

The Deal With Trial¹ Jury Duty in A-CC:

Prospective jurors are chosen from voter registration rolls. (External Affairs suspects that jurors are chosen from somewhere else as well. There are 45,990 registered voters in Athens but there are 70,000 names on the list. Whence come these extra names?)

90,000 people live in Athens.

6 jury commissioners are appointed by Judge Gaines. These jury commissioners create a pool by striking individuals from the list who are not of 'upstanding character,' those who are mentally incompetent, and those who are convicted felons. The jury commissioners completely revise this list every 2 years.

Jury commissioners exclude some people to create the 'pool,' a list of 70,000 prospective jurors.

A computer randomly generates a 'venire' of jurors from the pool. Federal law requires that this venire ('to come' in Latin) be apportioned by age, race, and sex to ensure proportional representation.

As a result, groups that are underrepresented in the pool tend to serve more often.

Since 18-24 year-olds comprise 35% of the Athens population, students tend to be called often as well.

The court sends these people notice of jury duty and they must appear.

As a result of past abuses, there aren't many acceptable excuses for evading jury duty.

(Being a student isn't an excuse.)

If you have a conflict, and cannot serve on your assigned date, call the jury service number on your summons immediately. The jury clerk can reschedule a limited number of jurors on a first come, first serve basis.

A computer generates 10,000 names from the pool that are representative of A-CC by age, race, and sex Census data. This is the venire.

Age	Race
35% are 18-24.	75% are white.
21% are 25-34.	22% are black.
15% are 35-44.	
9% are 45-54.	Sex
7% are 55-64.	53% are women.
10% are 65+.	47% are men.
Those over 70 do not have to serve.	

From the venire, a petit jury is chosen to hear the case.

This information is brought to you by your friends in the SGA-External Affairs Committee. www.uga.edu/sga

¹ As opposed to Grand Jury Service, which is composed of the 'most upstanding' citizens of A-CC. The Grand Jurors do not sit on trials. Rather, the Grand Jurors approve indictments made against citizens in criminal cases.