



## **Advising Philosophy For Dr. Timothy R. Hoover**

To be an effective advisor I believe the most important thing one can do is to make students feel they are valued and you are interested in helping them achieve their career goals. When meeting with students for the first time, I ask them to tell me a little about themselves and their career aspirations. I generally tell them a little about myself and how I ended up in my position. I then help the student plan a schedule until he/she graduates so that we can identify courses that are most interesting to the student and make sure the prerequisites for these courses are taken in time. I also direct student to resources on campus that are available to help students identify and prepare for specific careers, such as the Career Center or information on our departmental website that I put together.

In subsequent appointments, I spend the first several minutes finding out how the students are doing in their classes as well as outside the classroom. Many of my advisees are in course that I teach, and when these students approach me with questions about material covered in class I will use this opportunity to find out how they are doing in other classes or discuss their plans. Students are often more open to discuss academic and career concerns during these unscheduled advising sessions.

Finally, I encourage students to take advantage of the liberal arts education they are receiving at UGA by exploring other academic disciplines. Many of my advisees are pre-professional – pre-dentistry or pre-medicine – or plan to go to graduate school. I point out to these students that they will be taking many science and clinical classes after they graduate from UGA, but this may well be the last opportunity they have to take courses in the humanities, social sciences or other academic areas.