**UGA Franklin College Physical Sciences Orientation**

Welcome to the Orientation session for physical and computational science majors in the Franklin College of Arts & Sciences.

You’ve chosen to pursue a liberal arts and science education where you will have intentional opportunities to creatively express yourself, communicate effectively, and investigate complex formulas and ideas. If you change your major, then it’s important to inform Mary Herman before your advising appointment.

As you well know, college is a different world from high school, and each college is different in its own right. Here at UGA, the amount of effort and hours it takes to have academic success is compared to having a full-time job. We recommend studying 3 hours for every credit hour you are enrolled in; if you are registered for 15 hours, that’s 45 hours of studying outside of class. Add the 15 hours of class instruction, and that’s a 60 hour work week! That’s a lot of overtime, but the payoff is a competitive GPA and of course graduation.

In order to graduate, you need a minimum 2.0 GPA, 120 academic hours, plus 1 hour for physical education, and completion of required classes. Classes are housed in four sets of requirements – from the University System of Georgia requirements, which we call USG, then you have institutional requirements (called UGA requirements), Franklin College, and then major-specific requirements.

The USG/UGA requirements include the minimum GPA, cultural diversity, environmental awareness, Federal and Georgia Constitution, US and GA history, the FYOS seminar, experiential learning, and PE. Keep in mind, physical education only counts once towards graduation.

Franklin College requirements include foreign language (which you will need to satisfy through the third semester of the same language family), biological sciences, physical sciences, literature, social sciences, two fine arts/philosophy/religion classes, history, and a multicultural course.

The core is comprised of Areas I-VI. Area I being your foundational math and English classes, Area II are your sciences, Area III quantitative reasoning, Area IV world language and culture, humanities, and arts, Area V social sciences, and Area VI is dictated by major.

In short, the 120 hours of academic credit is 60 hours of system and college requirements, and 60 hours for the major. If your major coursework is less than 60 credit hours, then you will have room to take general electives to meet graduation requirements. It’s a lot of classes, but most of you are bringing in credit through AP, IB, and dual enrollment.

If you do not already have credit or exemptions for math, it is strongly recommended that you take the ALEKS placement or the Mathematics Exemption Test. If continuing with the foreign language that you have prior knowledge in, you should also consider taking a language exam. With intentional planning and careful course selection, you can take fewer classes to satisfy requirements, and your academic advisor can help you with that and more.

The mission of the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Office of Student Academic Services is to provide information about the academic requirements and resources of the Franklin College, the University of Georgia, and the University System of Georgia. Advisors foster an environment of trust, respect, and mutual responsibility, while encouraging students to develop an appreciation for the enduring value of the liberal arts and sciences. Advisors educate students about the unique challenges and diverse possibilities at a large university. Students are encouraged to engage in a process of exploration and self-discovery that ultimately will lead to the realization of their academic and professional goals. Keep in mind – academic advising is for students only, and it’s required each semester in order to register for classes.

Here are the wonderful advisors that will help guide you on your journey at UGA.

Before your one-on-one appointment with your orientation advisor, make a list of all your AP, IB, and joint enrollment classes. Please provide scores if known. You’d also want to select a world language, a physical science, one life science, two or three humanities/arts classes, and two social sciences. If you aren’t sure what that philosophy, psychology, African American studies, etc. course is, look them up in the UGA Bulletin and receive a wonderful course description.

Your advisor is going to help you plan a balanced schedule, which may resemble one of the schedules here. Keep in mind, you may have to adjust your schedule once you start to register. Don’t panic! You will have until the end of Drop/Add to complete your schedule.

Here are some resources to help you prepare for your advising session. Use the Bulletin to get course descriptions and learn if you have met prerequisite requirements for a course you would like to take. Use Degreeworks to see your remaining requirements and additional course options. Use SAGE to schedule your next advising appointment. Remember – advising is mandatory each semester. You are unable to register for classes until you meet with your academic advisor, and it will be your responsibility to schedule an advising appointment for the upcoming semester.

Use Athena to register for your classes and check for registration holds. Advisors will clear your academic advising hold, but you may need to acknowledge your student account, update your contact information, or resolve some other hold. Be sure to check your UGA email daily! Your advising appointment information will be sent to your UGA email account.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, advising will be done remotely. Please let Mary Herman ([mherman@uga.edu](mailto:mherman@uga.edu)) know if you have a preference between Zoom, email, or phone advisement. Be sure to check your UGA email daily – your orientation advisor will email you before, or on the day of your appointment with details. Again, if changing your major, contact Mary Herman.

If you have questions after your advising appointment, follow up with your orientation advisor or you can email [askfranklin@uga.edu](mailto:askfranklin@uga.edu). We look forward to meeting you. Go Dawgs!