



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR

SCIENCE+ MATHEMATICS

SCHOOL PROFILE 2021-2022

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.

Our residential program serves juniors and seniors. Rising juniors apply for admission through a rigorous selection process, including an essay, standardized test scores, interviews, as well as internal application reviews.

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.

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ENROLLMENT

TOTAL: 273
MALE: 48%
FEMALE: 52%
STUDENTS OF COLOR: 37%
(Asian 17%, African-American /Black 10%, Latinx 10%, Multi/Other 10%)
Class of 2023 APPLIED: 386
Class of 2023 ENROLLED: 157
Class of 2022 ENROLLED: 116

FINANCIAL AID

2021-2022 PERCENT OF
STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR
FREE LUNCH PROGRAM: **15%**

FACULTY

FULL TIME: 32
PART TIME: 10
PERCENT WITH ADVANCED
DEGREES: **100%**
PERCENT WITH A
DOCTORATE: **90%**

RESPONSE TO COVID-19

GSSM's transition to all-synchronous virtual education was minimally disruptive to our students' education. Each student's year-end grades are therefore a legitimate measure of content knowledge and accomplishment. Their normal course schedule of classes, labs, and assessments continued throughout the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021. All courses were offered in a hybrid synchronous environment. In the fall, a reduced number of students were allowed on campus. In the spring, every student who wished to return to campus was able to do so. Throughout the entire year, normal policies were followed, including the taking of daily attendance, using Zoom, Canvas and other discipline-specific software programs. GSSM's excellent existing virtual education infrastructure aided our ability to adjust instruction, assignments, assessments, and expectations as necessary.

Sixty percent of the Class of 2022 were able to participate in in-person research over the summer of 2021, while approximately 40% of the class participated in remote projects under the mentorship of professional researchers due to restrictions on research facilities.

GSSM has resumed in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 academic year, with all students returning to live on campus.

ACADEMICS

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. Twenty out of the 57 courses (35%) in our STEM departments are above AP, requiring an AP course as a prerequisite or are in an area without an AP course.

GSSM has memorandums of understanding with Clemson University and the University of South Carolina to grant college credit for university-approved GSSM courses that are closely aligned with the universities' courses. GSSM also has a dual-enrollment agreement with Coker University that offers our students college-level classes in Chinese, computer science, engineering, English, and economics.

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 also have the opportunity to conduct undergraduate-level research at GSSM during the school year under the mentorship of GSSM's faculty (90% PhD) - including microwave spectroscopy, computational drug design, and transportation infrastructure.

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 their critical thinking skills, learn to overcome challenges with rigor and creativity, and challenge their ability to communicate. External research partner sites include Clemson University, College of Charleston, Medical University of South Carolina, University of South Carolina, MIT, international sites in Germany (when permitted by travel guidelines), and many others.

Students complete a research portfolio describing their experience to both general and expert audiences. They present their research at the GSSM Annual 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 in conjunction with their research mentor.

JANUARY INTERIM

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.

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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 courses, and 1.0 for AP courses. The GPAs provided include all courses listed on the transcript, including courses posted from 8th grade.

Fall 2016 and later

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.

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 seven+ 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 and Inquiry Experience **1**
Social Studies..... **3** Interim Courses **1**
Electives **7**

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 2022: **4.218 – 5.472**

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

Class of 2021 National Merit Finalists: **11**

SAT CLASS OF 2021: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=119	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	673	630-720	524	528
Math	675	620-720	503	523

ACT CLASS OF 2021: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=94	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Composite	29	26-32	18.4	20.6

ACT CLASS OF 2022, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=47	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Composite	28	25-32

GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS OF 2022

MATH	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)
Essentials for Calculus	3	1	6	0
Advanced Math II	21	20	5	0
Advanced Math III	18	20	7	1
Analysis I	20	1	0	0
Analysis II	13	8	0	0
AP Calculus AB 201	25	9	2	0
AP Calculus AB 202	25	7	2	0
AP Calculus BC (year-long course)	17	1	2	0
SCIENCE				
AP Biology 201	27	26	5	0
AP Biology 202	23	29	5	0
Principles of Chemistry (year-long course)	22	5	0	0
AP Chemistry 201	8	18	4	1
AP Chemistry 202	9	16	6	0
AP Physics 1-A	6	2	3	0
AP Physics 1-B	5	5	1	0
AP Physics C:M	5	3	1	0
AP Physics C:EM	5	3	1	0
COMPUTER SCIENCE				
AP Computer Science	17	6	8	0
ENGLISH				
College English 111	82	32	8	0
College English 112	82	33	7	1
SOCIAL SCIENCE				
AP U.S. History (year-long course)	71	18	6	0

SAT CLASS OF 2022, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N=101	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Evidence Based Reading & Writing	678	640-730
Math	678	630-730

SCIENCE CORE COURSES	BIOLOGY ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)	CHEMISTRY ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)	PHYSICS ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)
AP Biology	*Molecular Biology of the Cell	Molecular Spectroscopy	Fluids, Thermodynamics and Optics
Principles of Chemistry	*Human Anatomy and Physiology	*Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry	*Modern Physics
AP Chemistry	*Principles of Microbiology	*Introduction to Analytical Chemistry	
AP Physics 1	*Introduction to Neuroscience	*Computational Chemistry	
AP Physics C:M	*Advanced Genetics	*Introduction to Inorganic Chemistry	
AP Physics C:EM	*Botany	Research in Microwave Spectroscopy	
	*Biological Evolution	Research in Computational Drug Design	

MATHEMATICS CORE COURSES	MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)
Essentials for Calculus	*Linear Algebra
Foundations for Calculus	*Abstract Algebra
Concepts for Calculus	AP Statistics
Calculus with Applications	* Multivariable Calculus
AP Calculus AB	* Discrete Structures
AP Calculus BC	*Number Theory
	*Ordinary Differential Equations

ENGINEERING VIRTUAL COURSES	ENGINEERING ELECTIVES
Biomedical Engineering	Engineering Disciplines and Skills (Dual Enrollment)
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering	Computer Programming 1 with MATLAB (Dual Enrollment)
	Applications of Engineering Design
	Engineering Mechanics: Statics
	Engineering: Electronics
	Engineering Design and Modeling (Dual Enrollment)
	Robotics

ENGLISH CORE COURSES	ENGLISH ELECTIVES
English Composition and Rhetoric (Dual Enrollment)	Introduction to Film
AP English Literature	Studies in Dramatic Literature
	Studies in Creative Writing: Fiction
	African-American Literature
	Studies in Creative Writing: Nonfiction
	Introduction to Philosophy
	Introduction to Science Fiction: Literature
	Gender Studies
	Shakespearean Drama
	Eco-Fiction

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CORE COURSES	FOREIGN LANGUAGE ELECTIVES (*ABOVE AP)
French I	French IV
French II	AP French
French III	Spanish IV
Spanish II	AP Spanish Language
Spanish III	*Topics in Hispanic Culture and Linguistics
German II	
German III	
Introduction to Chinese I (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese II (Dual Enrollment)	
Intermediate Chinese III (Dual Enrollment)	
Intermediate Chinese IV (Dual Enrollment)	

GENERAL SCIENCES	
AP Environmental Science	Physics in the Arts
Your Cosmic Context	Astronomy

COMPUTER SCIENCE CORE COURSES	COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES
AP Computer Science	Computer Science II: C++ Applications (Dual Enrollment)
Computer Science I: Python for Scientist (Dual Enrollment)	Interactive Visual Programming Using Processing
	Data Structures and Algorithms
	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
	Introduction to Computer Networking
	Introduction to Database Design
	Game Design, Prototyping, and Production

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE	
AP U.S. History	The Civil War and Reconstruction
Native American Studies	AP Psychology
Colonial America	
Ethics, Beauty, and the Environment	

RESEARCH AND INQUIRY (*ABOVE AP)	
*Mentored Summer Research & Inquiry	*Advanced Research & Inquiry Communication

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

MUSIC, VISUAL ARTS & ASL ELECTIVES	
Chamber Orchestra	Introduction to American Sign Language I, II
I, II, III, IV	AP Music Theory
Concert Choir I, II, III, IV	Advanced Ceramics
Introduction to Ceramics	Advanced 2D Art Exploration
2D Art Exploration	
AP Art History	

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.

VARSITY ATHLETICS

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 in women’s tennis, volleyball, cross country, and soccer, 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
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

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. House captains, selected by their peers, lead each house, overseen 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
- Beta Club, National Honor Society, 4H, Student Council, and Service Saturdays at the Humane Society
- A Mental Health Walk-5K coordinated by GSSM students

2018 – 2021 ACCEPTANCES & MATRICULATIONS BOLD INDICATES MATRICULATION

Agnes Scott College Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences Allegheny College American University Amherst College Anderson University Appalachian State University Arizona State University Auburn University Baylor University Berea College Berry College Birmingham Southern College Boston College Boston University Bowdoin College Brandeis University Brevard College Brown University Bucknell University California Baptist University California Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo) 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 Claflin University Clark Atlanta University Clark University Clemson University Coastal Carolina University Colgate University College of Charleston Colorado College Colorado School of Mines Colorado State University Columbia College Columbia University Connecticut College Converse College Cornell University Coventry University Creighton University CUNY City College Dalhousie University Dartmouth College Davidson College Delaware Valley University Denison University DePaul University DePauw University Drexel University Duke Kunshan University Duke University East Carolina University East Tennessee State University Eckerd College Elon University Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Daytona Beach)	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (Prescott) Emory & Henry College Emory University Florida Institute of Technology Florida Polytechnic University Florida Southern College Florida State University Fordham University Francis Marion University Franciscan University of Steubenville Furman University Gardner-Webb University George Mason University George Washington University Georgetown University Georgia Institute of Technology Georgia State University Gettysburg College Goucher College Grinnell College Guilford College Hamilton College Hampden-Sydney College Hampton University Harvard University Hawaii Pacific University High Point University Hofstra University Hollins University Howard University Illinois Institute of Technology Illinois Wesleyan University Indiana University (Bloomington) Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis Ithaca College Jacksonville University John Carroll University Johns Hopkins University Kalamazoo College Kenyon College Lafayette College Lander University Lehigh University Lenoir-Rhyne University Lewis & Clark College Liberty University Lipscomb University Long Island University Loughborough University Louisiana State University Loyola University Chicago Loyola University Maryland Loyola University New Orleans Macalester College Maine Maritime Academy Manchester University Marquette University Mars Hill University Mary Baldwin University Massachusetts Institute of Technology Mercer University Mesa Community College Miami University (Oxford)	Michigan State University Michigan Technological University Milwaukee School of Engineering Mississippi State University Missouri University of Science and Technology Montreat College Mount Holyoke College Muhlenberg College Neumont College of Computer Science New College of Florida New York Institute of Technology New York University Newberry College North Carolina A & T State University North Greenville University Northeastern University Northern Arizona University Northern Michigan University Northland College Norwich University Notre Dame of Maryland University Nova Southeastern University Oberlin College Oglethorpe University Ohio University Ohio Wesleyan University Olin College of Engineering Oregon State University Oxford College of Emory University Pennsylvania State University Pepperdine University Pomona College Presbyterian College Princeton University Providence College Purdue University (Main Campus) Queen's University Queens University of Charlotte Reed College Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rhodes College Rice University Roanoke College Rochester Institute of Technology 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 Scripps College Seton Hall University Sewanee: The University of the South Smith College South Dakota School of Mines and Technology 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 (New York) St. Louis College of Pharmacy St. Olaf College Stanford University Stetson University Stevens Institute of Technology Stony Brook University Swarthmore College Syracuse University Temple University Tennessee Technological University Texas A&M University The College of Saint Rose 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 West Florida Tufts University Tulane University of Louisiana Tuskegee University Underwood International College, Yonsei University Union College United States Military Academy United States Naval Academy University of Aberdeen 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 California (Santa Cruz) University of Central Florida University of Chicago University of Cincinnati (Main Campus) University of Colorado Boulder University of Colorado Denver University of Connecticut University of Delaware University of Denver University of Florida University of Georgia University of Glasgow University of Hawaii at Manoa University of Houston University of Illinois at Chicago 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 University of Mount Union University of New Hampshire University of North Carolina at Asheville University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill University of North Carolina at Charlotte University of North Carolina at Greensboro University of North Carolina at Pembroke University of North Carolina Wilmington University of North Florida University of Notre Dame 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 (Aiken) 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 Sciences University of Toronto University of Utah University of Vermont University of Virginia (Main Campus) University of Washington (Seattle Campus) University of Waterloo University of Wisconsin Valdosta State University Vanderbilt University Vassar College Villanova University Virginia Commonwealth University Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Virginia Wesleyan University Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Wake Forest University Washington and Lee University Washington College Washington University in St. Louis Wellesley College Wesleyan University West Virginia University Western Carolina University Western University Westminster College William and Mary Williams College Wingate University Winthrop University Wofford College Worcester Polytechnic Institute Xavier University of Louisiana Yale University
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