



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
School of Medicine

DAWGS TO DOCS

The UGA Athlete-to-Medicine Pathway

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Dawgs to Docs is a one-year pathway designed to support University of Georgia student-athletes in exploring and pursuing careers in medicine. The program recognizes that student-athletes bring distinctive strengths—discipline, resilience, teamwork, leadership, and performance under pressure—that translate into success in medical school and clinical practice.

Through structured mentorship, clinical exposure, academic support tailored to athletic schedules, and intentional professional development, Dawgs to Docs provides a guided pre-med pathway and the opportunity to be a competitive applicant for admission to the University of Georgia School of Medicine upon successful completion of program requirements.

WHY DAWGS TO DOCS?

Student-athletes often excel in medical training because of skills honed in competitive sports: time management, perseverance, teamwork, leadership, and the ability to perform under pressure. These attributes align closely with the competencies required of successful medical students and physicians.

Dawgs to Docs exists to intentionally support UGA student-athletes who aspire to become physicians by providing a clear, structured pathway, robust advising and mentorship, flexible clinical and academic experiences, and a mechanism for early assurance to the UGA School of Medicine.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Program Duration & Cohort Size

- **Length:** One-year pathway program
- **Entry Point:** After sophomore year (*two years before medical school application*)
- **Cohort Size:** Up to 5 student athletes selected per academic year

Application Timeline

Milestone	Date
Application Available	May
Application Deadline	June
Interviews	July
Orientation & Program Start	September



DAWGS TO DOCS

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for Dawgs to Docs, applicants must meet all of the following criteria at the time of application:

- Current UGA varsity student-athlete
- ACT/SAT composite score of 24 or higher, or high school GPA of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale
- Minimum of sophomore standing with at least two to be a competitive applicant for admission
- Completion of one full academic year of college-level biology and chemistry (including lectures and associated laboratories) as required of biology and chemistry majors
- College GPA of 3.5 or higher
- Premedical BCPM (biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics) GPA of 3.3 or higher at the time of application
- Demonstrated intention to practice medicine in Georgia
- Demonstrated evidence of UGA School of Medicine values (e.g., integrity, service, collaboration, resilience, cultural humility)



SELECTION PROCESS

All applicants to the Dawgs to Docs program follow a rigorous, mission-aligned evaluation process:

- 1. Application Review:** All application materials are reviewed by the UGA School of Medicine Admissions Committee to identify competitive candidates
- 2. Interview Invitation:** Competitive applicants are invited to participate in a Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) conducted in July
- 3. Final Decisions:** Following the interview, the Admissions Committee meets to discuss and make final admission decisions
- 4. Transparency:** Not being selected for the Dawgs to Docs pathway program will have no negative impact on consideration for regular UGA School of Medicine admission in future application cycles

CONTINUATION & MID-PROGRAM REVIEW

One-Year Progress Check

After completion of the program, each student will meet with the Office of Admissions to review progress toward academic and program requirements.

Continuation Decision

If a student has not met academic criteria or fulfilled core program expectations by the one-year review, they will no longer participate in the Dawgs to Docs pathway. However, students in this situation will receive advising and support regarding alternative pathways to medical school.



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PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Academic Support& Advising

- Required, regular meetings with athletic academic advisors, tutors, and learning specialists to ensure success in pre-medical coursework.
- Individualized academic plans developed with faculty and pre-health advisors to integrate medical school prerequisites with practice, travel, and competition schedules.
- Access to tutoring and learning resources specifically structured around the time demands of intercollegiate athletics.

Mentorship & Networking

- Mentorship from former student-athletes who are currently in medical school or working in healthcare careers.
- Physician mentors, including UGA-affiliated healthcare professionals, who provide guidance on specialty choices, career planning, and professional identity formation.
- Networking events and panels highlighting successful athlete-to-physician pathways and diverse careers in medicine and health care.

Clinical Exposure & Shadowing

- Structured shadowing opportunities arranged through the UGA School of Medicine, local hospitals, clinics, and community health partners.
- Observational and interactive experiences in a variety of medical specialties and care settings.
- Total of approximately 50 shadowing hours
- Scheduling flexibility to accommodate in-season and off-season training, competition, and travel.



Career Exploration & Professional Development

- Workshops on medical school preparation, including course planning, MCAT strategies, and the application process.
- Sessions focused on time management, stress management, and effective study strategies for students balancing athletics and rigorous academics.
- Career panels featuring physicians and health professionals with athletic backgrounds.
- Opportunities for research or scholarly projects that can be structured around athletic season demands.

Partnerships & Resources

- Collaboration among UGA Athletics, The Georgia Way, the UGA School of Medicine, and community health partners.
- The Georgia Way provides career development, academic advising, tutoring, and learning resource specialists experienced in supporting student-athletes.
- The UGA School of Medicine provides pathway programming, mentors, clinical exposure opportunities, and guidance on readiness for medical school.





Interested in learning more about the University of Georgia School of Medicine?

The Office of Admissions is hosting multiple events in the coming months including open houses and virtual office hours, as well as visiting college health fairs across Georgia. To learn more about these events, please scan the code to view our website ►



***For questions about the Dawgs to Docs program,
contact the UGA School of Medicine Office of Admissions:***

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