

PR/FAQ

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Jodie Lederman, Alex Cho, Evelyn Kim, Grace Oh, Aditi Chiluguri

Press Release

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CONGO LAUNCHES A REAL-TIME CONNECTION APP AT UGA, HELPING COLLEGE STUDENTS TURN MISSED MOMENTS INTO MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS

Congo is a new mobile app designed for college students to help them turn missed moments into meaningful conversations. The app allows students to discover nearby peers who are open to connecting in the moment, making real-world interaction feel more natural, relevant, and low-pressure.

College campuses are full of potential connections, yet many never happen. Students hesitate due to awkwardness, uncertainty, and unclear social signals, while existing platforms rely on delayed or long-term interaction rather than real-time context.

Congo addresses this problem by helping students connect in the moment. Using real-time proximity and intent (without revealing exact locations), the app surfaces relevant nearby matches while keeping interaction optional and user-controlled.

“Every day on campus, students are sitting just a few feet away from someone who could become an amazing connection, but they never know it,” said a member of the Congo team. “Congo exists to make those moments visible and give people the confidence to act on them.”

To get started with Congo, students create a short profile, enter their interests and what they’re looking for in the moment, and then simply turn on availability when they’re open to connections.

“Congo helped me realize how many meaningful connections were happening around me that I never noticed before,” said a student user.

Congo will launch as a pilot on college campuses, beginning at the University of Georgia, with plans to expand to the workplace and other high-density environments.

FAQs

What is Congo.ai?

Congo.ai is a mobile app that matches you with other UGA students in the same location based on what you need help with and what you're willing to help others with. It's designed for short, focused interactions like exam prep, resume feedback, or learning a new skill.

What problem does Congo.ai solve?

Ever needed quick help studying, but your friends weren't around? Or wanted to ask someone a career question but felt awkward reaching out? Congo.ai connects you with people nearby who can help right now, without the pressure of formal networking or long-term commitment.

How does matching work?

When you're available to help or need help, you tell Congo.ai what you're looking for and how long you're free. We use AI to match you with nearby students whose needs or skills complement yours. You'll only see matches who are:

- In the same general campus area (like Main Library or Tate)
- Available right now
- Verified UGA students
- Interested in the same topic

Both people must accept the match before you can chat.

FAQs

Does Congo.ai track my location constantly?

Nope! Congo.ai only uses your location when you actively turn on "Available" mode. We only show that you're in the same general area (like "Main Library" or "Tate Student Center"), never your exact location. When you turn off availability or close the app, location tracking stops. You control when you're visible.

Do I have to meet face-to-face?

No. After matching, you can choose to meet briefly in a public campus space, have a quick video call, or just message. You decide what works best for your situation and comfort level.

How do I know my match can actually help?

After each interaction, both people rate the experience. Over time, helpful users build credibility through badges (like "Clear Explainer" or "Great Career Advice"), though specific reviews stay private. You can always pass on a match if it doesn't feel right.

What happens after I accept a match?

You'll see their first name, year, major, and what they can help with. A chat opens where you can coordinate where to meet (usually takes 2-3 minutes) or decide to connect virtually. The app suggests public meeting spots and shows a countdown timer for your session length.

FAQs

What if the meeting isn't going well?

You can end any conversation early without explanation using the "Wrap up" button. After every interaction, you rate the experience privately. If you ever feel unsafe or uncomfortable, use the in-app report feature for non-emergencies or contact 911 for immediate help. We take safety seriously and will investigate all reports.

What if no one matches with me?

If there aren't matches available right away, the app will quietly search in the background and notify you if someone becomes available who fits your needs. You can also adjust your topic or location radius to increase potential matches. During high-demand times like exam weeks, there's usually more activity.

Why focus on 1:1 meetings only?

One-on-one conversations are easier to coordinate and let you get specific help faster. Group settings can often feel overwhelming when you just need a quick answer.

How do I get started?

Just verify your UGA email, add 2-3 things you need help with or can help others with (from suggested categories or your own), and turn on "Available" when you're free. A lengthy profile is not required, but you can add more details later if you want.