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Personal Statement (Condensed)
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Every student is an individual and is important. That is the basis for all that I do as an academic advisor.

The purpose of advising is to guide and support students as they identify and work toward meeting their academic and professional goals. At the most basic level, advising helps students develop a plan of study. However, I see advising as an opportunity to help students develop personally as well as professionally by guiding them to take responsibility for their own academic career and beyond.

Advising is not a simple, straightforward process. Students have multiple interests, often involving more than one college, and all of this information may be overwhelming. Thus, I spend time with each student 1) discussing goals, programs, and courses, 2) explaining requirements (e.g., UGA, college, major, and minor requirements, etc.), and 3) helping the student develop a strategy to reach goals in a realistic time frame. To help enhance the student's experiences at UGA and better prepare the student for post-graduation plans, I raise student awareness of the many opportunities available, including study abroad programs, scholarships, pre-professional clubs, jobs or internships, and seminars. I feel I have been successful when a student is prepared with options for the next few semesters or has followed through on obtaining additional information about a career or majors. And, when a student asks questions, I am delighted.

When students leave UGA, the face of the institution that they remember often is a few of their instructors and their advisors. It is important to me that I greet each student with a smile; offer a comfortable, supportive, and safe "haven"; never appear shocked; and have up-to-date information on UGA and its offices, programs, colleges, requirements, and procedures so I may always help the student in some way. I respect each student's goals and ambitions and try to help the student reach them. They respond with increased self respect and self confidence. There is no better job on campus. I have enjoyed every student with whom I have worked, and I feel fortunate to be part of the UGA experience.
