



A Brief History of MGA Athletics

What is now Middle Georgia State University (MGA) was created in January 2013 by the merger of the former Middle Georgia College and Macon State College.

At the time of the merger, Middle Georgia College, based in Cochran, Ga., competed as the Warriors in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and had a track record of success, including four baseball national championships. Macon State College did not offer intercollegiate athletics at the time of the merger but competed in club sports as the Blue Storm or, earlier in the institution's history, the Mustangs.

Voting online after the merger, students from both former institutions chose Knights as the new mascot and purple, black, and silver/gray as the new school colors.

For the Knights' inaugural year of competition, Middle Georgia State remained with the NJCAA membership it inherited from the former Middle Georgia College. But MGA officials immediately began making plans to seek admission into an athletic conference more suitable for four-year colleges and universities. In 2014, MGA accepted invitations to join the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC).

Today, Middle Georgia State fields teams in baseball, men and women's basketball, men and women's soccer, men and women's tennis, softball, women's volleyball, and women's cross country. Baseball, basketball, soccer, and softball are based on the Cochran Campus, while the other sports are based on the Macon Campus. The University plans to add women's long-distance track in January 2026.

In early 2023, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia gave MGA permission to seek membership in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) Division II and the Peach Belt Conference.

In fall 2023, Michael Brown joined MGA as athletics director. Brown, who most recently had been associate athletic director for operations at Purdue University Fort Wayne and has extensive leadership experience in collegiate athletics, took charge of shepherding MGA athletics through the prospective transition from the NAIA to NCAA Division II.

In January 2024, the Peach Belt Conference invited MGA to join pending approval of the University's acceptance into the NCAA Division II provisional process. MGA applied for NCAA Division II membership early in 2025 and was accepted in July. Following the provisional steps, full membership in NCAA Division II would come in 2028.

As a member of the Peach Belt Conference, MGA will be able to compete and develop rivalries in Georgia and adjacent states. In Georgia, current members of the Peach Belt Conference are Augusta University, Clayton State University, Columbus University, Georgia College & State University, Georgia Southwestern State University, and University of North Georgia.