

PRE-HEALTH AT UGA

A Quick Guide



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

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Pre-Professional Advising Office serves UGA students interested in healthcare careers — including those in medicine, dentistry, optometry, allied-health (PA, AA, PT, OT, etc.) and nursing. Currently, our office does not meet with pre-pharmacy students.

Our current staff includes:

- Jabari Robinson | Pre-Medical Advisor
- Jennifer Letchuk | Pre-Medical Advisor
- Amanda Spohn | Pre -Dental, Vet, & Optometry Advisor
- Chelsea Wesnofske | Pre-Nursing & Allied Health Advisor
- Taz Qadri | Pre-Physician Assistant Advisor
- Caroline Piotrowski | Coordinator

Contact Information:

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Does UGA have a nursing school?

The University of Georgia does not have a nursing school. If you are interesting pursuing a career in nursing you have two options:

1. Complete a UGA degree while incorporating the nursing pre-requisites and then enter a pre-licensure nursing master's program or an accelerated BSN program.
2. Transfer into a BSN program after completing the nursing pre-requisites which usually takes about two years. You will not earn a UGA degree with this option.

What's the best major for pre-health?

Pre-Med, Pre-Dent, Pre-PA, etc. are not majors at UGA. Further, there is no “best” major for any of the healthcare professions nor are there any majors that will make you “standout” when applying to health professional schools. You are encouraged to select a major that you are genuinely interested in as that will help you excel. The pre-requisites for the various health professions can be taken alongside your major coursework. Your academic advisor will help you create semester plans which include all the pre-health courses while keeping you on track for graduation. Our Pre-Health Advisors are available to provide information about the requirements necessary for admission into health professional school but will not replace your academic advisor.

When is the best time to meet with a Pre-Health Advisor?

You are welcome to schedule an appointment with a pre-health advisor as soon as you begin classes at UGA. If you are an incoming freshman, we recommend that you attend an Introductory Orientation during your first semester at UGA and use that semester to get acclimated to the university. Your initial focus should be on strong performance in classes since admission into health professional schools is very academically competitive. During your second semester, you should schedule an appointment with a pre-health advisor.

- ❖ **Pre-Nursing students** are strongly encouraged to schedule an appointment with our office during their first semester especially if they considering the transfer route.
- ❖ **Transfer students** are encouraged to schedule an appointment once classes start during their first semester.

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Checklist for Incoming Students

New to UGA and interested in healthcare? You should first:

❑ Review a Pre-Health Quick Facts Sheet

- Our office has created these resources to provide an overview of being “Pre-Med,” “Pre-Opt,” “Pre-PA,” etc. at UGA and they are helpful for getting you started on your path.
- Quick Facts sheets can be obtained from your academic advisor or prehealth.uga.edu

❑ Join the *Pre-HealthUGA* Listserv

- This listserv lets you stay connected to our office so that you can learn about important events such as orientations, professional school visits, workshops, etc.
- You can find instructions for how to join on prehealth.uga.edu (Click the link on the left-side of the page!)

❑ Attend an Introductory Pre-Health Orientation

- These sessions are meant for freshmen and sophomores and are offered during fall and spring semesters. We will cover everything you need to know to start building your professional school resume.
- Orientation dates are listed on the Pre-Health Events Calendar and are also announced via the listserv.

❑ Review the Pre-Health Events Calendar

- The Pre-Health Events Calendar on our website lists upcoming pre-health club meetings, school visits, workshops, orientations, and more.

❑ Explore the Various Pre-Health Organizations at UGA

- UGA offers a myriad of different student organizations focused on healthcare and medicine, including the American Medical Student Association, Pre-Dental Society, Pre-Physician Assistant Association, Pre-Nursing Society, MEDLIFE, the Minority Student Science Association, and many others!
- You can view a list of student organizations and contact information on the Pre-Health website under the “Get Involved” tab.

❑ Start Building Relationships with Faculty

- Most professional schools require letters of recommendation from science faculty members. Since most classes are large at UGA, it is critical that students be proactive and start building relationships with faculty early. Faculty can also serve as excellent mentors, so don't be shy!
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