Surgery Residency

The surgery residency at the University of Georgia is a three-year program fulfilling the requirements for board eligibility as defined by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. The program’s goals are to develop the resident's expertise in small animal surgery, prepare the resident for board certification by the ACVS, and give each individual a solid understanding of scientific design and fundamentals of research. Training is under the direction of six supervising and one supporting diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgery. We anticipate adding 1 additional supervising surgeon by the Fall of 2017.

Approximately three-quarters of each year are spent in the Teaching Hospital for clinical training. Faculty members take pride in their active involvement in the Teaching Hospital when on duty. Clinical rotations are assigned in 3-week blocks. The remaining one-quarter of each year is spent in research or specialty training required by the ACVS.

This is a non-degree graduate program, leading to an official University certificate of residency. A one-time application fee of $75 ($100 for international students), a one-time matriculation fee to the ACVS ($425 for 2016, subject to change by the ACVS in future years), and tuition and student fees (approximately $3,000/year) are the responsibility of the individual selected for the program. The fees allow access to the Ramsey Student Activities Center (sports complex) and Gilbert Student Health Center, as well as access to student tickets for athletic and cultural events. Parking fees (up to $240/year currently) are an additional expense.

Current resident salary is $30,450 for the first year. For every 12 months of training, 10 days of vacation time are provided for residents, as well as 12 days of sick leave. Professional development funds of $2,000 each year are provided to offset professional dues and expenses associated with travel to one professional meeting annually.

Proof of medical insurance coverage and proof of immunization for measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, tetanus, hepatitis B, and rabies are required. Health insurance is the responsibility of the individual. Medical insurance is available through the Graduate School at a reasonable rate, but may be waived if proof of other coverage is provided. Coverage through the Graduate School will be available beginning August 1, 2017. Please visit the following website for additional information regarding health insurance fees (http://www.hr.uga.edu/student-health-insurance).

The successful candidate will be licensed to practice by virtue of a faculty license. This license permits veterinarians from non-AVMA-accredited veterinary schools to practice within UGA graduate programs, and may be obtained without examination. Whereas the regular Georgia state veterinary license requires graduation from an AVMA-accredited veterinary school or successful completion of the ECFVG program, this is not a requirement for the faculty license. A faculty license enables the license holder to practice only in the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Professional liability insurance is covered only for work performed at the Teaching Hospital; it is the resident’s responsibility to acquire professional liability insurance for work performed elsewhere, if necessary.

Successful international applicants are required to provide two official, certified copies of their academic records from each institution of higher education attended. These records must include all course work. Photocopies are not acceptable. Separate proof of degree(s) is also required. All graduates of veterinary colleges not within the United States or Canada are considered international applicants regardless of citizenship. If the original language of the academic record is not English, a certified English translation must be attached to the original. Candidates must be fluent in written and spoken English. Foreign graduates whose primary language is not English MUST provide TOEFL scores (see http://www.toefl.org for details), AND the scores must not be more than two years old. Foreign applicants who have completed one year of academic study in the US can provide a university transcript in lieu of TOEFL scores. All applications must be made through the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians Veterinary Internship and Residency Matching Program, further details available
from www.virmp.org. To apply please contact the matching program at www.virmp.org

It is crucial that international candidates consider application processing times well ahead of the program start date. Please note that it may take up to 10 days to obtain a social security number. Information about this process can be found at http://issis.uga.edu/docs/Student_Section/Obtaining_a_Social_Security_Number.pdf. A social security number is required in order to apply for a Georgia veterinary faculty license, and it may take up to 30 additional days to receive this license. More detailed information for international candidates is available through the Office of International Education (http://international.uga.edu/oie). Offers to international applicants are contingent upon successful application for the appropriate visa.

Residents at the University of Georgia are classified as graduate students, and thus for the purpose of the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program are not considered to be full time employees. Please consider this information if you plan to participate in the Public Service Loan Forgiveness or other loan repayment programs.

The University of Georgia is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status in its programs or activities.

Please write to the program director for further information on this program or refer to the department’s website (http://www.vet.uga.edu/SAMS). On-site visitation or telephone or skype interviews may be allowed only after review of application package. An on-site interview is not required for admission to this program.

The residency start date will be July 15, 2017.

For questions concerning the program, please call or e-mail

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