FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

May I start the program in the second semester?
No. All students begin the program at the same time with an interactive summer session of coursework at Queens College and classroom work at the New York Hall of Science, in New York City public school summer programs, and in community summer programs. The summer session begins in early June.

Will I be able to continue working at my job?
Essentially no. SPIRITAS is a full-time program. You will need to spend a lot of time in schools, observing and teaching. In addition, classes are held during the day. Students will generally be busy from 8 am until 5 pm on weekdays.

How large are the stipends/grants?
In the first year, the total stipend is $10,000. In the second year, students will be compensated for their teaching services by the schools themselves through a temporary licensure agreement.

Do I have to attend the information session before I can apply?
Yes. Attending the information session is part of the application process. Application forms will be distributed only at information sessions.

CONTACT

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PARTNERS

Queens College, CUNY
New York Hall of Science
New York Public Secondary Schools
SPIRITAS is a new program at Queens College, designed for people who already have a science degree and who are committed to teaching in high-needs urban schools where they can make a difference. In our two-year program, science graduates earn a master’s degree and become certified to teach.

SPIRITAS Degree
MAT (Secondary Science) and New York State Teacher Certification

Our program differs from other graduate teacher education programs in that:

• It is clinically rich, with lots of time spent in classrooms.
• Pedagogy, science, and research in teaching are intertwined throughout the curriculum.
• Attention is paid to the culture and special needs of students.
• Stipends are available for all admitted candidates.

The first year of study begins in June, with a summer program of coursework at Queens College as well as practical work in a variety of learning environments, including the New York Hall of Science. The fall and spring semesters of the first year also involve both coursework and practical work, to be completed in schools specially selected for this program.

In the second year, the emphasis is on teaching. Candidates have their own classes to teach, and they also observe mentor teachers and attend professional-development seminars.

Whether you are a recent college graduate or a person seeking to change your career, you are invited to attend one of our information sessions.

Dr. David Laurenson
Director

THE SPIRITAS PROGRAM

Admissions Prerequisite
A bachelor’s degree with a science major

Program Components
1. Coursework, consisting of both science and education courses. 36 credits (completed over two years).
2. Clinical experience (first year): 150 hours spent observing and working with students in a variety of contexts. 6 credits.
3. Internship (second year): Candidates will be assigned to a school for the whole year, where they will teach their own classes and observe mentor teachers. 6 credits.

Financial Support
Year 1: $10,000 stipend
Year 2: pay earned for services as a teacher

HOW TO APPLY
All applicants must attend an information session. Application forms for the SPIRITAS program will be distributed only at these meetings.

Information sessions will be held at Queens College in the fall and early in the new year. For candidates who live more than 50 miles from Queens College, Skype information sessions will be made available. To learn dates and times, visit our website at www.qc.cuny.edu/Academics/Degrees/Education/SEYS/Pages/SPIRITAS.aspx