



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR
**SCIENCE+
MATHEMATICS**

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ENROLLMENT

TOTAL: 269
MALE: 47%
FEMALE: 53%
DIVERSITY: 47%
(Asian 29%, African-American / Black 8%, Multi/Other 5%)
HISPANIC/LATINX: 7%
Class of 2024 ENROLLED: 122
Class of 2025 ENROLLED: 147

FINANCIAL AID

2023-2024 PERCENT OF STUDENTS: 40%

FACULTY

FULL TIME: **33**
PART TIME: **13**
PERCENT WITH ADVANCED DEGREES: **100%**
PERCENT WITH A DOCTORATE: **90%**



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SCHOOL PROFILE 2023-2024

The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) models educational excellence while nurturing future leaders for South Carolina and beyond. Established in 1988, GSSM is a public high school with residential, virtual, and outreach curricula for academically talented students from across the state.

Our mission is to seek out and advance our state's most talented and motivated students, offering a transforming education in science, mathematics, and engineering that cultivates joy in learning and builds the confidence to engage as ethical leaders with the world's most significant issues.

*Residential program serving juniors and seniors from throughout the state of South Carolina

*Selective, competitive admission to enroll

*Providing programs that are competitive with both public and independent schools

GSSM is a member and represented on the Board of Directors of the National Consortium of Secondary STEM Schools (NCSSS) and is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and The College Board.

ACADEMICS: THE COLLEGE MODEL

Attending GSSM is similar to starting college two years early. GSSM combines rigorous STEM, humanities, and social science courses, intensive labs, field trips, and mentored research to foster students' ability to think critically, apply theory, and develop ideas independently.

Our small faculty-student ratio allows GSSM faculty to give students individual attention to encourage them to reach their full potential. Our faculty teach at the college level, and our residential schedule mirrors a traditional college schedule. GSSM faculty grade rigorously. Many of our students exhaust AP offerings and take courses above the AP level. Out of the 83 STEM courses offered, 13% are AP, 22% are Above AP, and 16% are dual enrollment courses. The remaining 49% are honors level. Above AP courses require AP courses as a prerequisite or are in a discipline without an AP course.

GSSM has dual-enrollment agreements with Francis Marion University and Coker University. Dual enrollment offerings include college-level courses in chemistry, Chinese, computer science, economics, engineering, English, mathematics and physics.

RESEARCH AND INQUIRY PROGRAM

All GSSM students conduct mentored research under the guidance of professional researchers at universities, field sites, and industry partners across the state, nation, and world. Students can also conduct undergraduate-level research during the school year under the mentorship of GSSM's faculty - including research in microwave spectroscopy, computational drug design, ecology, controlled environment agriculture, mathematics, soil microbiota, and transportation policy.

Through this distinctive program, GSSM students gain direct and practical experience with the process of research as applied in real world contexts. GSSM students become familiar with the methods of discovery, apply critical thinking skills, learn to overcome challenges with rigor and creativity, and challenge their ability to communicate. External research partner sites include Clemson University, Furman University, Medical University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina, MIT, international sites in Germany, and many others.

Students complete a research portfolio that communicates their experience to both general and expert audiences. They present their research at the GSSM Research Colloquium and may also share their work at the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science annual meeting, professional conferences, or through submissions to academic journals.

JANUARY INTERIM

Between the fall and spring semesters, all GSSM students participate in a three-week January Interim during which they focus on one course that allows them to pursue a passion or explore a new interest. Courses are diverse in topic (science, technology, the arts), intense, and experiential (often including field experiences and travel). Past courses include: Gliding at the Bermuda High Soaring School, Equine Science and Horsemanship, Origami: The Art of Paperfolding, and The Cooking Lab. There are also international exploration trips available.

VARSITY ATHLETICS (See also Campus Life on page 4)

Approximately 75% of our students, many of whom have never been on an athletic team before coming to GSSM, participate in varsity sports. All our teams are "no cut." Despite the novice status of some athletes, however, GSSM has won numerous athletic competitions, including multiple regional championships with 5 more in the last year in women's tennis, volleyball, cross country, golf, track and field, and state team championships in men's cross country (2017), men's soccer (2018), women's volleyball (2018), women's track and field (2019), and state individual championships in men's and women's track and field (2018, 2019).

Our athletics department employs 30 seasonal coaches, maintains an excellent fitness center and employs a full-time certified athletic trainer with a state-of-the-art training room. Varsity sports for women and men include:

Basketball | Golf | Swimming | Track & Field | Cross Country | Soccer | Tennis | Volleyball | Cheer



GRADING SCALE

All high schools in South Carolina must use the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale. Only grades of C or higher receive credit at GSSM. Additional weighting is given for grades earned in honors, AP, and dual enrollment courses. Per the South Carolina Uniform Grading Policy, 0.5 quality points are added to the CP weighting for honors, dual enrollment, and above AP courses, and 1.0 for AP and IB courses. The GPAs provided include all courses listed on the transcript, including courses posted from 8th grade.

A = 90 – 100 C = 70 – 79
B = 80 – 89 D = 60 – 69

GSSM is on the semester system with interim courses offered in January each year, and mentored research completed during the summer between junior and senior year, as well as during the school year.

Total graduation requirements for a State of SC and GSSM diploma: **24 credits**. Our Academic Policies and Course Catalog can be found on our website: www.scgssm.org/residential/courses-and-requirements.

Students must take five courses each semester (the equivalent of 15-18 college credit hours); students may take six+ courses each semester with advisor and administrative approval. To meet GSSM and SC diploma requirements, students must complete:

Mathematics (including Calculus).....	4-5
Laboratory Science (including biology, chemistry, and physics).....	3
Foreign Language (in the same language).....	2
Computer Science.....	1
Fine Arts.....	1
English/Language Arts	4
Research & Inquiry Experience.....	0.5
Social Studies.....	3
Interim Courses.....	1
Electives.....	2.5-3.5

Ranking Policy

GSSM does not rank its students; we enroll students from across South Carolina, many ranked first in their 10th-grade class. The junior year grade distribution chart provides a context for our students' transcripts.

GPA Range

(Weighted/SCUGS) Class of 2024: **4.254 - 5.477**

National Merit Recognition

Class of 2023 National Merit Finalists: **17**

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY

As recommended in *NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission*, GSSM clearly states its policy: The Office of College Counseling and Advising will disclose all infractions that result in suspension, expulsion, withdrawal pending disciplinary action, or any other probation status to the colleges to which a student applies. Whether the offense occurred before or after the time of application, or if a student has received an offer of admission, will not preclude an infraction from being reported.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS OF 2024

MATH	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (Below 70)
Essentials for Calculus	11	5	3	0
Math Analysis I 102	31	18	5	0
Math Analysis II 103	50	7	2	0
Advanced Math II 111	6	13	0	0
Advanced Math III 112	6	11	0	0
Prep for Dual Enrollment Calculus	6	12	3	0
Calculus 201 (AB) (Dual Enrollment)	5	15	1	0
Calculus 201 (BC) (Dual Enrollment)	2	1	0	0
Calculus 202 (BC) (Dual Enrollment)	2	1	0	0
Calculus 303 (BC) (Dual Enrollment)	2	1	0	0
AP Statistics 304	0	1	0	0
AP Statistics 305	1	0	0	0
SCIENCE				
AP Biology 201	34	22	4	0
AP Biology 202	35	21	2	2
Principles of Chemistry (year-long course)	23	7	2	0
AP Chemistry 201	11	16	6	0
AP Chemistry 202	12	10	6	1
Chem1 101/101L (Dual Enrollment)	1	2	0	0
Chem2 102/102L (Dual Enrollment)	1	2	0	0
Physics1A (Dual Enrollment)	10	4	1	0
Physics1B (Dual Enrollment)	7	7	1	0
AP Physics: C:M	5	2	0	0
AP Physics C:EM	6	1	0	0
COMPUTER SCIENCE				
AP Computer Science 101	10	7	5	0
CSC I: Python for Sci (Dual Enrollment)	5	3	5	0
CompProg1 (Dual Enrollment)	2	5	0	0
ENGLISH				
College English 111 (Dual Enrollment)	88	31	5	0
College English 112 (Dual Enrollment)	82	35	6	0
SOCIAL SCIENCE				
AP U.S. History (year-long course)	93	8	1	0



2023-2024 COURSE LISTING

*Above AP

SCIENCES

SCIENCE CORE COURSES

AP Biology
Principles of Chemistry
AP Chemistry
Chemistry I & II (Dual Enrollment)
General Physics I & II (Dual Enrollment)
AP Physics C:M
AP Physics C:EM

BIOLOGY ELECTIVES

*Marine Biology
*Molecular Biology of the Cell
*Human Anatomy & Physiology
*Principles of Microbiology
*Introduction to Neuroscience
*Advanced Genetics
*Botany
*Biological Evolution
*Clinical Mycology
*Research in Restoration Ecology
Research in Hydroponics
*Research in Soil Microbiota

CHEMISTRY ELECTIVES

Molecular Spectroscopy
*Introduction to Organics & Biochemistry
*Introduction to Analytical Chemistry
*Computational Chemistry
*Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry
Research in Microwave Spectroscopy
Research in Computational Drug Design

PHYSICS ELECTIVES

Physics in the Arts
Physics in Sports
*Fluids, Thermodynamics & Optics
Modern Physics

GENERAL SCIENCES

AP Environmental Science
Social Science Research Methods
Astronomy
Understanding Multimodal Transportation Systems

MATHEMATICS

MATHEMATICS CORE COURSES

Essentials for Calculus
Foundations for Calculus
Concepts for Calculus
Calculus with Applications
Prep for Dual Enrollment Calculus
Calculus I & II (Dual Enrollment)

MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES

*Linear Algebra
*Abstract Algebra
*Ordinary Differential Equations
*Multivariable Calculus
*Discrete Structures
*Number Theory
AP Statistics
Research in Computer Assisted Proof Writing

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

COMPUTER SCIENCE CORE COURSES

AP Computer Science
Computer Science I: Python for Scientist (Dual Enrollment)

COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES

Introduction to Computer Networking
*GameDesign, Prototyping, & Production
*Interactive Visual Programming Using Processing
*Data Structures and Algorithms
*Introduction to Database Design
*Computer Science II: C++ Applications (Dual Enrollment)
*Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

ENGINEERING VIRTUAL COURSES

Biomedical Engineering
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

ENGINEERING ELECTIVES

Applications of Engineering Design
Robotics
Engineering: Electronics
Engineering Mechanics: Statics
Engineering Disciplines & Skills (Dual Enrollment)
Introduction to Civil Engineering I & II
Computer Programming 1 with MATLAB (Dual Enrollment)
Engineering Design and Modeling (Dual Enrollment)
Engineering: Product Design
Research in Multimodal Transportation Systems

LANGUAGES

ENGLISH CORE COURSES

English Composition & Rhetoric (Dual Enrollment)
Introduction to Literature (Dual Enrollment)

ENGLISH ELECTIVES

Writing in STEM (Dual Enrollment)
Introduction to Film
*Studies in Creative Writing: Fiction
*African-American Literature
*Studies in Creative Writing: Nonfiction
*Introduction to Philosophy
Introduction to Science Fiction: Literature
*Gender Studies
*Eco-Fiction
*Reading and Writing Literature: Poetry

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CORE COURSES

French I
French II
French III
German II
German III
Spanish II
Spanish III
Introduction to Chinese I (Dual Enrollment)
Introduction to Chinese II (Dual Enrollment)
Intermediate Chinese III (Dual Enrollment)
Intermediate Chinese IV (Dual Enrollment)

FOREIGN LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

French IV
AP French
German IV
AP German
Spanish IV
AP Spanish Language
*Advanced Spanish Studies
*Topics in Hispanic Culture and Linguistics

RESEARCH

RESEARCH AND INQUIRY

Mentored Summer Research & Inquiry
Advanced Research & Inquiry Communication
Research in Quantitative Social Science

HISTORY & SOCIAL SCIENCES

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE

AP U.S. History
Native American Studies
Ethics, Beauty & the Environment
The Civil War and Reconstruction
The First World War and the Modern World
The American Revolution
Modern Latin America
The Sizzling Sixties
AP Psychology

GOVERNMENT, ECONOMICS & FINANCE

U.S. Government/Economics
AP U.S. Government
AP Comparative Government
Principles of Economics: Macroeconomic Concepts (Dual Enrollment)
Principles of Economics: Microeconomic Concepts (Dual Enrollment)
Technology Ventures
Quantitative Financial Analysis
International Economics

ARTS

MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS & ASL ELECTIVES

Chamber Orchestra I, II, III, IV
Concert Choir I, II, III, IV
AP Music Theory
Ceramics I, II
Painting I, II
Advanced Studio Art
AP Art History
Introduction to American Sign Language I, II



SCGSSM.ORG

SAT CLASS OF 2023: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=121	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	682	650-730	526	529
Math	699	650-760	504	521

ACT CLASS OF 2023: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=93	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Composite	29.2	25-32	18.9	19.8

ACT CLASS OF 2024, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=68	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Composite	26.2	23-29

SAT CLASS OF 2024, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=95	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Evidence Based Reading & Writing	649	610-700
Math	655	590-700

CAMPUS LIFE

We see co-curricular engagement as essential to the holistic experience of students. We encourage all students to get involved in co-curricular activities and expect all students to get involved in the life of the school beyond their academic pursuits, whether through participation, leadership or community service.

Our more than 50 clubs include Business Club, Creative Writing Club, Common Ground, ENGAGE and GirlUP. Our Dean of Students leads our campus life program; our two student activity center coordinators, six residence life coordinators and 12 resident assistants manage it.

Our residential halls have a house system with each of the six floors forming a house: Praesidium, Fidelitas, Lux, Veritas, Libertatum, and Fortem. The houses are led by six full-time live-in professional staff members who all have bachelor's or master's degrees.

Our staff members facilitate developmental co-curricular programs based on the residential spheres of influence programming model: Social, Leadership, Health and Wellness, Academic and Professional Development.

Our students also support the campus, local, and South Carolina communities through a required community engagement program. The program develops citizenship and shows our students gratitude to the State of South Carolina for the opportunity to attend GSSM, and to the local community for supporting our school. We encourage students to design and develop projects related to their personal interests, passions, and community needs. Past projects include:

- Student 2 Student – a tutoring initiative with the local Boys and Girls Club
- Interact Club volunteering at the Darlington County Humane Society
- Beta Club, National Honor Society, 4H, Student Council events
- A Mental Health Walk-5K coordinated by GSSM students



2020 – 2023 ACCEPTANCES & MATRICULATIONS BOLD INDICATES MATRICULATION

Agnes Scott College

Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Albright College
Allegheny College
American University
Amherst College
Amsterdam University College
Anderson University
Appalachian State University
Arizona State University (Main Campus)
Ashland University
Auburn University
Baylor University
Beloit College
Benedict College
Berea College
Berklee College of Music
Berry College
Binghamton University
Boise State University
Boston College
Boston University
Bowling Green State University
Brandeis University
Brevard College
Brown University
Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Caldwell University
California Institute of Technology
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Carson-Newman University
Case Western Reserve University
Catholic University of America
Centre College
Charleston Southern University
Citadel Military College of South Carolina
Clafin University
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University
Coker University
Colgate University
College of Charleston
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University (Fort Collins)
Columbia College
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Constructor University
Converse University
Cornell University
Covenant College
Creighton University
CUNY City College
Dartmouth College
Davidson College
Delaware Valley University
Denison University
DePaul University
DePauw University
Dickinson College
Dillard University
Drake University
Drexel University
Duke Kunshan University
Duke University
Earlham College
East Carolina University
East Tennessee State University
Eckerd College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach)
Emory & Henry College
Emory University
Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Florida Institute of Technology
Florida Polytechnic University
Florida State University
Fordham University
Francis Marion University
Furman University

Gardner-Webb University
George Mason University
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Greenville Technical College
Grinnell College
Hamilton College
Hampden-Sydney College
Hampton University
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
Hawaii Pacific University
High Point University
Hofstra University
Hollins University
Howard University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University (Bloomington)
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
Iowa State University
Ithaca College
Jacksonville University
Johns Hopkins University
Johnson & Wales University (Charlotte)
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
Lafayette College
Lander University
Lehigh University
Lenoir-Rhyne University
LeTourneau University
Lewis & Clark College
Liberty University
Limestone University
Long Island University (Brooklyn)
Loughborough University
Louisiana State University
Louisiana Tech University
Loyola University Chicago
Loyola University Maryland
Loyola University New Orleans
Macalester College
Maine Maritime Academy
Marquette University
Mary Baldwin University
Mercer University
Mesa Community College
Miami University (Oxford)
Michigan State University
Michigan Technological University
Middlebury College
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Mississippi State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Montreat College
Mount Holyoke College
Nazareth University
Neumont College of Computer Science
New College of Florida
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
North Carolina A & T State University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University
Northland College
Notre Dame of Maryland University
Oberlin College
Oglethorpe University
Ohio University (Main Campus)
Ohio Wesleyan University
Olin College of Engineering
Oregon Institute of Technology
Oregon State University
Oxford College of Emory University
Parsons School of Design at The New School
Penn State University (Scranton)
Penn State University (University Park)
Pepperdine University
Piedmont Technical College

Pomona College
Pratt Institute
Presbyterian College
Princeton University
Purdue University (Main Campus)
Queens University of Charlotte
Quinnipiac University
Randolph College
Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhodes College
Rice University
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Rutgers University (New Brunswick)
Rutgers University (Newark)
Saint Louis University
Samford University
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Sciences Po Paris
Scripps College
Seattle University
Seton Hall University
Sewanee: The University of the South
Smith College
South Carolina State University
Southern Methodist University
Southern Wesleyan University
Southwestern University
Spelman College
St. Andrews University
St. Bonaventure University
St. John's College (Santa Fe)
St. John's University
St. Olaf College
Stanford University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
SUNY at Purchase College
SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry
Swansea University
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
Temple University
Texas A&M University
The College of Saint Rose
The College of William and Mary
The College of Wooster
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama
The University of Sheffield
The University of Tampa
The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
Trident Technical College
Tufts University
Tulane University of Louisiana
Tuskegee University
Union College
United States Military Academy at West Point
United States Naval Academy
University of Akron Main Campus
University of Alabama at Birmingham
University of Alabama in Huntsville
University of Amsterdam
University of Arizona
University of California (Berkeley)
University of California (Davis)
University of California (Irvine)
University of California (Los Angeles)
University of California (San Diego)
University of California (Santa Barbara)
University of Central Florida
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati (Main Campus)
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida

University of Georgia
University of Hawaii at Manoa
University of Health Sciences & Pharmacy
University of Houston
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kentucky
University of Liverpool
University of Maine
University of Mary Washington
University of Maryland (Baltimore County)
University of Maryland (College Park)
University of Massachusetts (Lowell)
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota (Morris)
University of Minnesota (Twin Cities)
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri (Columbia)
University of Mount Union
University of New England
University of New Hampshire (Main Campus)
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Pembroke
University of North Carolina Wilmington
University of North Dakota
University of North Florida
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Portland
University of Puget Sound
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of South Carolina (Beaufort)
University of South Carolina (Lancaster)
University of South Carolina (Upstate)
University of South Florida (Main Campus)
University of Southern California
University of Southern Mississippi
University of the Pacific
University of the Sciences
University of Toronto
University of Tulsa
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia (Main Campus)
University of Washington (Seattle Campus)
University of Wisconsin (Madison)
Valdosta State University
Valparaiso University
Vanderbilt University
Vassar College
Villanova University
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Virginia Wesleyan University
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Wake Forest University
Washington & Jefferson College
Washington and Lee University
Washington State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
Wellesley College
Wells College
Wesleyan University
West Virginia University
West Virginia University Institute of Technology
Western Carolina University
Wheaton College - MA
Williams College
Wingate University
Winthrop University
Wofford College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Xavier University of Louisiana
Yale University