

# Bridge Scholars Program



**E**ntering its 15th year, the Bridge Scholars Program (BSP) has a long tradition of producing some of the best and brightest students at Georgia College. The BSP is a year-long Residential Learning Community and offers students a head start on college. The Bridge Scholars Program begins with an intensive five-week summer program that is designed to assist students in transitioning from high school to college, helping them build a strong academic foundation. Students who pass the summer semester with a grade of C or better in all classes, complete BSP summer participation requirements, and maintain a clear judicial record earn full admission to Georgia College for the fall. Scholars continue in the program through their fall and spring semester and attend a variety of programs and activities designed to support their success and further their growth. The BSP holds a closing ceremony each April to celebrate Scholars' achievements during their first year.

## The Bridge Scholars Program will help you:

- Get a jump start on college by earning seven academic credits
- Develop successful strategies for handling the demands of college life and academics
- Study and learn with other BSP members and make new friends



## RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT

The Bridge Scholars Program is a year-long Residential Learning Community (RLC). A RLC is a residentially-based group of students who choose to live among others with similar interests. RLCs are designed to bridge the gap between learning inside and outside of the classroom. Participants will have programs designed exclusively for them throughout the academic year and attendance is required. BSP programming takes scheduling precedence over other events except for class. Activities are designed to provide participants with experiences that will be beneficial to their personal and academic development while at GC. Participants in the BSP will live at The Village at West Campus. Shuttles will provide transportation to and from main campus and ample parking is provided just outside the apartment building. Staffing in the apartment building will include Community Advisors (CAs), who work in University Housing, and Peer Mentors, who were past participants in the BSP. These are experienced students who are trained to assist residents with the various transition issues that first-year students face and help to engage students in the total college experience.

## PROGRAMS

A series of programs and activities will be offered exclusively for the BSP participants during their first year. Activities may include team building, socials, study skills workshops, stress management sessions, meals with faculty members and community service projects. The \$300 program fee will cover the cost for all program activities. Attendance at BSP events is required as part of the year-long RLC commitment.

## CREDIT AND COURSES

The BSP staff will enroll students for seven credit hours during the summer session. All students will be required to take GCSU 1010: Student Success Seminar, which focuses on building academic and life skills necessary for success in the college environment. In addition to GCSU 1010, students will be registered for two courses that are part of the core curriculum at GC. Potential courses include:

- GC1Y Critical Thinking
- Theatrical Heritage
- Human Geography
- Fine and Applied Arts in Civilization
- Music and Civilization

## SUPPORT

The BSP is proud to offer tutoring services exclusively for BSP participants in The Village at West Campus over the summer. Bridge Scholars also benefit from peer mentoring and community assistant relationships. Faculty are selected in part based on their willingness to be involved and supportive of BSP students outside of the classroom.

## FINANCIAL AID

Students must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application in order to apply for federal and state aid programs for Summer semester. Eligibility for federal financial aid programs will be determined based on the FAFSA, which includes grants and student loans as well as Georgia's HOPE Scholarship program. Students should also complete the FAFSA in order to apply for financial aid for Fall and Spring semesters. If the student is only interested in receiving the HOPE Scholarship, an alternative application (GSFAPPS) may be completed at [www.GAfutures.org](http://www.GAfutures.org). For more information, visit [www.gcsu.edu/financialaid](http://www.gcsu.edu/financialaid) or contact the GC Office of Financial Aid at 478-445-5149 or [financialaid@gcsu.edu](mailto:financialaid@gcsu.edu).

## ABOUT GEORGIA COLLEGE

As Georgia's public liberal arts university, GC offers a challenging array of more than 36 undergraduate degree programs and 25 master's programs. GC has been ranked 10th in "Top Public Schools" in the regional South by U.S. News & World Report and was chosen as a "Best in the Southeast" by The Princeton Review. The university was also previously named one of the 100 Best Values in Public Colleges in the country by Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine.

“I told myself that if I could do what I did academically this summer, then I'm prepared to tackle anything that came my way during the fall semester.”



For the most current information on the Bridge admissions process, cost, and schedule, please visit our website at [gcsu.edu/bridge](http://gcsu.edu/bridge).

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