

# Poultry Science Graduate Program

## Admission Requirements

### Application Deadlines:

Fall semester: April 1<sup>st</sup>

Spring semester: September 1<sup>st</sup>

Summer semester: February 1<sup>st</sup>

### Application Requirements:

To be admitted to the UGA's Poultry Science Graduate Program, students **must** have identified a faculty mentor to serve as their Major Professor. If you have not already been in touch with a prospective faculty mentor, reach out to **Departmental faculty** to identify those that are performing research in a field of interest to you and ensure they are accepting students. It is highly recommended that you identify a Major Professor prior to finalizing your application with the Graduate School to increase your chances of acceptance.

Once you have identified a Major Professor and have all the required materials described below, **submit your application** prior to the deadlines listed above. Additional resources that you may find helpful can be found on the Graduate School's **Prospective Students** and **Admissions** webpages.

Applicants will need to complete the Graduate School's **online application** and provide the following:

- Evidence of completing a Bachelor of Science degree in a Biological Science and/or Agricultural Field with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater
  - Unofficial transcripts can be used during the application process.
  - Official transcripts will need to be provided after offer of admission.
- GRE scores with a minimum combined verbal and quantitative score of 297. **Applicants must complete verbal, quantitative, and analytical writing sections of the GRE, and those who skip the analytical writing portion will be denied admission automatically.** For more information and to schedule a GRE test, visit the **ETS GRE website**. Applicants to the Poultry Science MS program or PhD program after completing a thesis-based MS can request a waiver of the GRE score requirement. The eligibility criteria and description of the additional writing sample that must be submitted are described below.
- A resume/CV detailing your education and prior professional experience.
- Three recommendations provided via the application portal. These must be from academic or professional supervisors and written within the past 18 months.
- A Statement of Purpose (2-page max) including the information as described below.
- International applicants need to provide evidence of English language proficiency. Minimum requirements and other information can be found on the Graduate School's **English Language Proficiency Requirement** website. These requirements cannot be waived by the Department.
- Application fee. Current rates are \$75 for the first application and \$25 for each additional application. This fee cannot be waived.

## Minimum Requirements for a GRE Waiver Request

Below are the minimum requirements that applicants must meet to be considered for a GRE waiver. Only students applying to the Poultry Science MS program or PhD program after completing a thesis-based MS degree are eligible to be considered for a GRE waiver. Students applying directly to the PhD program with only an undergraduate degree are not eligible for the GRE waiver and must submit GRE scores.

- MS Program applicants must:
  - Hold a B.S. or B.S.A degree with a cumulative undergraduate GPA  $\geq 3.25$ ; and
  - Have completed a directed undergraduate research experience that is documented on the resume/CV. The experience should involve completion of a research project that resulted in an undergraduate thesis, conference or symposia presentation, and/or other scientific output.
- PhD Program Applicants:
  - Hold a thesis-based MS degree with a cumulative graduate GPA  $\geq 3.25$ ; and
  - Have a cumulative undergraduate GPA  $\geq 3.25$ ;
- Applicants to both the MS and PhD programs must submit an additional one-page writing sample that demonstrates their ability to communicate clearly in proper written English.
  - The sample must be written by the applicant without the help of other individuals or generative AI language models.
  - The sample must include:
    1. The rationale for the GRE waiver request;
    2. A description of the applicant's prior research experience, with a clear indication of the level of involvement in the research project (e.g. experimental set-up, sample collection, sample analysis, data analysis and presentation, interpretation of results, etc).
    3. Experience the applicant has in communicating scientific findings in written and/or oral form.
    4. The following certification must be included at the end: "This statement was written in my own words, without the help of any other individual or generative AI."

## Statement of Purpose

All applicants must submit a one- to two-page page Statement of Purpose to be written without the help of other individuals or generative AI language models. This is separate from the additional writing sample submitted by those requesting a GRE waiver and should include:

1. Academic and professional background and how it has prepared the applicant for graduate school;
2. Reasons for wanting to attend UGA's Poultry Science Graduate Program;
3. Prior research experience and skills developed;
4. Research interests and faculty or programs in the department that align with them;
5. Positive contributions the applicant would bring to the Department;
6. If applicable, any weaknesses in the academic record, how they were overcome, & how the experience allowed for personal, academic, and/or professional growth.
7. The following certification must be included at the end: "This statement was written in my own words, without the help of any other individual or generative AI."