CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY
Google Scholar Academy

A Legacy of Excellence, Innovation, and Student Success

Under the leadership of Dr. George T. French, Jr., the 5th President of Clark Atlanta University, Google gifted the university with $5 million in 2021, to support the academic success, leadership development, and future career advancement of African American students at the institution. Departments and schools across the university were invited to submit proposals demonstrating innovative ways to utilize the funding to enhance student achievement and engagement.

In June 2022, Dr. Cherise Y. Peters submitted a proposal that led to the creation of what would evolve into the **Google Scholar Academy** — a comprehensive Student Development and Career-Readiness Academy designed to cultivate the next generation of scholars, leaders, and professionals. **Google Scholars remain a part of the academy for their entire matriculation at the university**. As of 2026, the Google Scholar Academy has successfully welcomed **five cohorts** composed of some of the best and brightest scholars from Clark Atlanta University and across the nation. With more than **120 Google Scholars**, the academy celebrated the graduation of its first cohort in May 2026.

Google Scholars have excelled academically and professionally while becoming influential leaders throughout the university community. Scholars have served in prominent leadership roles including: Freshman Class President to Mister Clark Atlanta University | Organizational leaders | Members of fraternities and sororities and Community advocates and Campus Ambassadors. In addition, Google Scholars have secured internship opportunities with nationally recognized organizations and companies including Atlanta Falcons and CNN.

The Google Scholar Academy believes in preparing students for global leadership and cultural exposure. Scholars have traveled internationally to South Africa and London. During these experiences, scholars visited Google offices abroad, gaining firsthand exposure to global innovation, technology, and professional opportunities.

The academy continues to uphold accountability and excellence by providing annual reports to Google through CAU's Office of Grants and Contracts. These reports highlight financial stewardship, student academic achievement, leadership development, and program success.

"Developing the next generation of scholars, innovators, and leaders."