

Frequently Asked Questions about Project FOCUS

Where do I teach?

We are in partnership with the Clarke County School District and place FOCUS students in elementary and middle schools in the county. You will be placed with a teacher at one of these schools and will teach approximately 40 hours in that classroom during the semester. We can match you to a grade preference, and if you are interested in working with special needs children or Spanish-speaking children, or need to be placed at a school on a city bus line, we can accommodate you.

What will I teach?

Georgia public schools are guided by a state curriculum called the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS). Each grade K-8 has a specific group of topics that must be taught. In our FOCUS discussion sections we will give you background information on the GPS, and your partner teacher is very familiar with the standards. Your main emphasis will be science, but in a few classrooms, you may teach some social studies lessons – hopefully with a scientific bent.

Where do I find lessons?

We have many lessons from past FOCUS students on this website under “teacher resources”. Your teacher will also have lessons, the Georgia Department of Education GPS website is loaded with materials, and often students also make their own or modify ones they find on the internet.

How do we teach?

Ideally your students will work collaboratively in hands-on lessons. Children love to be active and investigate things, so your goal will be to take advantage of this to facilitate science instruction. The classes also often integrate math, writing, reading, and other subject areas. We will help you develop your science teaching skills throughout the semester.

What times do I have to be at the schools?

We will work out a schedule that fits your UGA class schedule and that of the elementary or middle school teacher. In most cases, you will be at the school twice a week for an hour and a half each time. Elementary schools are in session from 7:40 a.m. to 2:35 p.m., and middle schools from 8:25 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

What course credit will I receive?

You will enroll in AESC or FCID 4920S for 3 credits. The course also may be taken for honors or graduate level (6920S) credit. Contact Jason Peake (jpeake@uga.edu) for further information on these options.