



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**

Pre-Health Advising Office

# Applicant Orientation

(for students planning to apply to allied health schools)

**Tas Qadri/Casey Ellis**

Pre-PA and Pre-Veterinary Advisor | Pre-Nursing and Allied Health Advisor

*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](http://ppao.uga.edu)
  - **Email:** [premed@uga.edu](mailto: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 2022-2023 application cycle:

- **CASPA (PA Schools)**  
April : Application opens
- **PTCAS (PT Schools)**  
June : Application opens
- **OTCAS (OT Schools)**  
July : Application opens
- **CASAA (AA Schools)**  
March : Application opens
- **Genetic Counseling Match**  
July: NMS 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

## PA Schools

- Augusta University (Augusta)
- Emory University (Atlanta)
- Mercer University (Atlanta)
- Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta)
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) (Suwanee)
- South University (Savannah)
- Brenau University (Gainesville)
- South College (Atlanta Campus)

## PT Schools

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

## OT Schools

- Augusta University (Augusta)
- Brenau University (campuses in Gainesville and Norcross)
- Georgia State University (Atlanta)
- Georgia State University (Atlanta)
- AA Schools
  - South University (Savannah)
  - Emory University (Atlanta)
- GC Schools
  - Emory University (Atlanta)



# Application

## ■ Centralized Application Services

- CASPA (for PA school)
- 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.



# PA Application Timeline

Institution	Application Period	Matriculation Date
Augusta University	July – October	May
Emory University	April – October	August
Mercer University	November – March	January
PCOM	April - December	June
South University	April – August	January
PCOM	April - December	June
South College	April – March	Sept/Oct
Brenau University	April - August	January



# 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	June
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	March – October	August
South University	March– 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
  - For example, Emory PT and Georgia State OT & PT list explicitly on their website that they do **NOT** accept AP credit
- 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





# PA School Admission Requirements

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

General PA School Requirements	
<b>Biology</b>	BIOL 1107/L and BIOL 1108/L
<b>General Chemistry</b>	CHEM 1211/L and CHEM 1212/L
<b>Organic Chemistry</b>	CHEM 2211/L
<b>Microbiology</b>	MIBO2500/L, MIBO3000/L or MIBO3500/L
<b>Anatomy and Physiology</b>	CBIO2200/L and CBIO2210/L
<b>Psychology</b>	PSYC1101 and/or PSYC3230
<b>Misc. Recommended</b>	STAT2000, BCMB3100, GENE 3200, Medical Terminology



# PT School Admission Requirements

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

General PT School Requirements	
<b>Biology</b>	BIOL 1107/L (BIOL 1108/L required for many out of state programs)
<b>General Chemistry</b>	CHEM 1211/L and CHEM 1212/L
<b>Physics</b>	PHYS 1111/L and PHYS 1112/L or PHYS 1211/L and PHYS 1212/L
<b>Statistics</b>	STAT 2000 (sometimes BIOS 2010)
<b>Anatomy and Physiology</b>	CBIO 2200/L and CBIO 2210/L
<b>Psychology</b>	PSYC 1101
<b>Misc. Recommended</b>	CLAS 1030, FDNS 2100, HDFS 2200, 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	
<b>Anatomy and Physiology</b>	CBIO 2200/L and CBIO 2210/L
<b>Statistics</b>	STAT 2000
<b>Psychology</b>	PSYC 1101 <b>and</b> PSYC 3230
<b>Lifespan Development</b>	HDFS 2200
<b>Medical Terminology</b>	CLAS 1030
<b>Anthropology or Sociology</b>	ANTH 1102 or SOCI 1101
<b>Physics</b>	PHYS 1111/L



# AA School Admission Requirements

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

## 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)

**Cell Biology** (CBIO 2200/L, CBIO 2210/L, or other anatomy/physiology options)

**Organic Chemistry** (CHEM 2211/L, 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)



# GC School Admission Requirements

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

General GC School Requirements	
<b>Biology I and II</b>	BIOL 1107+L and BIOL 1108+L
<b>Statistics</b>	STAT 2000
<b>Psychology</b>	PSYC1101
<b>Biochemistry</b>	BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4020
<b>Genetics</b>	GENE 3200
<b>Recommended:</b>	PSYC 3230 (Abnormal PSYC)



# Is AP credit accepted?

- The policies regarding acceptance of AP credit vary greatly amongst allied health programs in the state.
- For **PA** programs in state:
  - Morehouse does NOT accept AP credit
  - All other PA programs in Georgia DO accept AP credit as long as the credits appear on your college transcript; however, it is recommended to confirm out of state program policies regarding AP credit
- For **PT** programs in state:
  - Emory does NOT accept AP credit
  - Georgia State lists that they do NOT accept AP credit for PSYC and all other AP credits are subject to committee review (however they are generally NOT accepted)
- 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.



# GRE

- Take the GRE no later than Spring/early Summer of the year you plan to apply
  - Offered regularly; however, it will take a couple of weeks to receive your official score report and have that sent to programs of interest.
  - Registration is rolling and can be completed via the University Testing Center on campus.
- Courses you need before the exam:
  - No specific coursework is required pre-GRE since the “General Test” is required
- GRE scores range from 260-340
  - Try to score at least 300 (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) as a composite (combined) score
  - ~150 for quantitative, ~150 for verbal, ~4.0 writing
- You can study for the GRE on your own or take a GRE prep-course
  - Key is to make a study plan and take 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).
  - **Patient Care Experience (for PA):** Experiences in which you are directly responsible for a patient's care. For example, performing procedures, directing a course of treatment, actively working on patients as a MA, paramedic, EMT, CNA, phlebotomist, etc.
  - **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 limited 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.
  - Especially true for PA school!
- 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
- Consider another career in healthcare
  - Nursing, Physician Assistant, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Genetic Counseling, etc.
  - Consider talking with a career consultant further about other career paths may be best-suited to your strengths



# Fee Assistance Programs

- **PA School**

- CASPA offers a [fee assistance program](#) to assist students applying to PA school.
  - Covers only initial application fee
- Granted on a first-come, first-served basis
- Apply for fee assistance when application opens in the year you apply.

- **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 PA Admissions Data (2020-2021)

## University of Georgia

- 124/202 (accepted/verified applicants): 61.3% acceptance rate
- Average applicant vs. accepted GPA: (Overall/Science)
  - 3.62/3.53 vs. 3.49/3.52
- Average applicant vs. accepted GRE:
  - Verbal: 154 vs. 155
  - Quantitative: 153 vs. 154
  - Analytical/Writing: 4.0
- Matriculated into 46 PA schools
  - Including: Mercer, South, Emory, GA-PCOM, Augusta, University of Alabama-Birmingham, Wake Forest, Duke, Northwestern, Nova Southeastern and many more.

## National

- 8,792/26,953: 33% acceptance rate
- Average Matriculant GPA:
  - 3.57/3.51
- Average Matriculant GRE Percentiles *(for previous cycle since new data not yet available)*:
  - Verbal: 58.94
  - Quantitative: 51.82
  - Analytical/Writing: 55.55
- Matriculant Age:
  - Median: 23; Range: 19-61; Mean: 25
- 41% re-applicant
- Average designations per applicant: 7



# Recent PT Admissions Data (2020-2021 - UGA)

## University of Georgia

- 75/97 (accepted/applicants): 77.3%
  - *UGA ranked as #6 in nation for "Top Primary Institutions Attended by Accepted PTCAS Applicants"!*
- Matriculated into over 36 PT schools
  - Including: All 7 DPT programs in Georgia, as well as Duke, Miami, Michigan, University of Tennessee Health Sciences, and many more.

## National (2018-2019)

- 56.6% national acceptance rate  
Average applicant vs. accepted GPA:  
(Overall/Prerequisite)
  - 3.57/3.41 vs. 3.57/3.31
- Average Matriculant GRE Percentiles:
  - Verbal: 51.89
  - Quantitative: 45.82
  - Analytical/Writing: 55.66
- Matriculant Age:
  - Median: 22; Range: 18-59; Mean: 22.86
- Average Designations per Applicant: 6  
  
42.7% of accepted students took a gap year



# Recent OT Admissions Data (2019-2020)

## University of Georgia

- 52 verified applicants
  - Increase from 47 verified applicants in previous admissions cycle
  - Comprehensive matriculant data and decision codes forthcoming
- Matriculated into several OT programs, including those in state, as well as Medical University of South Carolina and South Alabama

## National

- Applicant and matriculant data for 2017-2018 admission cycle is still forthcoming
- For 2014 admissions cycle:
  - Doctoral Degree-Level Programs:
    - 248 students admitted
    - 1,481 total applications
  - Master' Degree-Level Programs:
    - 6,945 students admitted
    - 40,839 total applications



# 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?

**Pre-Health Advising Office**

**Website: [ppao.uga.edu](http://ppao.uga.edu)**

**Email: [premed@uga.edu](mailto:premed@uga.edu)**

**Phone: 706-542-0444**

To make an appointment with Pre-Health Advisor, please visit website or log onto SAGE.

