ACCELERATE
South Carolina's Engineering LaunchPad
A PRODUCT OF THE SC GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

401 Railroad Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550
P: 843.383.3901 x3982
F: 888.854.9720
apply2accelerate@gssm.k12.sc.us

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS
for the Accelerate Class of 2020

Online Application
All parts of the online application are due by **January 18, 2017.**

Part 1: Student & Parent Information
Provide the following information:

- Name
- Gender
- Date of birth
- Address and contact information*
- School, district and grade**
- Parent name(s)
- Parent address and contact information
- Classification information (for reporting purposes only):
  - Ethnicity and race
  - Free/reduced lunch eligibility
  - How you heard about Accelerate

***We need to be able to contact the student and a parent, guardian or other relative during the application process. Please supply as many ways to contact you as possible. All email addresses on the application will be included when we send correspondence during the application process.** Please do not use your school or district email address; these email providers often block emails from outside the school or district, and Accelerate emails may not reach you. Free email providers, such as Gmail or Yahoo, are good alternatives.

**Only current 9th graders who attend school in one of our Accelerate partner school districts and will complete Algebra 2 by the end of the 2016-17 academic year are eligible to apply for the Accelerate program. If you are not in 9th grade, do not attend school in one of our partner districts, or will not complete Algebra 2 this year, we encourage you to check out our summer camps and our residential program at www.scgssm.org.

Part 2: Academic Information
Provide the following information:

- Enrollment status and grade for math, science and English classes
- Academic programs in which you are enrolled (Gifted and Talented, IB, etc.)

Part 3: Counselor & Teacher Information
GSSM requires recommendations from your science, math and English teachers and a school counselor evaluation. You are strongly encouraged to speak with your teachers before submitting their names in your application. **We will contact your teachers on your behalf starting in January.**

Provide the following information for each teacher and school counselor:

- Name
- School
- Email address
- Class(es) in which this teacher taught you

Part 4: Activities & Honors

- Describe up to five academic or extracurricular activities that you would like us to know about, including the year(s) you participated and your role.
- Describe up to five honors or awards you have earned that you would like us to know about.

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Part 5: Essay
Indicate in this section how you will submit your essay (email, mail or fax). See page 3 of this packet for an overview of GSSM's essay standards.

Essay prompt: Engineers come in all shapes and sizes. Before completing your essay, do a little research (online-only research is fine) about a kind of engineering that interests you and that you might like to consider as a career. In your essay, give a brief overview of the type of engineering you've selected and the sorts of projects, activities or goals central to that field. In a subsequent paragraph or two, explain what interests you about that type of engineering and describe how you envision the Accelerate program helping to prepare you for a career in that field.

Part 6: Acknowledgements & Permissions
Print, fill out and sign the Acknowledgements & Permissions Form included on pages 4 and 5 of this packet (requires student and parent/guardian signatures). Indicate in this section how you will submit the completed form to GSSM (email, mail or fax).

Part 7: Verification of South Carolina Legal Residency
Print, fill out and sign the Verification of South Carolina Legal Residency Form included on page 6 of this packet (requires parent/guardian signature). Indicate in this section how you will submit the completed form to GSSM (email, mail or fax). You must also submit two items that prove your residency, as explained on the form.

Supporting Documents
In addition to the online application, GSSM requires the following supporting documents to complete your application. GSSM will contact your teachers and school counselor on your behalf to obtain these items.

1. Transcript
2. Standardized test scores
3. School counselor evaluation
4. Math teacher recommendation
5. Science teacher recommendation
6. English teacher recommendation

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ESSAY STANDARDS

Introduction of Topic	The introduction is inviting to the reader and states the main topic.	The introduction clearly states the main topic but is less inviting to the reader.	The introduction somewhat identifies the main topic but is not inviting to the reader.	There is no clear introduction of the main topic.
Supporting Details	Each paragraph contains 2 or 3 details that support the topic. The main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information.	Each paragraph contains at least 2 details that support the topic. Main ideas are clear but not well supported by details.	Each paragraph contains 1 detail that supports the topic. Main ideas are somewhat clear.	Paragraphs do not contain details that support the topic. The topic and main ideas are not clear.
Vocabulary, Grammar and Spelling	Vivid words and phrases that bring the topic to life are used accurately. There are no errors in grammar or spelling.	There are 1 or 2 errors in grammar and spelling, but they do not distract the reader from the content or meaning.	Words are used clearly to communicate, but there is a lack of variety. There are 3 or 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader.	Vocabulary is limited and does not adequately communicate ideas. There are more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that make the essay difficult to understand.
Capitalization and Punctuation	There are no errors in capitalization or punctuation.	There are 1 or 2 errors in capitalization and/or punctuation, but the paper is still easy to understand.	There are a few errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that distract from the content.	There are more than 4 errors in capitalization and/or punctuation that make the essay difficult to understand.
Conclusion	The conclusion is well constructed and draws together all the details to form an ending.	There is a conclusion, and it draws together most of the details.	There is a conclusion, but it does not draw together most of the details.	There is no clear conclusion or ending to the paper.
	Strong Essay	**Adequate Essay**	**Weak Essay**	**Unacceptable Essay**

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ACCELERATE APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PERMISSIONS FORM

Please print this form. Both the applicant and the custodial parent/guardian will need to read and sign this form. Please return in one of the following ways:

Mail: Attn: Lisa Bateman, Accelerate Program Assistant
SC Governor's School for Science & Mathematics
401 Railroad Avenue
Hartsville, SC 29550

Fax: 888-854-9720

Email: apply2accelerate@gssm.k12.sc.us

For the Applicant:

I hereby affirm that all the information on this application is correct and that my application essay is my original work. I received editorial assistance preparing my essay from (check all that apply):

☐ a teacher ☐ a friend ☐ a parent ☐ other _____

I understand and agree to each of the following:

1. I am applying to the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics **ACCELERATE** program.
2. Accelerate is a rigorous and challenging program, utilizing a virtual learning environment (live video conferencing between teaching locations and Accelerate site schools) and requiring three years to complete.
3. I will be required to attend three **mandatory** one-week residential summer camps—one prior to each school year—beginning with Base Camp—**June 25 – 30, 2017**—at the GSSM campus in Hartsville, SC, the summer between 9th and 10th grades.
4. I will be required to attend **mandatory** Saturday events during each semester of the three-year program. These events include hands-on engineering activities, science laboratory days, field trips, etc. and are **required** for successful completion of the program. Currently, these events occur as follows:
   a. Sophomores (10th grade) attend one Saturday Experience each semester; and
   b. Juniors (11th) and Seniors (12th) attend one Saturday Experience and up to two science laboratory days (on Saturdays) each semester.
5. I understand that activities mentioned in #3 and #4 above will take place at different locations in South Carolina (e.g., GSSM campus in Hartsville, Clemson University in Clemson, University of South Carolina in Columbia, etc.).

Applicant's Name (printed): _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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ACCELERATE APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & PERMISSIONS FORM

For the Custodial Parent(s) or Guardian(s): Please initial each of the following statements and sign this Acknowledgements and Permissions document. Return to us using the directions at the top of page 1 of this document.

Parent's Initials

_____ I have read, understand, and agree to the requirements for participation in the Accelerate program as outlined in the Applicant section of this Acknowledgements and Permissions document.

_____ My child has my permission to apply to the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics Accelerate program. I attest that all information in this application is correct.

_____ I understand and agree that, if selected to participate in the Accelerate Program, my child **must** attend a **mandatory** Base Camp—**June 25 – 30,** 2017—at the GSSM campus in Hartsville, South Carolina. This camp is a residential experience, and students will reside on campus.

_____ I understand that students **must** also attend a week-long residential camp during each summer before 11th and 12th grades.

_____ I understand that, during each semester, students are **required** to attend one Saturday Experience. Students in 11th and 12th grades are also **required** to attend two science laboratory Saturdays each semester. These events take place at either the GSSM campus in Hartsville or at other sites as determined by the Accelerate program.

_____ I understand that transportation to and from these activities is the parents' responsibility. (Note: Many of our Accelerate parents are able to work out carpooling agreements with each other.)

Custodial Parent's Name (printed): _____

Custodial Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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ACCELERATE APPLICANT'S NAME: _____

VERIFICATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA LEGAL RESIDENCY

It is the policy of the state of South Carolina and the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics Accelerate program to consider for enrollment only students whose **parent(s) or legal guardian(s) have established legal residency in South Carolina by January 1 of the school year in which the student applies for admission. Your above status for legal residency must remain valid for the entire time you are enrolled in the GSSM Accelerate program.**

Legal residency is established when one's principal domicile is maintained in the state of South Carolina. One is considered a legal resident by establishing physical presence in a location determined as his/her home.

A parent or legal guardian of a GSSM Accelerate student must be a legal resident of the state of South Carolina on the date the student begins Accelerate coursework their sophomore year. The parent or guardian must notify the School immediately of any changes in residency.

In order to enroll in Accelerate, you **must** provide proof of South Carolina residency.

☐ I am a legal resident of South Carolina.

_____

Parent/Guardian Name (printed) Signature Date

In addition to this signed form, one item from Group 1 AND one item from Group 2 must be submitted.

GROUP 1 - Provide a copy of one of the following

- Parent/guardian's current monthly utility/power bill showing correct name and address
- Parent/guardian's current monthly landline phone bill showing correct name and address
- Parent/guardian's current monthly cable bill showing correct name and address

GROUP 2 - Provide a copy of one of the following

- Parent/guardian's U.S. birth certificate
- Parent/guardian's South Carolina driver's license
- Parent/guardian's birth certificate from U.S. territory
- Parent/guardian's current U.S. passport
- Parent/guardian's U.S. passport that has not been expired for more than 10 years
- Parent/guardian's certificate of naturalization
- Front and back of the parent/guardian's permanent resident card

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS SIGNED FORM AND ONE DOCUMENT FROM EACH OF THE TWO GROUPS ABOVE USING ONE OF THE METHODS BELOW. YOUR APPLICATION IS NOT CONSIDERED COMPLETE UNLESS ALL THREE ITEMS ARE RECEIVED BY THE APPLICATION DEADLINE (JANUARY 18, 2017).

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