: 11am-12am
<u>Mr. Cool</u>	1025 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Rolled Thai Ice Cream	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 11:30am-10:30pm Fri-Sat: 11:30am-12am
<u>Sweet Berries</u>	505 NW 13th St, Gainesville, FL 32601	Ice Cream	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 11am-10pm Fri-Sat: 11am-11pm
<u>D'lites Emporium</u>	4216 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605	Ice Cream	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Thurs: 11am-9pm Fri-Sat: 11am-10pm Sun: 12pm-9pm
<u>Cookiegasm</u>	12 SW 2nd St, Gainesville, FL 32601	Late Night Cookie Delivery	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Wed: 6pm-1am Thurs-Sat: 6pm-3am
<u>Midnight cookies</u>	3345 SW 34th St Ste 1, Gainesville, FL 32608	Late Night Cookie Delivery	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Fri: 6pm-2am Sat: 3pm-2am Sun: 3pm-1am
<u>Lollicup Coffee and Tea</u>	3550 SW 34th St, Gainesville, FL 32608	Dessert Drink Shop	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sat: 12pm-12am Sun: 12pm-11pm
<u>Which Wich</u>	3524 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608	Sandwiches	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 10am-10pm
<u>Daily Green</u>	436 SE 2nd St, Gainesville, FL 32601	Vegetarian fast food and juices	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Tues: Closed Wed-Sat: 11am-7pm Sun: 10am-2pm
<u>Karma Cream</u>	15 SE 1st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Vegan Treats	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Fri: 8am-11pm Sat-Sun: 10am-11pm
<u>Reggae Shack</u>	619 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Jamaican	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 11am-10pm
<u>Paramount Grill</u>	12 SW 1st Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Gourmet American	<u>Menu</u>	Mon: 5pm-9:30pm Tues-Thurs: 11am-2pm & 5pm-9:30pm Fri-Sat: 11am-2pm & 5pm-10:30pm Sun: 10am-3pm & 5pm-9:30pm
<u>BurgerFi</u>	3524 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville, FL 32608	America Shack	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 11am-10pm Fri-Sat: 11am-12am

Name of Restaurant	Location	Type of Food	Menu	Hours
<u>The Top</u>	30 N Main St, Gainesville, FL 32601	American	<u>Menu</u>	Mon: Closed Tues-Sat: 5pm-2am Sun: 10am-2pm & 5pm-2am
<u>Zoes Kitchen</u>	3730 SW Archer Rd Ste 220, Gainesville, FL 32608	Fast Food Mediterranean	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Sun: 11am- 9:30pm
<u>Harry's Seafood</u>	110 SE 1st St, Gainesville, FL 32601	Seafood	<u>Menu</u>	Sun-Thurs: 11am-10pm Fri-Sat: 11am-11pm
<u>Leonardo's 706</u>	1245 W University Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601	Italian	<u>Menu</u>	Mon-Thurs: 5pm-10pm Fri-Sat: 5pm-11pm Sun: 10:30am-3pm & 5pm-10pm

Chapter 2: Community Service

Community Service in Gainesville exists in three main areas! There are places where you can help underprivileged and impoverished people, places to help displaced and abandoned animals, and places that assist your mental and physical care!

Community Service for the Impoverished and Underprivileged

St. Francis House: The most well-known center in Gainesville that cares for homeless citizens of the city. St. Francis House offers a kitchen for people to cook their own food and a cafeteria for those that cannot purchase food. They do not allow more than one meal a day per person, per the number of cafeterias available throughout the city. More importantly, the House offers showers, a career closet, job application services, and an address that can be used for employment and tax purposes. I personally have volunteered here before, and it provides an enlightening view of Gainesville and the people who reside here.

- 413 S. Main Street, Gainesville FL 32601
- (352) 378-9079

Habitat for Humanity: Construction organization that is based on the belief that everyone deserves and safe and secure home, regardless of political belief, race, ethnicity, class, gender, or age. They will work with volunteers and professionals to provide a home for the less fortunate regardless of their adherence or nonadherence to a faith. Even if construction is not your thing, they offer a wide variety of volunteer options from clerical work to interactions with families being served!

- 2630 NW 41st St., C-3 Gainesville FL 32606
- 352-378-4663

Food4Kids Backpack Program: Based on the idea that chronically hungry children are difficult to identify, and

that those who have are often able to help those who don't have. The Backpack program through Food4Kids offers a chance for you to donate, volunteer, and work with chronically hungry students within the Alachua County Schools. Volunteers exist in all forms and they accept any help they can get!

- Locations vary throughout the county, and can be found on the website!
- 352-514-0281

Field and Fork Campus Pantry: Struggling to afford, find, and keep track of meals can be a burden on students, and it's one that the University sought to fix through the creation of the Field & Fork Campus Food Program. The Pantry is open to any student with a valid UFID and is a free service! They ALWAYS need more canned donations, and I encourage you to visit in your first few weeks here to see what the needs are! Hours differ by day, and are dependent on campus events!

Community Service for the Animals of Alachua County

Alachua County Humane Society: Offers volunteer opportunities for those who need animal science experience to work with animals that do not have homes. There are no minimum requirements, and they often partner with UF and the veterinary college. They require a \$20 fee that comes with training, a t-shirt, nametag, and offer scholarships for those that cannot afford.

- 4205 NW 6th Street, Gainesville FL 32609
- Requires an application and payment of the volunteer fee.

Gainesville Pet Rescue: A non-profit organization that pledges to provide a home for any animal that is taken into the adoption program, regardless of the amount of time that they stay in the program. Their goal is to work in tandem with city officials to end Gainesville's current policy allowing euthanasia and to create a "no-kill" zone within the city limits to start. Volunteers must be over 18 years of age and have to fill out an application and attend Orientation.

- 5403 SW Archer Rd, Gainesville FL 32608
- 352-692-4776

Operation Catnip: Goal is to "set the bar" on a large scale, low cost, spay/neuter program for free-ranging cats. They also provide opportunities for feral cats to receive vaccination and make it more likely for these animals to be accepted into good shelters and eventually adopted. One of the more specialized programs within Gainesville city limits, they offer volunteering positions to anyone over the age of 18, with certified rabies vaccinations. This high level of specialization also comes with one of the most expensive opportunities to volunteer, expenses are

listed on the website. They have a three step process where you 1) Fill out the application 2) Select what position within the clinic in which you would like to volunteer and 3) Complete the training for the said position.

- P.O. Box 141023, Gainesville FL 32614
- Or contact through the Alachua County Humane Society

Community Service for Mental and Physical Health Care

Alachua County Crisis Center: Offers 24/7 phone counseling for those struggling with suicidal thoughts or actions within Alachua County. The Crisis Center serves over 50,000 calls a year and is staffed all hours of every day, including holidays. ACCC offers volunteer and paid positions within the organization, to promote and support those who suffer from mental health problems.

- 218 SE 24th Street, Gainesville FL 32641
- 352-264-6789

Arts in Medicine Program: A program that unites the College of the Arts and the College of Medicine to alleviate medical ailments through different art forms such as painting, music, and performances of all kinds. One of the premier interdisciplinary programs /in the nation, the work performed by Arts in Medicine has helped to form a framework for similar. programs to be created around the world. Most outreach opportunities exist in the form of certification or completion of a degree, but they also offer outreach and shadowing through the program!

- Shands Hospital
- 352-273-1488

ARC of Alachua County: ARC specializes in creating an environment that provides gateways to independence for adults with developmental disorders, many of them would force people to remain in the care of their parents. ARC wants to help integration into the working, social, and relational world be as smooth as possible, and for the residents to find happiness in every aspect of their life. Volunteers for the ARC program are offered many different opportunities to serve the community, and no matter your strong suit you can find a place to help. All that's needed is a volunteer application with your preferences selected from their website!

- 3303 NW 83rd Street, Gainesville FL 32606
- 352-334-4060

Camp Boggy Creek: The idea for Camp Boggy Creek came from the notion that the

word “no” was said too much to children suffering from severe and often terminal illness. The Camp is a place where children who suffer from terminal and severe illnesses can build strong bonds of friendship and camaraderie, while still receiving expert medical care. Camp Boggy Creek serves children year round, and never asks anything of its attendees except that they bring a loving and optimistic outlook for the experience. Volunteering for this organization is one of the more intense processes available to UF students, but also one of the most rewarding. For a complete list of requirements, see the website!

- 30500 Brantley Branch Rd, Eustis FL 32736
- 352-483-4200

Chapter 3: Organizations and Events

We highly recommend utilizing Facebook and GatorConnect to stay updated on organization meetings and events. With over a thousand student organizations and clubs at this university, it would be impossible to include them all on this document. Aside from academic/leadership societies, the University is home to many leisure, art, and athletic organizations that can all be found on GatorConnect. We hope this timeline helps give you a starting point in finding organizations and events to make your mark at this university!

August

- Freshman Leadership Engineering Group applications open the first week of class.
- Freshman Leadership Council applications open the first week of class.
- Panhellenic Council holds rush week before August.
- New Student Convocation takes place the Friday before classes start.
- Welcome week takes place during the first week of August, various organizations will have events for new students to feel welcome and acclimated at the University of Florida.
- Hispanic Student Organization's Mentor Leadership Program applications open up the first week of classes.
- Applications for Preview Orientation Staff open at the end of this month.
- Gator Nights every Friday night.
- Most organizations meet every two weeks (i.e Industrial Engineering Society, Hispanic Engineers Society, etc).

September

- Football season begins!
- Honors Involvement Conference is held early September.
- Freshman Leadership Group applications are due early September.
- Preview Orientation Staff applications are due in mid-September.

- Freshman Leadership Engineering Group applications are due early September.
- Rush week for Interfraternity Council takes place mid-September.
- Multicultural Greek Council: check out Recruitment Showcase in mid-September, but each of the sororities/fraternities in MGC have different applications/deadlines
- Career Showcase takes place late September.
- Slating for political parties in early September.
- Student government elections are held in late September/early October.
- Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament applications open up late September/early October.
- Hispanic Student Organization's Mentor Leadership Program applications due early September.
- Rush for business fraternity Alpha Kappa Psi occurs in mid-September.
- Rush for engineering fraternity Theta Tau occurs early September.
- Engineering organizations hold bi-weekly meetings.
- Dance Marathon Emerging Leaders Program applications are due early September.
- Gatorship applications open up in the middle of September.

October

- Honors/Early registration for the Spring semester opens late October.
- Gatorship applications are due mid-October.
- Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament applications open up late September/early October.
- Homecoming/Gator growl occurs early-October.
- Florida Blue Key Speech and Debate Tournament applications open up late September/early October.

November

- Normal class registration for the Spring will be during this month. Make sure to know your registration time and make sure you have no holds!
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers national conference occurs early November.
- Florida Alternative Breaks list of trips are released; sign-ups are on a first come first served basis.
- Panhellenic Counselor applications are released and due during this month.

December

- Finals season begins the second week of November, most organizations will not hold meetings to allow students to study for their exams. Good luck on Finals!

- The University's Counseling and Wellness Center offers services to help students with stress during exam season.
- During Winter Break, consider working on club applications, since many are due the first week of Spring semester.
- Honors Ambassadors applications are released over break.
- Student political parties will release applications to be part of executive board for student government elections.

January

- Rush for professional fraternities, Theta Tau (Engineering Frat) and Alpha Kappa Psi (Business Frat) at the beginning of this month.
- IFC will host Spring Rush during mid-January.
- Some Panhellenic Sororities will host an informal recruitment in the Spring; the process and recruitment times vary based on chapter.
- Honors Ambassador Formal Meet & Greet will be during first week back from break.
- Applications for Honors Ambassadors are due in beginning of January.
- Cicerone Spring Forum will be hosted in early January.
- Cicerone applications will open in mid-January and close within a week.
- Campus Diplomat applications will be released and due during this month.
- Student Government will release more positions for Executive/Legislative/Judicial.
- Graham Civic Scholars application opens first week of January and due in mid-January.
- Spring Career Showcase will be held in the last week of January.
- Director and Assistant Director Applications are released and due for the Florida Blue Key Speech & Debate Tournament.
- Gator Nights every Friday night.

February

- Student Government elections for Spring candidates will happen during this month. Volunteer applications will be released to help work on the campaigns.
- LeadUF applications open the first week of February.
- Florida Leadership Academy's deadline to apply will be in late February; must be a Business or Accounting major to apply.
- Homecoming & Gator Growl Director applications are released in the end of February.

- The University of Florida Alumni Association hosts the Gator Run during this month. Discounts available for UFAA members.
- Many organizations will host Valentine's Day fundraisers during this month.
- Gator Nights every Friday night.

March

- Honors/Early registration for the Summer and Fall semesters open in end of March.
- Slating for Spring Senate Seats will be happening towards the beginning of the month
- Homecoming & Gator Growl Director applications are due mid-March.
- LeadUF applications due in early March.
- Gators of Tomorrow applications are due in the middle of March.
- Applications for Outstanding First-Year Leadership Award are due at the end of March.
- There will be a week off for the Spring Break. University of Florida hosts some alternative trips, such as Florida Alternative Breaks and outdoor adventures through the Rec Sports program.
- Gator Nights every Friday night.

April

- Normal class registration for the Spring will be during this month. Make sure to know your registration time and make sure you have no holds!
- Slating for Spring Senate Seats will be happening towards the beginning of the month
- Homecoming & Gator Growl Assistant Director applications are released in mid-April and due at the end of the month.
- The Big Event will be happening during the beginning of this month; can apply up to a week before the event.
- Dance Marathon occurs during this month; all students are welcome to watch the event in the Stephen O'Connell Center.
- Campus Diplomat applications will be released and due during this month.

May

- Most clubs/organizations will cancel meetings during this week to allow students to study for Finals. Good luck on your exams!
- Summer A term begins
- Preview Orientation sessions will also start in the beginning of this month.

Chapter 4: Gainesville Places

Gainesville is a unique place, centered on the presence of the University of Florida! Outside of campus, there are many different places to explore, eat, watch performances, and so much more! Some of these places aren't just a bus ride away but still offer a great look into the Gainesville community, which has so many different people. Make sure to check our section on Transportation for ways to head out to these places if you don't have transportation of your own! All of these places are verified and tested by one our authors, who is Gainesville Native himself!

Tioga Town Center: Tioga Town Center is a shopping mall that has several dining options and shopping options. It also has events on The Square. Leasing is available for those who want to live in the flats at Tioga.

- **GatorAider**, provided by RTS, leaves from Tioga Town Center and will drive you and your friends to the stadium for football games.
- 105 SW 128th St # 200, Newberry FL 32669

Haile Plantation Village Center: Haile Plantation Village Center is a small center in the form of a small town. It has little boutiques and cafes (like Patticakes, for instance). It's definitely a very cute place and at night, they turn on lights that give the place a warm atmosphere.

- Haile Plantation, Gainesville FL 32608
- 352-281-6017

La Chua Trail at Paynes Prairie: At the La Chua Trail, there is an elevated boardwalk as well as a dike out to the observation tower. It's nice to hike that trail but also nice to watch wildlife. The trail leads to the Alachua Sink and to the center of the prairie marsh and wetlands.

- 100 Savannah Blvd, Micanopy FL 32667

- Hours: Everyday from 8 am – 6 pm

Depot Park: Not only is there a museum (the Cade museum), but there is also a play area, promenade, splash lake, pavilion, conservation area, and Pop a Top General Store. Depot Park is a very family friendly place, and it also holds many events.

- 200 SE Depot Ave, Gainesville FL 32601
- 352-393-8510
- Hours: Sun-Thur: 6:30am – 9pm and Fri-Sat: 6:30am – 11pm

Devil's Den: Devil's Den is a beautiful spring with crystal clear water. It's perfect for swimming, scuba diving, or snorkeling with friends and family. There is an admission fee that changes depending on the activity you're doing as well as certain fees for certain rental equipment.

- 5390 NE 180 Ave, Williston, FL 32696
- 352-528-3344
- Hours: Mon-Thur: 9am – 5pm and Fri-Sun: 8am – 5pm

Santa Fe College Zoo: Gainesville's own zoo run through Santa Fe College! It has animals that reside here from all around the world, as new ways to preserve and rebuild habitats are researched in conjunction with the college and the University of Florida. A local legend is the ocelot Zeus who lives here!

3000 Northwest 83rd Street, Building Z, Gainesville, FL 32606

(352) 395-5603

Hours: Everyday 9am-2pm

Kanapaha Botanical Gardens: Named for nearby Lake Kanapaha, the botanical gardens is run by a local botanical society in North Florida. They routinely hold festivals and fairs that celebrate local and international biodiversity. It offers a wonderful break from the University and the city. It also serves as a wonderful reminder of the importance of protecting our Earth.

4700 SW 58th Dr, Gainesville, FL 32608

(352) 372-4981

Hours: Everyday 9am-5pm, Closed Tuesday

CYM Coffee Shop: An absolute necessity for anyone in Gainesville longer than a day! This local coffee shop is part of a larger shopping center run by the famous band Sister Hazel. A location unique to Gainesville, in addition to a coffee shop there is a local store that sells small town foods, drinks, and ice cream! There is also a full-service restaurant that uses local ingredients to craft delicious and healthy meals!

5404 NW 8th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32605

(352) 224-5101

Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-7pm

Sat, Sun 8am-7pm

Get Air, Gainesville!: The best, and only place in town to bounce your stress away! Gainesville's newest sky zone that provides a wonderful opportunity to get off campus and Get Air! The business provides fun for all ages, and can even serve as a meeting place for your organization/club!

6250 NW 23rd St, Gainesville, FL 32653

(352) 240-1178

Hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm

Friday 10am-12am

Saturday 10am-12am

Sunday 10am-8pm

Chapter 5: DIY

Do it Yourself Projects

These projects are all about finding fun, easy and cheap ways to make things at home! Especially in such a small place like a dorm room, it is important to find ways to store stuff in a cute and fun matter. Everyone who goes to college soon realizes the drastic change of being on a “college budget”. Trying to adapt to the new lifestyle and ways of life in Gainesville can be difficult. But by making your dorm room a nice place to live in, can seriously improve your experience. All of these projects come down to improving the Gator experience and spirit! Because many different materials are needed for these DIY projects we first want to talk about some places to go in the Gainesville area to find affordable things.

Repurpose Project



Some of the main perks of “doing it yourself” for your dorm decor is being able to make something that is unique and cheap. Before you head to one of the craft stores, we recommend checking local thrift stores first to see if they have the materials on hand. The Repurpose Project, a store unique to Gainesville, is a non-profit that is dedicated to keeping objects from ending up in the landfill. They have a plethora of random objects and the best part is, they allow you to name your own place. This is a great way to help save the planet AND your wallet with all your crafting projects.

Dorm Room Hacks and Decorations

As you start planning to move to your new home, here are some tips and tricks to help make the most of your

space. Pinterest is a great place for inspiration on how to create some really cool decorations and organization tools. A few of our favorites are listed below, but feel free to find your own!

Hanging Shelf



A board with drilled holes can be used to create a hanging shelf.

Microwave Heating Pad



Microwave heating pad

Pinboard for Room



Hanging Pin Board

Cord Box



A decorative box hides a power strip

Cord Organization



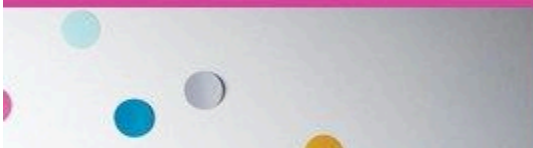
Use decorative clips to manage your electronics cords

More Organization Ideas



15 DORM DIY PROJECTS

that will make the whole floor — JEALOUS —



Game day Attire on a Budget

All college students love free t-shirts, but they don't always look the best. Here are a few tips and examples on how to bring your shirt game to the next level. We've shown a step-by-step on how we turned our "Swamp is Back" shirt into an awesome shirt for game days. Feel free to use the tips below on any shirt, such as the UF2021 shirt you will get at Preview!



Free UF T-shirt



Cut Sleeves off



Cut V out to create a choker appearance



Fun Gameday shirt!

Tips from Nikki B

Nikki Blum, a University of Florida student, owns a clothing brand called “Nikki B’s College Tees” and we came up with some awesome tips on creating your own t-shirt after talking with her!

- Any shirt can make an awesome tank top, just braid or twist the excess fabric in the back to make a cool halter or racerback tank!
- Add cool lace, ribbon, or zippers to give your shirt an extra “wow” factor. Sewing these materials on will make them last longer, but hot-gluing will also work!
- If you have any super large t-shirts, you can turn them into a dress instead of cutting a ton of the fabric.
- Bleaching is a new trend that totally can change the style of a shirt; if you don’t like the design of a shirt, try bleaching it!



Student, Nikki Blum, rocking her game day t-shirt!

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<http://www.repurposeproject.org/>

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Chapter 6: Tips for a Great College Experience

Study Spaces:

Tired of studying at Library West or the Marston Science Library? Try these other libraries instead:

- **Architecture and Fine Arts Library**: Looking for a quiet nook to study (or nap)? Located within the UF Fine Arts Complex, on the second floor of Fine Arts Building A, this library has several bunk-cubicles, making it great for independent studying or doing homework.
- **George A. Smathers Library**: Popularly known as Library East, the Smathers Library is located right next to Library West. It has a quiet reading room (called the Special Collections Grand Reading Room) as well as a Latin America and Caribbean Collection, the Judaica Suite, and more.

Leisure Courses

If you're interested in learning a new skill, you can take **leisure courses** at the Reitz Student Union. There are courses like pottery, ceramics, dance, bread making, guitar, and more! Though they're not free, they're still classes you can take for a new skill that won't affect your GPA.

- Registration is on August 23rd at 10 am

Game Room

If you're looking for a place to bowl, play ping pong, or shoot pool, the Reitz Student Union has a **Game Room**. Located on the ground level of the student union, the Game Room allows you to come in and use their facility or to reserve a portion of the room for a group.

- There's a low daily rate every Monday.
- Wednesdays are Wild; check out the website for the special discounted fees.
- The Game Room is free on most Gator Nights.

Tutoring

There is free campus tutoring at the [Broward Teaching Center](#), Little Hall, and the Chemistry Learning Center. Some (not all) of the topics include:

- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Writing
- Accounting

Transportation

Gator Aider

RTS provides transportation for you and your friends right to the stadium for football games. The Gator Aider service allows you to choose from five convenient Park-n-Ride locations.

- It is \$10 per game or \$50 for the season.
- Season passes can be purchased on game days at each Park-n-Ride location or pre-purchased at the Rosa Parks RTS Downtown Station.

Gator Lift

Gator Lift is a transportation service for University of Florida students, faculty, and staff with mobility-related disabilities. Gator Lift is a reliable and free shuttle service to accessible locations within the boundaries of the University of Florida.

- Rides are by appointment only.

SNAP

SNAP (Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol) is a free, nightly, campus safety and transportation service. It provides a point-to-point vehicular escort service that can be requested on the “TapRide” app.

- [Google Play Store](#)
- [Apple iTunes](#).

Uber Safe Rides

UF Safe Rides allow you to get Uber rides for 50% off. You get unique promo codes for eligible students via its student portal.

- Must begin and end in the zone located on the map (on the website).

File Back Up

In college, you're going to create a lot of files, and a lot of them will be important. It's crucial that you back up as many files as you can in case you need them later on! Here are a few great (and free!) file back up services.

- [Google Drive](#)
- [One Drive](#)
- [DropBox](#)

Free/Discounted Software for Students

Included in your tuition is access to free/discounted software like [Autodesk](#), [Lynda](#), [Microsoft Office](#), and [Adobe Creative Cloud](#). To download these programs go to their respective websites, find the student/university section and input your student email for proof of enrollment.

Try New Things

You're in college! This is the time for you to learn more about yourself, your environment, and who you want to become. Try things that are out of your comfort zone; after all, how will you know if you like it if you never try it? Here are a few things that every college student should do some part in their college career, regardless of major.

- Take a speech class!
- Take a class that simply interests you; it doesn't have to fulfill a specific credit.
- Join clubs and organizations on campus.
- Try as many resources as you can. Some resources will be really beneficial for you!