**Pre-Health Advising**
*Pre-Professional Advising Office*
**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA**

# Introductory Orientation
## (for 1st and 2nd year pre-vet students)

## Taz Qadri

Pre-PA & Veterinary Advisor | Pre-Professional Advising Office

*Office of the Vice President for Instruction*

# About the Pre-Professional  Advising Office

- Our office advises all UGA students interested in healthcare careers.
    - Medicine, dentistry, vet, optometry, allied-health (PA, PT, OT, AA), and nursing.

- We are located in 130 Memorial Hall
    - **Website**: https://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.
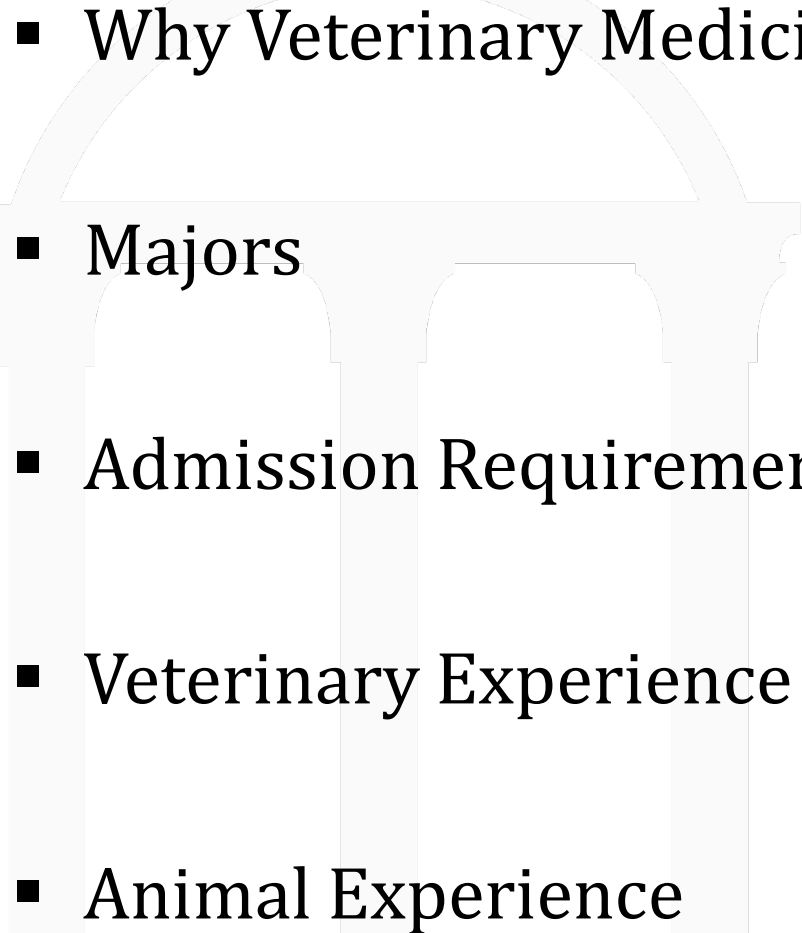    - To make an appointment with a Pre-Health Advisor.

# Meet our Pre-Health Staff!

- **Amanda Spohn** (Coordinator)
  - [aspohn@uga.edu](mailto:aspohn@uga.edu)

- **Michele Johnson** (Pre-Medical Advisor) - If you are a junior, senior, graduate student, or UGA alum, please schedule with Jabari Robinson.
  - [mtjohnso@uga.edu](mailto:mtjohnso@uga.edu)

- **Jennifer Letchuk** (Pre-Medical Advisor) - If you are a **freshman, sophomore, or <u>you have less than 70 credit hours</u>**, please schedule with Ms. Letchuk.
  - [jletchuk@uga.edu](mailto:jletchuk@uga.edu)

- **Taz Qadri** (Pre-Physician Assistant & Veterinary Advisor)
  - [tqadri@uga.edu](mailto:tqadri@uga.edu)

- **Lise Kalla** (Pre-Dental & Optometry Advisor)
  - [lkalla@uga.edu](mailto:lkalla@uga.edu)

- **Casey Ellis** (Pre-Nursing & Allied Health Advisor (PT, OT, etc.)
  - [tqadri@uga.edu](mailto:tqadri@uga.edu)

# Orientation Overview

- Why Veterinary Medicine?

- Majors

- Admission Requirements

- Veterinary Experience

- Animal Experience

- Volunteering (Non-Animal Related)

- Club Involvement/Leadership

- Research

- Letters of Evaluation

# The Decision to Pursue a Career in Veterinary Medicine

**Why Veterinary Medicine?**

- Veterinary Medicine is ranked #10 in The 100 Best Jobs for 2021 by U.S News and World Report.

- The median annual wage for veterinarians is $96,460 in 2021.

- It is a vital profession that specializes in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease as well as disease prevention in animals of all types, from companion, domestic, exotic, wildlife and production animals.

- Veterinarians (DVM or VMD) work with the intersection of human and animal health.

**Veterinary Programs in GA:**

- University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine.

# What should I major in?

- Major does not matter! There is no "best" major for pre-vet students. However, there are some majors that give you more access to animal research and animal related coursework. These majors can be found in The College of Agriculture and Environmental Science (CAES)

- The CAES Animal Health Major allows students the opportunity to apply to UGA College of Veterinary Medicine right before the beginning of your junior year.
  - If you are accepted you would skip your senior year and matriculate into vet school
  - You will earn the Animal Health Degree after completion of your first year.

# The College of Agriculture and Environmental Science (CAES)

## Looking for a pre-vet major?

## Join us in CAES!

### Animal Health:

Animal Health is the fast track to UGA's Veterinary Program. You will apply at the beginning of junior year. If you are accepted you will skip senior year and matriculate into vet school. You will earn the AH Degree after completion of your first year.

### Applied Biotechnology:

This major offer a variety of animal-based coursework to choose from. Students will take the general sciences required for vet school and can chose from any animal prefix including: ADSC, WILD, ECOL, POUL, ENTO, BIOL, VETM, VPHY, etc.

### Avian Biology:

Avian Biology will cover exotic birds and a handful of classes in wildlife behavior, nutrition, and disease. Students are eligible for the Food Animal Vet Incentive Program (poultry medicine) with this major.

### Animal Science:

Animal Science will cover large animal livestock with production animals with course in reproduction, nutrition, physiology, etc. Students are eligible for the Food Animal Vet Incentive Program with this major.

### Biological Science:

This major offers a variety of animal-based coursework to choose from. Students will take the general sciences required for vet school + courses such as large animal nutrition, avian anatomy, wildlife behavior, etc.

### Entomology:

Students will take a mix of Entomology subjects - medical ento, insect behavior, etc. along with the general science sequence. Because of the flexibility of major electives, students can easily double major with other science programs.

For more information or to schedule an appointment contact:
Devin Duggan – Explore Advisor
Email: devinduggan@uga.edu

**College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences**
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

# What do vet schools look for when reviewing applicants?

Veterinary schools consider the following credentials when evaluating applicants for admission:

- Academic record (both overall and science GPA)
- GRE scores
- Letters of Evaluation (including faculty and a veterinarian letter)
- Animal Experience
- Veterinary Experience (under the direct supervision of a veterinarian)
- Volunteering, as well as charitable/altruistic endeavors
- Research experience (not required, but recommended)
- Leadership abilities

# Vet School Admission Requirements

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

| General Vet School Requirements | |
|---|---|
| **Biology** | BIOL 1107/L and BIOL 1108/L |
| **General Chemistry** | CHEM 1211/L and CHEM 1212/L |
| **Organic Chemistry** | CHEM 2211/L and CHEM 2212/L |
| **Biochemistry** | BCMB 3100 or BCMB 4020 |
| **Physics** | PHYS 1111/L or PHYS 1211/L  and PHYS 1112/L or PHYS 1212/L |
| **Advanced Biology Courses (8-hour Minimum)** | Options: VPHY 3100 (Physiology), GENE 3200 (Genetics), CBIO 3400 (Cell Biology), CBIO 3000 (Anatomy), MIBO 3500 (Microbiology), etc. <br> ***In preparation for the GRE's quantitative reasoning section it is recommended you take STAT 2000 or BIOS 2010. |

# Is AP credit accepted?

- Most schools have policies regarding advanced placement (AP) credit. Some schools restrict the use of such credit in fulfillment of pre-requisite requirements.
    - In these cases, schools will often allow you to take additional upper-level courses in the science areas where AP credit was received.
    - Make sure to review the policies for each veterinary school to which you plan to apply by navigating their website and reviewing their admission requirements.

- The University of Georgia currently accepts AP credit.
    - AP credits must appear on official college transcripts and be equivalent to the appropriate college-level coursework.

# Veterinary Experience

- Veterinary Experience refers to time spent under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.
  - Observing or shadowing a veterinarian
  - Working as a vet tech
  - Participating in research under the direct supervision of a veterinarian.
  - Experiences not under the direct supervision of a vet, such as volunteering at an animal shelter do not count for this requirement.

- Schools usually list mandatory hour minimums which can vary between programs. However, competitive applicants typically exceed these hours significantly.
  - You are highly encouraged to have over 600 hours of veterinary experience when entering your application cycle.
  - Variety is encouraged (small animal, large animal, exotic, etc.)

- Start with your family veterinarian, if possible.
  - Connect with campus clubs, they can point you in right direction.

# Animal Experience

- Animal Experience is sometimes confused and lumped in with "Veterinary Experience."
  - Animal Experience refers to the time you spend working with animals not under the supervision of a veterinarian and usually outside of the clinical setting.
  - Examples include:
    - Animals Shelters
    - Guide Dog Foundation
    - Doggie-Daycare

- In order to be a competitive applicant you will want to have a large amount of animal experience hours in a variety of settings in addition to your veterinary experience hours.

- Keep record of experiences.
  - Dates, location, who you worked with, what you did, etc.
  - You will not be able to simply upload a resume to the application.

# Volunteering (Non-Animal Related)

- Volunteering is an important part of the application that you should not neglect.
  - They are looking for applicants who are compassionate, enjoy working with people as well as animals and are dedicated to serving the community.

- Volunteer experiences should be non-animal related!

- No minimum hours, simply show consistent level of commitment.
  - Find something where you're helping regularly, not just one-offs.
  - Follow your passion!

- Keep record of experiences.
  - Dates, location, who you worked with, what you did, etc.
  - You will not be able to simply upload a resume to the application.

# Animal Experience & Volunteer Opportunities in Athens (or nearby)

- **Animal Experience:**
    - Athens Area Humane Society
    - Athens Canine Rescue
    - Athens Pets
    - Cat Zip Alliance
    - Helping Paws Rescue
    - Speak Out for Species
    - Sweet Olive Farm Animal Rescue
    - A New Hope: Animal Sanctuary
    - Bear Hollow Zoo
    - Classic City Clydesdales
    - Guide Dog Foundation

- **Non-Animal Related:**
    - Thomas Lay After-school Program
    - Summer camps (Camp Hardgrove, Camp Twin Lakes, Camp Kudzu, Camp Kesem, etc.)
    - Ace for Athens
    - Boys & Girls Club of Athens
    - Extra Special People
    - American Red Cross
    - Project Safe
    - Books for Keeps
    - U-Lead Athens

- **Many, many more. Follow your interests!**

# Club Involvement/Leadership

- Get involved in student organizations!
    - Vet schools like applicants who stay busy outside of class.

- Attending meetings is helpful but look for leadership opportunities.

- Check these out:
    - Warnell Pre-Vet Club
    - Pre-Veterinary Medicine Club
    - Rescue Paws USA @ UGA
    - Dogs For The Paws
    - Block and Bridle

# Research

- Research is recommended for vet school but not required.
  - Can do it for course credit, for pay, or as a volunteer.

- Research is an active learning experience that gives you a deeper understanding and appreciation for science.

- Working in a lab can also be a good way to secure a strong letter of recommendation.

- Search UGA departmental websites for possible research mentors.
  - Email professors detailing who you are and that you're interested in their work.
  - Ask about current projects.

# Letters of Evaluation for Vet School

- You can submit a minimum of 3 letters with a maximum of 6 letters in the VMCAS application. The typical letters include:
  - 2 hard science professors
  - 2 veterinarians
  - 2 Additional letters from another academic professional, research mentor, supervisor, or someone who knows the you well enough to speak positively on the your behalf.

- Letters should come from people who know you!
  - Will need to describe you as an individual—behavior, character traits, maturity-level, etc.
  - Build relationships with your hard science professors early on.

# Recent Vet Admissions Data (2019-2020)

**University of Georgia**

- 56/98 (accepted/ applicants): 57.1%

- Average matriculant (Overall/Science) GPA:
  - 3.60/3.60

- Average matriculant GRE:
  - 310

- Matriculated into 23 vet schools

# Major Takeaways

- Find a major that works best for you.

- Do well in your science courses.

- Build relationships with your hard science professors early on.

- Start getting involved early and stay committed.

- Utilize the Pre-Professional Advising Office!
  - Join the Pre-Health List-Serv
  - Meet with Pre-Health Advisor
  - Review our website (ppao.uga.edu)

# Questions?

**Pre-Professional Advising Office**
**Website: ppao.uga.edu**
**Email: premed@uga.edu**
**Phone: 706-542-0444**

To make an appointment with Pre-Health Advisor, please visit website.