

## Graduate Program Admission Requirements – Department of Poultry Science

### Application Deadlines:

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

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

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

Welcome to the Poultry Science Graduate Program at UGA! The best way to begin the process of applying for admission to a graduate program in the Department of Poultry Science is to contact a prospective faculty advisor with which you share common interests. **This is because you cannot be admitted as a graduate student in the department without a faculty mentor.**

STEP 1: Identify a prospective faculty member by perusing faculty research interests at <https://poultry.caes.uga.edu/people/faculty.html>

STEP 2: Contact the prospective faculty member. Good things to include in the initial contact are your CV or resume, your unofficial transcripts, your GRE scores (if you have them), and a bit about why you are interested in working with the faculty member.

STEP 3: Once the prospective faculty member has agreed that you have a common interest and has expressed interest in taking you on as a student, submit your application materials to the UGA Graduate School: **APPLY NOW.**

More information about admissions requirements can be found on the **Graduate Admissions website.**

In addition to the online application and required transcripts, the following are required for admission to the program:

- A bachelor's degree in a Biological Science and/or Agricultural Field (including Poultry Science, Biology, Agricultural Engineering, Animal Science, etc.)
- Three official letters of recommendation (sent by referees) online through the Graduate application system. The three letters usually come from former or current professors and professional supervisors.
- A 1-2 page statement of purpose (see below for the description of this)
- A resume detailing your prior experience
- Official GRE scores with a minimum combined score of 297 (verbal and math) **OR** demonstration of significant prior research experience by one or more of the following: a quality peer-reviewed publication in a journal, 2 publications at local, regional, national, or international scientific meetings, and/or at least a year of experience in a research laboratory.
- **If you do not submit GRE scores, an additional writing sample is required. The writing sample should** should include 300 words written in complete sentences

with a good flow of English. It should reflect your persistence, problem solving skills, and motivation, and elaborate on the following: (1) A project/task that you worked during your career from the initial stages to completion, and (2) Your prior research experience, (3) An example of a challenge or problem that you faced, describing the process of finding a solution and how the solution was implemented.

Please note: The faculty of the Department of Poultry Science have voted to make the GRE **optional** for MS/PhD applicants but we will not accept students without the GRE unless those students have demonstrated significant research and/or poultry experience. If you do not have this experience, we recommend taking the GRE to provide more information about your potential success as a graduate student. Taking this exam at home is a safe and convenient option for test takers who prefer to take their test at home rather than at a test center. It's offered everywhere that the test is normally available, based on the country of your account address, except Mainland China and Iran. For information about GRE testing, see <https://www.ets.org/gre/>.

For International applicant, satisfactory scores on either the TOEFL or IELTS language proficiency examinations are required for admission.

- Minimum TOEFL score requirement: overall score of 80 with at least 20 on speaking and writing
- Minimum IELTS score requirement: overall band-width of 6.5, with no single band (score) below 6.0
- Minimum Intensive English Program requirement: successfully complete Level 6 and provide confirmation from Intensive English Program Director ([iep.uga.edu](http://iep.uga.edu))

If your most recent degree is from an English-speaking university, you may be exempt from this requirement. Check the Country Specific requirements at the Graduate School Website.

### **What is a Statement of Purpose?**

Each applicant to our graduate program must submit a Statement of Purpose. The Statement of Purpose is one of your primary opportunities to help our Graduate Affairs committee understand your academic objectives and determine if you are a good match for our graduate program. You want to introduce yourself and demonstrate to the committee that your background has prepared you for graduate studies in poultry science and/or avian biology and that you have the potential to be successful in our graduate program.

The statement of purpose is your opportunity to explain your interest in poultry science and/or avian biology and the experiences that have prepared you for graduate studies. Include the description of skills, research experience and relevant work or internship

experiences that have prepared you for graduate studies. The SOP is also a place, if necessary, to address any weaknesses in your academic record. In such situations, it is best to focus on how you overcame obstacles to reach your goals. Explain how the experience made you a better researcher/scholar/person, etc.

Be concise and focus on your academic background. The statement of purpose should be 1-2 pages long. Below you will find suggested topics to address in your statement.

1. Why do you want to enter a poultry science graduate program?
2. Why do you think UGA might be a good fit for your goals?
3. What are your research interests? (MS and PhD applicants)
4. How did you become interested in poultry science/avian biology research? (MS and PhD applicants)
5. How did you prepare or are preparing to address the issues in poultry science/avian biology?
6. What characteristics (faculty/labs) of the school/department/program can help you accomplish your goals?
7. What positive aspects do you bring to the school/department/program?