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CEEB Code 410086

Enrollment

TOTAL: 16
FEMALE: 62.5%
MALE: 37.5%
STUDENTS OF COLOR: 31%



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.

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

STEM FOUNDATIONS

STEM Foundations is the Online Diploma Program of the SC Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM). Students in STEM Foundations are GSSM students and courses in this program are taught by GSSM faculty—over 90% have PhDs in their discipline.

ACADEMICS: THE COLLEGE MODEL

STEM Foundations combines a high-level STEM-focused curriculum with the convenience of learning from home. **STEM Foundations classes are taught synchronously via Zoom with small class sizes--classes range from 1 student to 13 students per class.** During class, students regularly interact with each other and their instructors. Students participate in classroom discussions, work together to solve problems in breakout rooms, and explore ideas as a class. Classes are taught on a college schedule and all courses are honors or higher and almost all are taught at the college level (dual enrolled or AP).

EXPERIENCES OUTSIDE OF CLASS

All instructors offer live office hours throughout the week. STEM Foundations students learn how to utilize office hours and how to interact with teachers outside of the classroom. Students attend study time via Zoom daily during which time they are able to collaborate with each other on classwork and provide peer tutoring as needed. Outside of academics, STEM Foundations students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of clubs including National Honors Society, math club, and yearbook. All clubs are student initiated and driven.

IN-PERSON EVENTS

In order to continue building community among students, we offer at least three in person events per school year for STEM Foundations students. In the 2021-2022 school year, these events included an Interim trip, prom, and orientation. During our in person gathering, STEM Foundations students have continued to build upon the bond that is established in the virtual environment. As a group, students have participated in community service projects, studied biodiversity, and had time to socialize. STEM Foundations students report that they have built strong relationships with both their peers and their instructors as a result of both the virtual and in person activities provided by this program.

COMPETITIVE APPLICATION PROCESS

This program serves juniors and seniors from the state of SC. Rising juniors apply for admission through a rigorous selection process, including an essay, standardized test scores, interviews, as well as internal application reviews. Upon successful completion of the program students receive a GSSM diploma and a state of South Carolina diploma. The STEM Foundations program launched in Fall 2021 with a cohort of 12 juniors.



ACADEMICS

SCIENCE COURSES

Core Principles of Cell and Molecular Biology*	Pre-Engineering I - Honors
Core Principles of Organismal Biology*	Programming Fundamentals*
General Chemistry I*	Programming & Algorithmic Design*
General Physics I*	Research & Inquiry Capstone - Honors
General Physics II*	

MATH COURSES

Concepts for Calculus - Honors	Calculus II*
Calculus I*	

ENGLISH COURSES

English Composition and Rhetoric I*	The Major Forms of Literature*
English Composition and Rhetoric II*	Creative Writing*

HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES

AP US History	American Government and Politics*
Principles of Economics: Microeconomic Concepts*	

**The starred classes are dual enrolled through Coker University or Francis Marion University*

MENTORED RESEARCH & INQUIRY EXPERIENCE

All students participate in a mentored research & inquiry experience. For most STEM Foundations students, their experience takes place as part of the Capstone class in the spring semester senior year. Students gain direct experience with research methods and principles through projects mentored by experienced experts. With the support of GSSM faculty and staff, students complete a research & inquiry portfolio and present their work. Students also have the opportunity to complete mentored summer research.

GSSM is on the semester system with interim courses offered in January each 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:

<https://www.scgssm.org/stem-foundations/academics>

INTERIM

All STEM Foundations students participate in a January which Interim during they focus on community building, service, and a STEM theme. The focus of the 2021 Interim class was the environment. Students studied environmental concerns from various viewpoints, discussed environmental issues with businesses, and spent time together in Columbia, SC evaluating biodiversity in freshwater invertebrate.

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.



GPA RANGE

(Weighted/SCUGS) Class of 2023: 3.94 - 5.02

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.

GRADING SCALE

Fall 2016 and later

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

GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS 2023 STEM FOUNDATIONS

	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)
Math				
Advanced Math II 111	5	5	0	0
Advanced Math III 112	9	1	0	0
Dual Credit Calc 1	1	1	0	0
AP Statistics	1	1	0	0
Science				
Dual Credit Bio 1	6	2	3	0
Dual Credit Bio 2	6	3	2	0
Principles of Chemistry (year-long course)	1	5	0	0
Dual Credit Chem 1	2	4	4	0
Dual Credit Chem 2	2	4	0	0
English				
Dual Credit English 111	7	4	1	0
Dual Credit English 112	7	4	1	0
Social Science				
AP U.S. History (year-long course)	5	4	0	0
Dual Credit Microeconomics	1	2	0	0
Dual Credit American Government	2	1	0	0

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.

