



# STEM FOUNDATIONS SCHOOL PROFILE

## 2023 – 2024

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**CEEB Code** 410086

**Enrollment**  
TOTAL: 9  
FEMALE: 44%  
MALE: 55%  
DIVERSITY: 44%  
STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR  
FREE LUNCH: 44%



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 (NCSSS) 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. 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, 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 Honor 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 2022-2023 school year, these events included an Interim trip, prom, and orientation. During our in-person gatherings, STEM Foundations students have continued to build upon the bond that is established in the virtual environment. As a group, students participated in community service projects, studied topics including biodiversity and intellectual property, and had opportunities 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** \*The starred classes are dual enrolled through Francis Marion University or Coker University.

## SCIENCE COURSES

*Biol 1: Core Principles of Cell and Molecular Biology	Pre-Engineering I - Honors
*Biol 2: Core Principles of Organismal Biology	AP Computer Science A (Introduction)
Principles of Chemistry - Honors	AP Computer Science A (Advanced Computer Programming)
*Chemistry 101	Mentored Summer Research & Inquiry
*Physics 1A General Physics I	Research & Inquiry Capstone - Honors
*Physics 1B General Physics II	

## MATH COURSES

Math Analysis 111 – Honors (PreCalculus)	*Calculus 201 (Calculus I)
Math Analysis 112 – Honors (PreCalculus)	Intro DE Calculus Honors (Calculus II)
Intro DE Calculus Honors (Calculus I)	*Calculus 202 (Calculus II)

## ENGLISH COURSES

*English 111: Composition and Rhetoric I	*World Literature I
*English 112: Composition and Rhetoric II	*World Literature II

## HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE COURSES

AP US History  
\*Principles of Economics: Microeconomic Concepts  
\*U.S. Government 201

## 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.

## INTERIM

All STEM Foundations students participate in a January interim during which they focus on community building, service, and a STEM theme. The focus of the 2023 Interim class was intellectual property. Students learned about patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets from leaders in industry, agriculture, and law. They spent time together in Greenville, SC, speaking with intellectual property attorneys at Michelin North America, Inc.

## 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

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

## GPA RANGE

(Weighted/SCUGS) Class of 2024: 4.27 – 4.66

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>

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.



## GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS OF 2024 STEM FOUNDATIONS

	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)
<b>Math</b>				
Math Analysis 111	1	0	0	0
Math Analysis 112	1	0	0	0
Intro to Calculus – Honors (fall)	2	1	0	0
Calculus 201 - Dual Enrollment (spring)	0	2	1	0
<b>Science</b>				
Biol 1 – Dual Enrollment	2	1	1	0
Biol 2 – Dual Enrollment	0	4	0	0
Principles of Chemistry – Honors (fall)	1	3	0	0
Chemistry 101 – Dual Enrollment (spring)	2	2	0	0
<b>English</b>				
Coll English 111 – Dual Enrollment	2	2	0	0
Coll English 112 – Dual Enrollment	1	3	0	0
<b>Social Science</b>				
AP U.S. History	1	2	0	0
Microeconomics 201 – Dual Enrollment	0	0	1	0
U.S Government 201– Dual Enrollment	1	0	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.

## 2023 ACCEPTANCES & MATRICULATIONS \*BOLD INDICATES MATRICULATION

Auburn University  
**Central Piedmont Community College**  
**Clemson University**  
**College of Charleston**  
 East Carolina University  
 East Tennessee State University  
**Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University**  
 Francis Marion University  
 Furman University  
 Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
 Johnson & Wales University (Providence)  
 Kennesaw State University  
 Mississippi State University

Penn State University (University Park)  
 Sarah Lawrence College  
 The University of Montana  
 University of Alabama at Birmingham  
 University of Hawaii at Manoa  
 University of Oklahoma  
**University of South Carolina**  
**University of South Carolina-Upstate**  
**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**  
 Western Carolina University  
 Wingate University  
**Winthrop University**  
 Wofford College

