



# UNDERGRAD

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **I am already attending UGA. Am I eligible for SPECTRUM Undergrad?**

Yes, you are eligible to apply. Contact us so that we may help you determine the best time for you to apply to the program.

### **I plan to transfer credits from a University of Georgia System School. What are the basic requirements for my entry into SPECTRUM Undergrad?**

You must apply and be accepted to 1) The University of Georgia (UGA) as a transfer student, and 2) the SPECTRUM program. These applications require 60 transferable college credit hours, at least a 2.8 GPA (in your transferable credits), completion of Areas I-VI (formerly Areas A-F) of the University System of Georgia's core requirements, and completion or exemption of PRAXIS I or GACE Basic Skills Assessment.

### **When are the deadlines for applying to UGA and SPECTRUM Undergrad?**

For admission to UGA, follow the application deadlines for Undergraduate Transfer Admissions: [http://www.admissions.uga.edu/article/admission\\_information\\_for\\_transfer\\_students.html](http://www.admissions.uga.edu/article/admission_information_for_transfer_students.html).

For admission to SPECTRUM Undergrad, follow the application deadlines listed on the SPECTRUM web site: [www.coe.uga.edu/spectrum](http://www.coe.uga.edu/spectrum).

***NOTE: To be considered for admission into the Fall SPECTRUM Undergrad cohort, the current application deadline for both UGA and SPECTRUM is APRIL 1.***

### **Is SPECTRUM a “shortcut” to getting admitted to UGA?**

No. You have to qualify and apply just as anyone else would who is transferring to UGA. We are happy to help guide you through the process and the paperwork.

## **What degree/certification will I obtain from SPECTRUM Undergrad and how long will it take me?**

You will earn a B.S.Ed. from UGA and become certified in the area of Special Education General Curriculum. If you follow the planned program of study, you should be able to complete the SPECTRUM Undergrad program in five semesters (two years, including one summer).

## **What if I already have a Bachelors degree and I want to be certified to teach Special Education?**

If you have a bachelor's degree, you could be eligible for SETWEB, UGA's online post-baccalaureate Special Education certification program. Cohorts for SETWEB begin in Spring and Summer semesters. For more information on SETWEB, call 1-866-860-1380 or visit their web site: [www.coe.uga.edu/setweb/](http://www.coe.uga.edu/setweb/).

## **How often will I have to come to the UGA campus in Athens?**

You will have to come to campus for an interview after you apply for the SPECTRUM program. If accepted, you will attend an orientation session prior to fall semester. As a program participant, you will be required to attend a two-day Institute (summer) and a one-day Student Teaching Workshop (winter) in the Athens area prior to graduation.

## **How can the SPECTRUM program help me to become highly qualified?**

The process to become highly qualified to teach content coursework involves two steps. First, you will need to complete SPECTRUM coursework and pass the state exam (GACE, formerly PRAXIS) in Special Education General Curriculum. At that point, we will recommend to the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) that you be certified as a General Education Consultative teacher. This certification enables you to team teach with a general educator. If you prefer to hold a certification that allows you to be lead teacher of record, you will need to pass additional GACE Content Assessments specific to your career goals.

## **When will I be notified about acceptance to SPECTRUM?**

As a SPECTRUM Undergrad applicant, you will first be contacted for an interview. At your interview you will be told approximately when to expect information about your acceptance. Generally, you will be notified of acceptance to SPECTRUM in June pending acceptance by UGA, which could be delayed until July.

## **How much is undergraduate tuition at the University of Georgia?**

UGA tuition and fees for undergraduate students are listed on the following site: <https://busfin1.busfin.uga.edu/bursar/schedule.cfm>. Please note these are subject to change.

## **How do I go about pursuing other types of financial assistance?**

The first step in applying for need-based financial aid is completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). For an electronic version of this application, go to the FAFSA website: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Grants, loans, and work-study employment will be awarded through this process. It is best to have your FAFSA forms in the federal process as soon after the first of the year as possible to be eligible for consideration for all available aid programs.

For some SPECTRUM Undergrads, the **Georgia HOPE Scholarship** covers tuition, required fees and an annual book allowance. The **PROMISE Teacher Scholarship Loan** provides forgivable loans to undergraduates who aspire to be teachers in Georgia public schools. See the Georgia Student Finance Commission website for more information: [www.gsfc.org](http://www.gsfc.org).

Learn more about financial aid at [www.uga.edu/osfa/](http://www.uga.edu/osfa/), UGA's Office of Student Financial Aid.

## **What if I have fewer than 60 transferable credit hours?**

Both UGA and the SPECTRUM Undergrad program require a minimum of 60 transferable hours for acceptance. If you will have fewer than this required amount at the beginning of Fall semester, please wait until you have obtained the minimum of 60 transferable college credit hours and apply for a future cohort. It may still be to your benefit to get advice on this issue from Audrey Norman, SPECTRUM Student Coordinator ([audbrid@uga.edu](mailto:audbrid@uga.edu) or 706.542.2114).

## **What if I don't meet the 2.8 GPA requirement?**

We will evaluate all applicants on a case-by-case basis; however, a 2.8 GPA is required for transfer to UGA. Contact Audrey Norman, SPECTRUM Student Coordinator, by email ([audbrid@uga.edu](mailto:audbrid@uga.edu)) or phone (706.542.2114) to discuss your individual situation.

## **How can I find out about the Areas I-VI (formerly Areas A-F) requirement?**

For details regarding transferring core curriculum credit between University System of Georgia institutions visit this web site: [www.usg.edu/academics/programs/core\\_curriculum/faq.phtml](http://www.usg.edu/academics/programs/core_curriculum/faq.phtml)

NOTE: Each University System of Georgia institution has a core curriculum with 60 semester hours of courses in Areas I-VI. Generally, you will receive full credit in transfer if you complete the 60 Core Curriculum credit hours at any System institution without changing your major.

## **Where and when can I take the GACE exam?**

These and many other questions about the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators (GACE) are answered on the GACE website at [www.gace.nesinc.com](http://www.gace.nesinc.com), under "Frequently Asked Questions."

## **If I am currently employed as a paraprofessional, what constitutes an appropriate special education paraprofessional placement for SPECTRUM?**

An appropriate special education paraprofessional placement is a position working with special education students who primarily follow the general curriculum. This will most often be co-teaching, collaboration or inclusion models. Resource settings are also common. The special education students most frequently served in these settings will include those with behavior disorders (BD), learning disabilities (LD), mild intellectual disabilities (MID) and some students with autism or Asperger's (ASD or AS).

If you are unsure if your current placement is appropriate, please contact Audrey Norman, SPECTRUM Student Coordinator, by email ([audbrid@uga.edu](mailto:audbrid@uga.edu)) or phone (706.542.2114) to discuss your individual situation.

If you are not employed as a paraprofessional, we will help you coordinate your placement with a local school for completion of the program's practicum and student teaching requirements.

## **I've heard that SPECTRUM students must be from "high-need" school districts or counties in Georgia – is this true?**

This was true, but this requirement has recently changed. SPECTRUM originally began in 2004 as a federally funded grant project, but that funding has ended. While student stipends are unfortunately no longer available to our participants, we are now pleased to offer the program Statewide, allowing a larger number of students access to our online degree program.

## **Will SPECTRUM find me a job when I finish the program?**

SPECTRUM does not offer job placement or any guarantees of employment. However, 100% of our first graduating cohort found employment as teachers by the fall following graduation. And special education remains a critical need field, even during the current economic times.

## **I'm interested in SPECTRUM Undergrad...what do I do now?**

Great – we're glad you are interested in SPECTRUM Undergrad! Before investing time and money in the application process for UGA and SPECTRUM, we encourage you to contact the SPECTRUM office for a transcript pre-assessment. You should fax your transcripts to the number below, and then follow-up by email or phone to ensure that we received them. Contact information is listed below. We will be in touch regarding your eligibility.

**EMAIL [spectrum@uga.edu](mailto:spectrum@uga.edu)**

**PHONE (706) 542-4778**

**FAX (706) 542-5348**