**UGA Franklin College Biological Sciences Orientation**

Welcome to Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Life Science meeting. I am Elizabeth Fuller, the Lead Biology Academic Advisor.

The Franklin College of Arts and Sciences is the oldest, largest and most academically diverse college at the University of Georgia of the 17 schools and colleges. It is the Liberal Arts college. The first classes were taught in 1801 in a forest clearing on what is now the University’s historic North Campus. Franklin College and University of Georgia were often used interchangeably to describe the fledgling institution until 1859, when the Law School became the second college.

In 1806, the first permanent brick building was constructed on campus and named Franklin College in honor of Benjamin Franklin. The building, seen here was later renamed Old College. It is the oldest structure in Athens and houses the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Office. The statue of Abraham Baldwin, UGA’s first president, stands in front.

Today’s Franklin College comprises 30 departments in five divisions: Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Biological Sciences, Physical and Mathematical Sciences, and the Humanities.  Three of the most popular undergraduate majors at UGA—Biology, Psychology, and Computer Science, are housed within Franklin College.

In addition to educating more undergraduates than any college on campus, the Franklin College offers 78 undergraduate majors, 76 graduate programs, and numerous minors and certificates. Most of the classes that satisfy the undergraduate core requirements come from Franklin College, forming the foundation of all undergraduate study. In your handout you will see a list of all of the majors offered in Franklin College.

Why should you study the liberal arts? No one can predict the future, but people like Mark Cuban say creativity and out-of-the-box thinking will be extremely important Employers and career consultants agree!

How will you spend your time? There are many choices to make about how to spend your time in college. You will be in class and labs roughly 15 hours a week.

You will also need time to adjust to a new culture, a new living situation, new friends, and being responsible for things you weren’t before. Balance and time management is key your first semester.

In addition to attending your classes, you need to be disciplined about studying for those classes. Expect to spend 2 hours studying for every hour in class.

You will find many things outside classes to enhance your college experience. Join a student organization, intermural team, or volunteer. Some of you may need to work part-time. Maybe you will Study Abroad one semester or summer.

Don’t forget to take care of yourself, eat regularly, exercise, and sleep! How do you imagine your first semester? What is the one thing outside of class you really want to do?

Most courses are 3-4 credit hours. College courses don’t meet every day, so a 3-hour course may meet MWF for about 50 minutes or T/TH for an hour and 15 min. You will have at least one –lab and a one hour seminar. 12 hrs is the minimum to be a full-time student. 17 is the maximum

**Core** or intro-level courses, are 1000-2000 level.

**Major courses** are 3000-4000-level courses in an area of study. Majors in the biological sciences and Chemistry typically house 28 to 40 hours depending on which major.

**Electives** are any course outside of your core or major– these are opportunities. You can use your electives for a 2nd major, a minor, or to explore interesting options. Our majors house at least 20 hours of elective credit.

Each student will be required to take one **PEDB course** before you graduate.

This is a typical Fall BS Life sciences major 1st semester. Yours may look different depending on AP, Dual Enrollment, placement exams and personal choices of core.

What is core? All students must complete core. UGA’s core is different from other University System of Georgia institutions. Our core includes Area I-VI. These are opportunities to stretch your mind or to explore areas of special interest to you. You can choose the focus for many of these requirements. You will also take pre-requisites to your major in core. Many of Franklin College’s requirements can be satisfied in the core.

In addition to the core and Franklin requirements, students have **UGA and USG requirements** – some courses from core can fill multiple areas. Your advisor will talk to you about which courses are best.

All students will take a **First Year Odyssey course**. Seminars provide students with a small class format, no FYOS will be more than 15 students. This is great for students to find community in a large university. May be major-related or NOT – it’s completely your choice!

Many students plan on pursuing a pre-health path after they graduate.

Many of you will need resources as you begin UGA. MyUGA Portal has a handy list of all of them in one place.

ATHENA, Bulletin, and Degreeworks are three of the resources that you will be using the most. Athena is where you will register for courses, withdraw from courses if you need to do that, change your major, see transcripts, and check your registrations holds. The Bulletin will offer course descriptions and degree requirements. Degreeworks is an audit that is your specific courses in your major and how that will help you reach graduation.

Advising is mandatory at the University of Georgia, 1st years through PhD level. Advisors guide, suggest, clarify, and assist. We clear you to register for courses. Advisors do not register you for classes.

Advisors love students – We want to help you, especially if you don’t know where to go! We do not grade your performance; we are here to be your advocates.

This year’s orientation is a bit different than in the past. You will receive instructions on when your appointment is and how it will be performed. We recommend Zoom for most students. We recognize that some of you in rural areas may have a lack of broadband internet, so we have other options including email and phone. Due to FERPA privacy laws, we ask that the advising appointment be with the student only. Please look at your handouts and other materials given, to have an idea of the types of courses you are interested in taking.

The advising appointment doesn’t end your options in terms of changing your schedule. You can adjust your schedule as needed throughout drop/add. After drop/add ends and you wish to change something – you will have to go through the Withdrawal process. Always talk to an advisor and Financial Aid before withdrawing from a course to see how it will impact you.

If you have any questions, feel free to email askfranklin or your advisor once you have an appointment. We look forward to meeting you at your appointment.