



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Pre-Health Advising Office

Applicant Orientation

(for students planning to apply to allied health schools)

Casey Ellis

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Office of the Vice-President for Instruction



Meet our Staff!

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About the Pre-Health Advising Office

- Our office advises all UGA students interested in healthcare careers.
 - Medicine, dentistry, optometry, allied-health (PA, PT, OT, AA, GC), and nursing.
- We are located in 130 Memorial Hall
 - **Website:** ppao.uga.edu
 - **Email:** premed@uga.edu
 - **Phone:** 706-542-0444
- Visit our website:
 - To join our Pre-Health UGA listserv
 - To check out our Pre-Health Event Calendar for upcoming meetings/workshops/events.
 - To make an appointment with a Pre-Health Advisor.
 - To download our Pre-Professional Planner on your iPhone



Upcoming Pre-Health Events

Upcoming Events Calendar:

<https://prehealth.uga.edu/resources/>

This is a great tool to review weekly to see all the great workshops and meetings scheduled for our allied health clubs.

It is updated regularly.



Important Upcoming Application Dates

For the 2024-2025 application cycle:

- **PTCAS** (PT Schools)
June : Application opens
- **OTCAS** (OT Schools)
July : Application opens
- **CASAA** (AA Schools)
March : Application opens
- **Genetic Counseling Match**
September: Match Opens



Orientation Overview

- Application and Timeline
- Components of Application
 - Academic History
 - Academic Transcripts and GPA
 - GRE
 - Supporting Information
 - Shadowing/Patient Care Experiences
 - Activities
 - Personal Statement/Essay
 - Letters of Evaluation
- Where should I apply?
- Interviews
- Should I take a Gap-Year?
- What if I am not competitive?



Allied Health Schools in Georgia

PT Schools

- Augusta University (Augusta)
- Brenau University (Gainesville)
- Emory University (Atlanta)
- Georgia Southern University-Armstrong Campus (Savannah)
- Georgia State University (Atlanta)
- Mercer University (Atlanta)
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) (Suwanee)
- University of North Georgia (Dahlonega)
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) (Suwanee)
- South University (Savannah)
- Brenau University (Gainesville)
- South College (Atlanta Campus)

OT Schools:

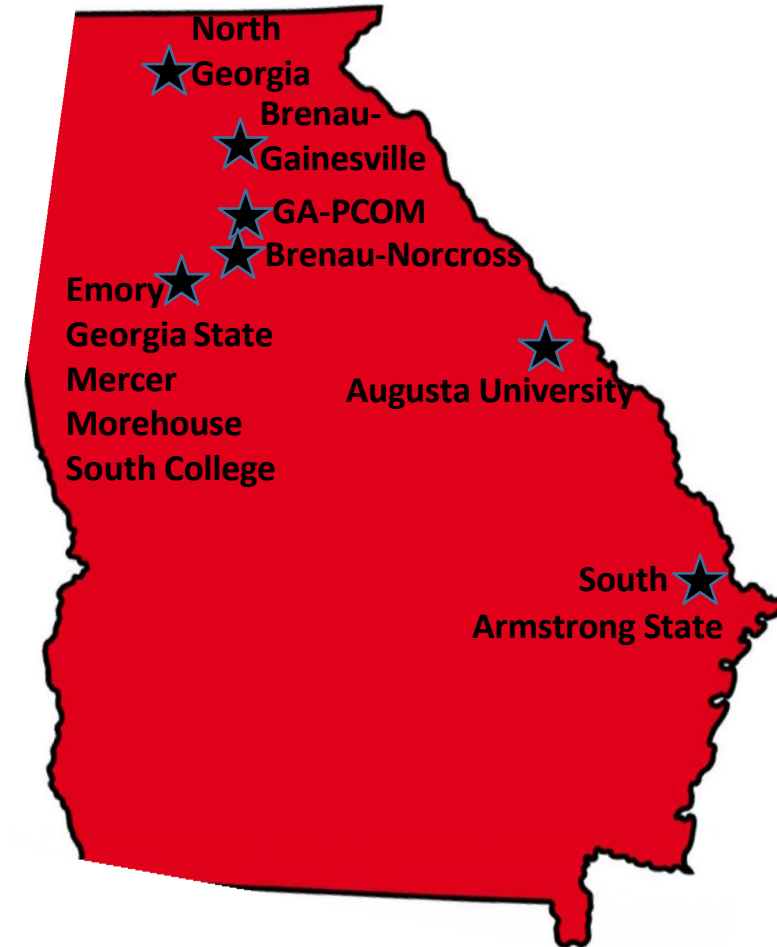
- Augusta University (Augusta)
- Georgia State University (Atlanta)
- Brenau University (campuses in Gainesville and Norcross)

AA Schools

- Emory University
- South University (Savannah)

GC Schools

- Emory University



Application

■ Centralized Application Services

- PTCAS (for PT school)
- OTCAS (for OT school)
- CASAA (for AA school)
- NMS Match (for GC School)

■ Each application has an instruction manual—download it!

- Each profession's corresponding club also typically holds a meeting all about application services at the end of the term. Be on the lookout for announcements about these!

■ Submit your application as early as possible!

- Takes approximately 1-2 months to be verified



Supplemental Applications

- Most schools you apply to will also require that you submit a *supplemental application*.
 - This is typically an application to the institution's graduate school
 - May also include short answer/essay questions and associated fees
 - Usually linked through the CAS system, if the school participates in that service
- All portions of the supplemental application must be submitted for your application to be considered complete
- Avoid repeating content from CAS essay in any potential supplemental essays/responses.



PT Application Timeline

Institution	Application Period	Matriculation Date
Augusta University	July – December	May
Brenau University	July – March	May
Emory University	July – October	June
Georgia-PCOM	July – December	September
Georgia Southern University- Armstrong Campus <i>(formerly Armstrong State)</i>	July – October	May
Georgia State University	July – October	June
Mercer University	July – October	August
University of North Georgia	July – October	May



OT Application Timeline

Institution	Application Period	Matriculation Date
Augusta University	August – October	May
Brenau University	July – October*	August*
Georgia State University	July – January	May



AA Application Timeline

Institution	Application Period	Matriculation Date
Emory University	April – October	August
South University	August - October	August
VCOM Auburn (clinicals will be held in Atlanta)	End of July	June



GC Application Timeline

Institution	Application Period	Matriculation Date
Emory University	April – December	August
University of Alabama at Birmingham	April – January	August
University of South Florida	April – December	August



Primary Components of Application

1. Academic History

- Overall GPA vs. Science/Prerequisite GPA
- Transcripts

2. Exam Performance (GRE/MCAT)

3. Activities/Experiences

- Shadowing (Exposure to “provider-patient” interaction)
- Volunteering (Commitment to helping others and community involvement)
- Leadership (Extracurricular engagement)
- Research

4. Personal Statement and/or Essay(s)

5. Letters of Evaluation



Academic History

- Overall GPA vs. Science/Prerequisite GPA
 - Biology, Chemistry, Physics (BCP)
 - ~3.4-3.6 GPA is average for accepted applicants
- Trends
 - Did you challenge yourself?
 - Did you improve over time?
 - Did you take your science courses at UGA?
 - Do you have only 1-2 withdrawals?
- AP credit
 - While many programs will accept AP credit, some do not so it is important to confirm with programs of interest
- Transcripts:
 - Submit an official transcript from **every** institution you attended
 - Request transcripts early as they can take several weeks to send and process
 - Refer to the application instructions regarding where to send transcripts and how to enter coursework



PT School Admission Requirements

- Always double-check with schools you are interested in!
 - Requirements can change year-to-year

General PT School Requirements

Biology	BIOL 1107/L (BIOL 1108/L required for many out of state programs)
General Chemistry	CHEM 1211/L and CHEM 1212/L
Physics	PHYS 1111/L and PHYS 1112/L or PHYS 1211/L and PHYS 1212/L
Statistics	STAT 2000 (sometimes BIOS 2010)
Anatomy and Physiology	CBIO2200/L and CBIO2210/L
Psychology	PSYC1101
Behavioral Science	ANTH 1102 or SOCIO 1101 are the ones most students choose from but there are a lot of choices
Misc. Recommended	HDFS2200, CLAS1030, NUTR 2100, PSYC 3230,



OT School Admission Requirements

- Always double-check with schools you are interested in!
 - Requirements can change year-to-year

General OT School Requirements

Anatomy and Physiology	CBIO2200/L and CBIO2210/L
Statistics	STAT 2000
Psychology	PSYC1101 and PSYC3230
Lifespan Development	HDFS2200
Medical Terminology	CLAS1030
Anthropology or Sociology	ANTH1102 or SOCI1101
Misc. Recommended	PHYS 1111/L (Augusta) or biomechanics class for colleges that don't want physics, Ethical course for Brenau, CHEM 1211/L



AA School Admission Requirements

General AA School Requirements

Biology I and II (BIOL 1107/L, BIOL 1108/L)	Chemistry I and II (CHEM 1211/L, CHEM 1212/L)
Statistics (STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010)	Calculus (MATH 2250)
Psychology (PSYC 1101)	Organic Chemistry (CHEM 2211/L, some schools need CHEM 2212/L)
Biochemistry (BCMB 3100 or 4010 or 4020)	Physics I and II (PHYS 1111/L, PHYS 1112/L or PHYS 1211 and 1212)
VCOM & CWRU (Upper-level STAT – STAT 3110 or BIOS 3000, or BIOS 7010. CWRU does not allow any online pre-reqs)	Cell Biology (CBIO 2200/L, CBIO 2210/L, or other anatomy/physiology options)
Emory (Medical Terminology, extra physiology on top of A&P – usually VPHY 3100 OR 3107)	

- Always double-check with schools you are interested in!
 - Requirements can change year-to-year



GC School Admission Requirements

- Always double-check with schools you are interested in!
 - Requirements can change year-to-year

General GC School Requirements	
Biology I and II	BIOL 1107+L and BIOL 1108+L
Statistics	STAT 2000
Psychology	PSYC1101 and PSYC3230
Biochemistry	BCMB 3100
Genetics	GENE 3200
Other	ANTH1102 or SOCI1101
Other Cont'd	CHEM 1211/L, PHYS 1111/L



Is AP credit accepted?

- The policies regarding acceptance of AP credit vary greatly amongst allied health programs in the state.
- For **PT** programs in state:
 - Emory does NOT accept AP credit
 - Georgia State lists that they do NOT accept AP credit but updates their website each year with any exceptions.
- For **OT** programs in state:
 - Georgia State lists that they do NOT accept AP credit
- Important to check with individual schools you hope to apply to.
- **GC** at Emory does not allow pre-requisites to be done through AP courses. If an AP credit allowed you to skip to a higher-level versus a basic course in college, those course credits are acceptable.



FAQ regarding the GRE

- **Is there any required coursework pre-GRE?**
 - **No.** Since the exam is a “General” exam, no specific coursework is required before taking this exam.
- **When/Where can I take the test?**
 - The GRE General Test is offered on campus at the University Testing Center. It is typically offered Monday through Friday, with two testing sessions per day. Students usually sit for the exam January-May as they head into the application cycle.
- **What is the policy regarding re-takes**
 - You can take the test once every 21 days, up to five times within any continuous rolling 12-month period (365 days). This applies even if you canceled your scores on a test taken previously.
 - Retakes are not recommended, unless absolutely necessary
- **How long will my scores be valid?**
 - ETS keeps your scores on file for a period of 5 years following the date you took the test
- **How should I prepare?**
 - You can study for the GRE on your own or take a GRE prep-course
 - Key is to make a study plan and take advantage of practice tests!



MCAT

- Take the MCAT no later than Spring/ early summer of the year you plan to apply to AA schools.
- Advised Pre-MCAT Biology BIOL 1107/L & 1108/L General Chemistry CHEM 1211/L & 1212/L Organic Chemistry CHEM 2211/L Physics PHYS 1111 & 1112 or 1211 & 1212 Biochemistry BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4010 & 4020 Statistics STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010
- Recommended Pre-MCAT Physiology VPHY 3100, PMCY 3000, CBIO 3710 or CBIO 2200 & 2210 Genetics GENE 3200 Psychology PSYC 1101 Sociology SOCI 1101
- MCAT Scores range from 472 to 528. A competitive score is above 500.
- You can study for the MCAT on your own or take a MCAT prep-course
 - Key is to make a study plan and take practice tests!



Supporting Information: Activities & Experiences

- Applicants use the Supporting Information/Experiences section to provide detailed information about:
 - **Observation Hours:** Time spent officially following and observing a health care professional at work, preferably in the field you are applying to (i.e. PA, PT or OT).
 - **Employment:** Paid work done outside of the health care field; for example, a retail or restaurant job.
 - **Extracurricular Activities:** Includes research, club memberships, sports, etc. through a college or university.
 - **Research:** Research projects done in addition to classroom work; research generally should NOT appear as credit on a school transcript, but may be acceptable for some programs (refer to instructions for specific application).
 - **Volunteer:** Volunteer work done outside of the health care field; for example, working for Habitat for Humanity, tutoring students, participating in or working for a fundraiser walk or blood drive, etc.
- Anything you add is fair game for an interview!
 - Include activities in which you were actively engaged.
 - Highlight specific qualities (e.g. leadership, teamwork, compassion, etc.).
 - Try to avoid including things in which you are a passive participant.



Observation Hours and Patient Care Experience

- Keeping track of experiences
 - It is recommended that you use our Pre-Professional Planner App that can be found on our [website](#) to keep track of your experiences—specifically your supervisor’s name and contact information, dates present, and hours accumulated.
 - You may also want to make note of memorable experiences to draw from later for interview/essay prompts
- Verifying Experiences
 - Generally, application services will request the contact information of your supervisor for observation hours and direct patient care experiences.
 - They will then contact this individual (usually via email) to electronically verify your experiences
 - No physical signatures need to be obtained by you
 - Good practice to follow up with providers before application opens to let them know this email is coming!



Supporting Information: Personal Statement/Essay

Personal Statement

- Your chance to inform committee about yourself beyond transcript.
 - Pay close attention to number of characters (not words) that you can submit
 - DO NOT exceed maximum length
 - Triple-check for grammar and spelling errors!
- Need to answer these questions:
 - *Why do you want to be this type of healthcare provider?*
 - *Why do I want to pursue education in this field?*
 - *Why have you selected this field of healthcare?*
 - *What do you want schools to know about you that hasn't been disclosed in other sections of the application?*
 - *Explain a defining moment that helped steer you toward a career in this field*
 - *COVID essay included now*

Essay Prompt(s)

- For PT applications (and potentially supplemental applications) you will be given an essay prompt
 - Typically limed to ~1 page (5,000 characters including spaces)
- Start early! Give yourself at least two months to work on your statement.
 - Have several people read it (letter-writers, advisor, etc.)
 - UGA resources: Honors College, Career Center



Supporting Information: Letters of Recommendation

- Most programs require **three letters**:
 - 1 healthcare provider (PA, PT, OT, GC, AA)
 - 1 professor (preferably in major or in prerequisite course)
 - Additional letter(s) from another academic professional, healthcare provider, supervisor, or someone who knows the you well enough to speak positively on your behalf.
- Letters should come from people who know you!
 - Will need to describe you as an individual—behavior, character traits, maturity-level, etc.
- The Pre-Health Advising office no longer writes nor submits letters of evaluation.
- The absence of a committee or advisor letter will not negatively affect your application.



How should I ask for Letters of Evaluation?

- Ask early! January-March of year you plan to apply.
 - Keep in mind, though, that letters cannot be submitted until the application cycle officially opens
- Email about meeting in person, then ask for letter during meeting.
- Always ask whether they can write you a positive letter!
- Provide the following to your letter-writers:
 - Resume or CV
 - Draft of personal statement (if needed for application)
 - Information about the programs you're applying to and your goals
 - [Guidelines for Letter-Writers handout](#) (provided by Pre-Health Advising Office)



How should my Letters be submitted?

- Programs that participate in the CAS system will have evaluators submit electronically.
 - Student will be asked to provide contact information for recommender
 - Recommender will then receive an email regarding how to submit recommendation form and corresponding letter
- Work with letter-writer to ensure they have received the information via email and work to make submission as easy as possible.
- Always waive your right to view your letters of evaluation!



Where should I apply?

- Recommend applying to several schools.
 - Admissions are very fickle. Many variables affect likelihood of interview.
 - There are no true “back-up” schools.
- Consider applying to private out-of-state schools.
 - State institutions are very particular about residency, private schools are not.
- Use the ***CAS Program Directories, as well as individual webpages***
 - Overview and admissions data for accredited programs
 - Review necessary application materials



Background Check

- Report anything you think might be an issue.
 - Honor Code violations
 - Legal issues (misdemeanors, felonies, etc.)
- Not reporting is considered the same as lying.
- If you have had a violation expunged, be sure to pull record and verify.
- If something happens *after* you apply or are accepted, you must report.
- Bottom-line, try to keep your nose clean!



Interviews

- Interview season begins as early as August/September and will continue into the Spring.
- An invitation to interview typically means your “numbers” are good.
- Interviewers are trying to find out who you are.
 - No right/wrong answers—more about how you answer and interpersonal communication skills.
- Tips:
 - Know your application inside and out.
 - Dress conservatively (no tattoos, minimal jewelry, beards trimmed, comfy shoes)
 - Interview begins the minute you step on campus
 - Send thank-you notes within 2-weeks of interview (email or hand-written)
- Career Center conducts mock interviews
 - Schedule early! Try for Spring/Early Fall.



Gap Year

- Why take a Gap Year?
 - I didn't get in.
 - I am not ready to apply.
 - I need a break from school.
- Work on weak spots in your application.
 - Complete post-bac or Master's program
 - Retake GRE
 - Increase clinical involvement and experience
- Key to Gap Year is planning.
 - Try to stay busy and do things that allow you to grow and cultivate new skills



What if I am not competitive?

- It's *okay* not to get in the first time! Plenty of people have to reapply.
- Take a Gap Year to work on becoming more competitive.
 - Take additional courses or complete a graduate degree
 - Re-take the GRE
 - Seek out more volunteering and shadowing opportunities



Fee Assistance Programs

- **PT & AA School**

- PTCAS/CASAA offers a [fee assistance program](#) to assist students applying to PT school.
 - May apply to 1 program in PTCAS for free (pay \$45 for each additional program designation)
- Granted on a first-come, first-served basis
- Apply for fee assistance well before you submit your PTCAS/CASAA application.

- **OT School**

- OTCAS offers a [fee assistance program](#) to assist students applying to OT school.
 - Covers initial application fee, as well as the ability to apply to 1 program in OTCAS for free (pay \$60 for each additional program designation)
- Granted on a first-come, first-served basis
- May request fee waiver as soon as an OTCAS application has been created
 - *Once approved for a waiver, though, student is required to submit OTCAS application within 14 days (including holidays and weekends)!*

- **NMS Match (Genetic Counseling)**

- AGCPD will offer a limited number of waivers for the \$100 USD registration fee for the 2022 GC Admissions Match. Prospective students who demonstrate financial need AND have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater can apply for a match fee waiver. Prospective students should apply for a fee waiver BEFORE registering for the GC Admissions Match



Recent PT Admissions Data

- 85 UGA students were accepted into 34 different PT schools.
- 93 Applicants via PTCAS
- 91% UGA acceptance rate
- Average GPA (overall/science) for accepted applicants: 3.64/3.43
- Average GRE percentile (Quantitative/Verbal) for accepted applicants: 151.58/151.5
- • 2022-2023 National Data 72% national acceptance rate
- National Average GPA (overall/science) for accepted applicants: 3.55/3.34
- National Average GRE percentile (Quantitative/Verbal) for accepted applicants: 149.01/148.74
- Gap years (40% of accepted students took at least a full year; longest was 11 years)



Recent OT Admissions Data (don't have last years as OTCAS did not upload it)

University of Georgia Students

- **Average GPA: 3.6**
- **Average GRE Scores:**
 - Analytical Writing: 4
 - Quantitative: 150
 - Verbal: 152
- **Average Age of Applicants: 23**
- **Most applied to at least 3-4 programs**



Major Takeaways

- Plan out each move in advance!
- Submit your application as early as you can (but don't rush it)!
- Always have a Plan B!
- Utilize the Pre-Health Advising Office!
 - Join the Pre-Health listserv
 - Meet with Pre-Health Advisor
 - Review our website





Questions?

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