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
GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS OF 2024

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SCIENCE

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COMPUTER SCIENCE

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SOCIAL SCIENCE

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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.
### SCIENCE

**SCIENCE CORE COURSES**
- AP Biology
- Principles of Chemistry
- AP Chemistry
- Chemistry I & II (Dual Enrollment)
- General Physics I & II (Dual Enrollment)
- AP Physics C:ME
- 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

### 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
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