



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

Pre-Vet Introductory Orientation

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.
 - Add the Pre-Professional Planner to our iPhone

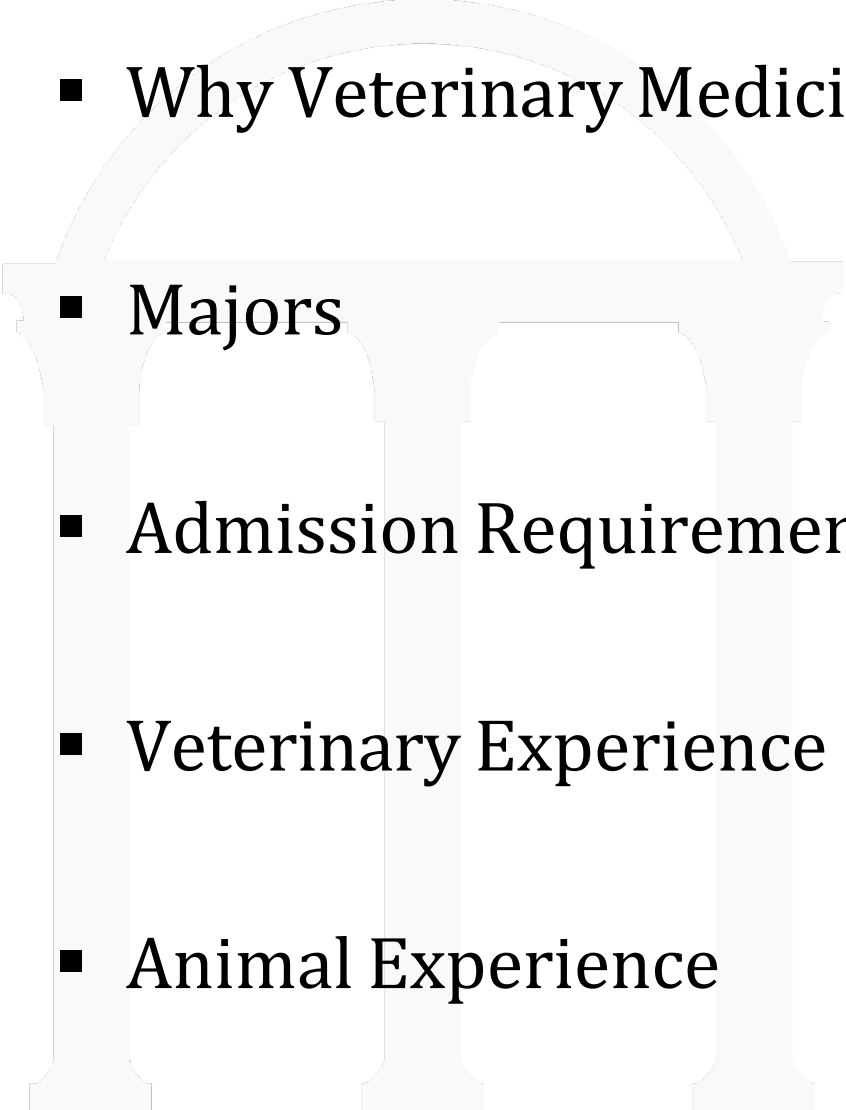


Meet our Pre-Health Staff!

- **Amanda Spohn** (Coordinator)
 - 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
- **Jennifer Letchuk** (Pre-Medical Advisor) - If you are a **freshman, sophomore, or you have less than 70 credit hours**, please schedule with Ms. Letchuk.
 - jletchuk@uga.edu
- **Taz Qadri** (Pre-Physician Assistant & Pre-Veterinary Advisor)
 - tqadri@uga.edu
- **Lise Kalla** (Pre-Dental & Optometry Advisor)
 - lkalla@uga.edu
- **Casey Ellis** (Pre-Nursing & Allied Health Advisor (PT, OT, etc.))
 - cme18@uga.edu



Orientation Overview

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- 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 #43 in The 100 Best Jobs for 2026 by U.S News and World Report.
- The median annual wage for veterinarians is **\$125,510** in **May 2024**.
- 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 - No. 9 by U.S. News and World Report.

***Meet with the Pre-Vet advisor after your first semester at UGA.**

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, animal related coursework and animal experience. These majors can be found in The College of Agriculture and Environmental Science (CAES), Warnell or College of Veterinary Medicine at UGA.
- 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 in veterinary school at UGA.



MAJOR: PRE-VET WILDLIFE SCIENCES

WARNELL SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

MORE INFORMATION:

MIKAELA DALLAS
MIKAELA.DALLAS@UGA.EDU

DR. SONIA HERNANDEZ
SHERNZ@UGA.EDU

DR. MICHAEL YABSLEY
MYABSLEY@UGA.EDU

CLASSES:

VERTEBRATE AND NATURAL HISTORY

WILDLIFE HABITAT

WILDLIFE DISEASES

HERPETOLOGY

MAMMALOGY

ORNITHOLOGY

CONSERVATION MEDICINE

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

CONSERVATION GENETICS



PRE-VET MAJOR: BIOMEDICAL PHYSIOLOGY

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

MORE INFORMATION:

APRIL HITCHCOCK-WATSON

AHWATSON@UGA.EDU

DR. PAUL EUBIG

PAUL.EUBIG@UGA.EDU

<https://vet.uga.edu/education/undergraduate-programs/>

OFFERED CLASSES:

INTEGRATED CONCEPTS IN PHYSIOLOGY I & II

PHYSIOLOGY LAB

PHYSIOLOGY CAREERS & SKILLS COURSE

RESEARCH-BASED EXPERIENCE PHYSIOLOGY

NEUROPHYSIOLOGY I & II

CARDIOVASCULAR & RESPIRATORY PHYSIOLOGY

ENDOCRINE PHYSIOLOGY

SKELTAL MUSCLE & MITOCHONDIRIA PHYS.

PHYSIOLOGIC BASIS OF DISEASES

PHYSIOLOGICAL TOXICOLOGY





College of Agricultural &
Environmental Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

CAES Office of Academic Affairs
102 Conner Hall
(706) 542-1611

HAVE QUESTIONS?

PAM CUMMINS
DEVIN DUGGAN
STUDENT AMBASSADOR

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UGACAES@UGA.EDU

GET CONNECTED @UGACAESSTUDENTS #AGDAWG



What do vet schools look for when reviewing applicants?

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

- **Aim for Academic excellence.** Science GPA really tells schools if students can do well in a rigorous DVM curriculum.
- **Gain as much animal and veterinary experience as you can.** Vet schools prefer students divide their time to get experience in different clinics and with different animals.
- **Research experience** isn't a requirement but participating in a project you're passionate about can be beneficial.
- **Write a thoughtful essay.** Show who you are, what experiences you had that shaped you and what your goals are.
- **Secure glowing letters of recommendations.** Letters that complement and highlight who the candidate is as a person.
- **Let your personality show through.** Have soft skills like communication and the ability to work well with others. Non-animal related experience



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. Your pre-vet major classes will count for this area also.



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.
- 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 800 hours of veterinary experience when entering your application cycle.
 - Variety is encouraged (small animal, large animal, exotic.)
 - Gaining a breadth of experiences than obsessing over the specific number of hours is better
- Start with your family veterinarian, if possible.
 - Connect with campus clubs. Use the interactive map : [Find Veterinarians in your area:](#)



Animal Experience

- Animal Experience is:
 - 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. Gaining a breadth of experiences than obsessing over the specific number of hours is better.
Use the interactive map: [Find local animal service organizations in your area:](#)
- Keep record of experiences.
 - Use the Pre-Professional Planner App to list dates, location, who you worked with, what you did, found on our ppao.uga.edu website



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.
 - Use the Pre-Professional Planner App to list dates, location, who you worked with, what you did, found on our ppao.uga.edu website



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

- Get involved in student organizations!
 - Vet schools like applicants who stay busy outside of class.
- 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 **strongly recommended** for vet school.
 - 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 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 (2024-2025)

University of Georgia

- 100 UGA students were accepted to UGA VetMD
- 47.67% UGA acceptance rate across the nation
- Average (Overall/Science/Last 45 CC hours) GPA:
 - 3.64/3.57/3.84



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)
 - Connect with PPSA ambassadors



Connect with a
**PRE-PROFESSIONAL
STUDENT AMBASSADOR**



*A PPSA who shares
your professional goal
will reach out to you!*


PRE-HEALTH


PRE-LAW



Pre-Professional Student Ambassadors Present

PRE-PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT FAIR

Find clubs that share your career goals!

Thursday, September 17th

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Memorial Hall Ballroom

*Refreshments for 1st
100 participants!*



PRE-HEALTH



PRE-LAW



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PPAO Events



PPSA Peer Mentor



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Pre-Professional Advising Office

Questions?

Pre-Professional Advising Office

Website: ppao.uga.edu

Email: tqadri@uga.edu

Phone: 706-542-0444

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

