SPECTRA
Get a Jump on College
SPECTRA? Not familiar with that name?

Not to worry. It’s a multi-week program that gives participants a preview of life at the College of Charleston and helps them make the transition from high school to college.

SPECTRA (Speedy Consolidation and Transition Program) runs from July to August, ending right before the fall semester begins. SPECTRA students enroll in for-credit courses and participate in instructional workshops and labs. They live in College of Charleston residence halls. In addition, they find it easy to make friends during class and through a variety of social activities, including meet-and-greet sessions, beach trips and other fun outings around Charleston. There’s no better way to get a head start on college.
Through SPECTRA, students develop successful study strategies – including time management – better writing proficiency and some essential leadership skills. Students who have participated in the program can attest to its advantages when the fall semester starts:

- They began with college credit for the courses they completed successfully.
- They’re familiar with the campus well before the first day of class.
- They’ve had contact with key administrators across campus.
- They get guidance from upperclassmen who have gone through the program.
- They have access to tutors, peer counselors and facilitators who help them improve their time-management skills and understand the importance of diversity in a liberal arts setting.
- That same academic support is in place throughout their college experience.
- They make new friends before the fall semester begins.

“SPECTRA is like sports practice. You have classes every day, and rules in place. Ultimately, you appreciate that structure, because its great preparation for the game – your first semester of college.”

– Joshua Bristow
How Does the Program Work?

Participants in SPECTRA must be accepted to the College for the fall semester, have paid their enrollment confirmation fee and completed a New Student Orientation session in June or July before SPECTRA begins.

SPECTRA students take two courses in the humanities. They are in classes for approximately three hours each day (not including workshops or time spent attending special presentations). All participants must remain on campus for the full program session (weekends included) and participate in all of the coursework, labs, workshops and structured activities.

Tuition, room and board (College of Charleston meal plan) are covered by the SPECTRA program, but participants must pay for their books, supplies and any personal expenses. (The average price of textbooks for the program is $200 to $350.) In addition, the cost of any meals that are not a part of the College’s meal plan will also be the responsibility of the individual student.

NOTE: Any student who participates in SPECTRA and decides not to enroll at the College of Charleston must repay the cost of his or her tuition, room and board to the College.
“SPECTRA is one of the biggest reasons that I still have my scholarships today.”
– Rosie Escalante, Goose Creek, S.C.
Who is Eligible to Participate?

SPECTRA is open to AALANA (African American, Latino/Latina, Asian and Native American) students only. To be eligible, students must:

- Be accepted for admission to the College of Charleston for the fall semester.

- Confirm their intention to enroll by paying the $300 deposit (if they plan to live on campus during their first year) before the May 1 deadline. If they don’t plan to live on campus, they must pay a $100 deposit by the same deadline.

- Attend new student orientation before the July start date for SPECTRA.
What Are You Waiting For?

Students who participate in SPECTRA have every opportunity they’ll need to succeed at the College of Charleston. The faculty and staff who work in this program give them unparalleled support, and students find that being on campus prior to the start of the first semester is a tremendous advantage both academically and socially. Why not give yourself that same advantage?

For more information about the SPECTRA program, please contact the Office of Multicultural Student Programs and Services.

“SPECTRA helped me boost my GPA before I even started college.”
– Neha Muppala, Fort Mill, S.C.