



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL for Science & Mathematics

Application Instructions 2016 – 2017 School Year

Online Application

Deadline: February 1, 2017

Part 1: Basic Information

Provide the following information:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Gender
- School and grade
- Preferred contact method
- Classification information (for recruitment):
 - Ethnicity and race
 - Congressional district
 - Algebra 2 status
 - SC residency status

Part 2: Additional Information

Provide the following information:

- Academic program participation
- GPA and standardized test scores (estimated ranges; this information will not be used when we review your application)
- Activities and awards
- STEM Premier profile (optional)
- Parent name(s)
- Parent address(es)
- Parent contact information
- Parent employer(s) and job title(s)

Part 3: Teacher Recommendations & School Counselor Evaluations

GSSM requires recommendations from your science, math and English teachers and a school counselor evaluation. In this section of the application, provide names and contact information (school name, email address) for the science, math and English teachers you have asked to provide a recommendation for you and for your school counselor. You are strongly encouraged to speak with your teachers before submitting their names in your application. **We will contact each teacher and school counselor on your behalf beginning Dec. 1.**

Part 4: Short Answer and Essay Questions

Respond to three of the following prompts. Two of your responses should be short answers (200-500 words) and the third should be an essay (500-750 words). It is your choice which questions you answer and which answer will be your essay.

- Living away from home may present significant challenges. Describe a situation in which you have experienced difficulty, overcome adversity, or faced an ethical question. This can be from either inside or outside of the classroom. Explain how you coped with this situation and what you learned from it.
- What STEM field interests you most? Describe the experiences that have shaped your interests and any action steps you have taken to explore them further.
- Imagine you are part of a team colonizing a new planet. Each team member is allowed to invite up to three additional people and bring no more than five personal items. Who would accompany you on this journey? Which items would you take? Explain the rationale for your choices.
- Tell us something about yourself that has not been covered in this application.

Optional supplemental information:

- What is the one thing about which you are most passionate? Tell us about it in a video (2 minutes maximum; see instructions on page 5), written answer (200 words maximum) or other creative format (drawings, PowerPoint presentation, etc., whatever works best for you! – must be in PDF format to upload).

Part 5: Parent Statement (optional)

Your parents are invited to complete two optional statements to supplement your application:

- Please explain how the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics can enhance your child's education. You may provide any additional information that our selection committee should consider when evaluating your child's application to GSSM.
- Please describe any factors that you believe our selection committee should consider in the review of this application for admission to GSSM. GSSM attempts to identify those applicants whose previous school grades or admission test scores may underpredict academic success. This information is considered with the applicant's academic credentials. Factors may include: applicant has a permanent physical disability; applicant experienced a temporary health problem that significantly affected an otherwise exceptionally good academic record; applicant comes from an economically disadvantaged environment; applicant has completed an exceptionally rigorous academic program; applicant does not speak English at home; applicant moved to the U.S. within the last four years; or applicant has other exceptional circumstances.

Part 6: Signature Sheet

Print and sign the Signature Sheet (requires student and parent signatures). Indicate in this section how you will submit the completed signature sheet to GSSM (document upload, email, mail or fax).

Transcript

It is your responsibility to have your school counselor submit your transcript in January **after** first semester is complete and your grades are available. **Transcripts are due by the February 1 application deadline.** In addition to your first semester grades, your transcript should also include your class rank (if available) and a list of your second semester courses (work in progress). If you plan to have a complete and competitive application, it is imperative to have your school counselor send us your official and up-to-date transcript after first semester.

Standardized Test Information

You must submit a standardized test score (PSAT, SAT or ACT) for a test taken since January 1, 2016. This test can be the PSAT administered at most high schools in the fall of the 10th grade. You may choose (but are not required) to register for the SAT or ACT for additional or supportive test data. If you are unable to take the PSAT through your school, you must take the SAT or ACT before the February 1st application deadline. **SAT scores may be reported directly to GSSM by using the College Board code 6073**, or test scores may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the GSSM Admissions office. If you have taken any of the exams more than once, be sure to provide our office with a record of each score report. We will use the highest combination of scores.

Application Checklist

Your complete application file must include the following:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online application part 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Science teacher recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online application part 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Math teacher recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online application part 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> English teacher recommendation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Online application part 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> School counselor evaluation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent statement (optional) | <input type="checkbox"/> High school transcript (including first semester grades, list of second semester courses, class rank) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature sheet signed by applicant and parent(s)/legal guardian(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Standardized test score(s) |

401 Railroad Avenue · Hartsville, SC 29550
Admissions Office: (843) 383-3944 · Fax: (843) 606-6270
admissions@scgssm.org

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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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Signatures for GSSM Application

By completing and signing this form, you give the GSSM Admissions Office permission to share the information provided in your application, including your transcript, standardized test scores and video (if submitted), with the members of the GSSM Application Review Committees. This includes members of the GSSM faculty and staff who serve on the Internal Review Committee and other South Carolina educators, business leaders and GSSM alumni and parents who serve on the External Review Committee. Only the information you provide on your application and supplemental documents will be shared with committee members. Your information will not be sold or shared with any third party or entity outside GSSM and the Application Review Committees.

For the Applicant:

I hereby affirm that all the information on this application is correct and that all written responses are my original work.

I received editorial assistance preparing my responses from: (check all that apply)

a teacher

a friend

a parent

Applicant's name (printed): _____

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

For the Parent or Guardian:

My child has my permission to apply to the South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics. I hereby give my permission to my child's high school to release school records with this application.

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return this form using one of the following methods:

- Upload scanned document in Part 6 of your application
- Mail to GSSM
- Fax to GSSM
- Email scanned document to GSSM



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Video Instructions

If you choose to submit a video as part of your application, please follow these instructions closely.

Video Topic: What is the one thing about which you are most passionate?

Video Format

- No more than 2 minutes long
- Start by introducing yourself with your first and last name
- We recommend that you save your video in MP4 or MOV format

You will not be judged on the quality of your video, but rather on the content. Please use your video to share your passion with the GSSM Admissions Committee.

Submitting Your Video

1. Upload your video online. We recommend using one of the following free services, but you can use any solution that will allow you to give us a link to view your video.
 - a. YouTube (we recommend you use the “unlisted” setting when you upload your video to ensure your privacy; using this setting will only allow people with the link to view your video)
 - b. Google Drive
 - c. Dropbox
2. Make sure you adjust the privacy/sharing settings on your video so that it can be viewed by anyone with the link. We recommend that you test your link before submitting to be sure that it can be viewed by anyone with the link, even if they are not logged into the system you used.
3. Copy and paste the link into Part 4 of the GSSM online application.

The GSSM Admissions Committee will only review videos that are submitted according to these instructions. By submitting a video, you consent to allow any and all GSSM Admissions representatives to view your video.

If you have any questions about the optional video, please contact Pam Altman, Director of Applications, at pam@scgssm.org or (803) 252-9152.