Accreditation
Gaston College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Gaston College.

Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action
Gaston College is committed to affirmative action and equal opportunity in employment and educational programs and activities and does not discriminate against current or potential employees or students on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability. Gaston College supports protections under all applicable state and federal laws including but not limited to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) of 2008.

Phone Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Admissions Office</td>
<td>704.922.6214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Office</td>
<td>704.922.6414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>704.748.5210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counseling Center</td>
<td>704.922.6220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>704.922.6277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration &amp; Records</td>
<td>704.922.6232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>704.922.6428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>704.748.5251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimbrell</td>
<td>704.825.6280</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Campus Locations

Dallas Campus
201 Highway 321 South
Dallas, NC 28034
704.922.6200
704.922.2323 (f)

Lincoln Campus
P.O. Box 600
511 South Aspen St.
Lincolnton, NC 28093
704.748.5200
704.748.1074 (f)

Kimbrell Campus & Textile Technology Center
P.O. Box 1044
7220 Wilkinson Blvd.
Belmont, NC 28012
704.825.3737
704.825.7303 (f)

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. (DUE-1355569). Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.
What is SPARC³?
The Gaston College SPARC³ program enhances the college experience of students studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). Students in this program experience STEM classes that are interactive and hands-on. The program also provides scholarships to talented students with financial need (SPARC³ Scholars), and personalized support services (i.e., advising, mentoring, tutoring, internships, and research experiences).

**The mission of SPARC³ is to ignite student curiosity and to prepare future STEM professionals for success in an evolving work environment.**

SPARC³ Scholar Details
Scholarships ranging from $1,000 to $5,600 will be offered to 15 full-time Associate of Science students per year. The amount awarded will be determined based upon financial need.

Eligibility Criteria:
To be eligible students must:
- Maintain U.S. citizenship, nationality, or lawful U.S. permanent residence
- Enroll full-time in the Associate of Science program at Gaston College
- Demonstrate financial need based upon federal guidelines
- Have an overall unweighted GPA of 2.75 or higher
- Meet all prerequisites for required courses by time of enrollment in the courses

**Benefits for SPARC³ Scholars**
- Students will have guaranteed enrollment in specific sections of required courses.
- SPARC³ scholarships can be used to fund tuition, fees, books, and living expenses.
- Students will be paired with a faculty mentor based on their interests.
- Students will be able to meet, network with, and interact with industry professionals.
- Students will have expert advising to guide them with their classes and their future plans.
- Students will be able to form a bond with other scholars, which gives them a ready-made network of friends.

How to Apply
- Apply for the SPARC³ scholars program using Gaston College’s established scholarship application system on the Gaston College Website.
- Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.
- Complete a scholarship application, including a letter of intent and professional recommendations from former instructors and/or supervisor(s)/employer(s).

The Awarding Process
- Applicants will be accepted annually beginning in the spring semester until all scholarships are awarded.
- Applications will be reviewed by the program team and financial aid office. Applicants will be selected based on their academic merit, professionalism, potential for success, and financial need.
- Finalists will be interviewed by the Program Director.
- The Program Director will notify recipients and invite SPARC³ scholars to orientation.
- SPARC³ scholars will sign a scholarship contract that outlines all responsibilities and limitations of the award, including the requirements for maintaining eligibility.

SPARC³ Scholar Requirements
- SPARC³ scholars will be required to attend a two-day orientation before their first semester.
- SPARC³ scholars will be required to will meet with a STEM mentor at least three times per semester.
- Students will be required to participate in at least 75% of SPARC³ events.
- SPARC³ scholars will be required to be part of a learning community that follows a curriculum plan which includes courses such as General Biology I and II, General Chemistry I and II, Precalculus, English, Statistics, and Research and Measurement.

For More Information
Ashley Hagler, M.S., M.A.T.
SPARC³ Director, Director of Undergraduate Research, and Biology Coordinator
Gaston College Science Department
201 Highway 321 South • Dallas, NC 28034
704.922.6529 • sparc3@gaston.edu