



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL for Science & Mathematics

SCHOOL PROFILE 2017–2018

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ENROLLMENT

TOTAL: **282**

MALE: **50%**

FEMALE: **50%**

STUDENTS OF COLOR: **35%**

(Asian: 16%, Black 12%, Hispanic 4%,
Multi/Other 2%)

CLASS OF 2019 APPLIED: **353**

CLASS OF 2019 ENROLLED: **153**

CLASS OF 2018 ENROLLED: **121**

FINANCIAL AID

2017-2018 PERCENT OF STUDENTS
ELIGIBLE FOR FREE LUNCH PROGRAM:
20%

FACULTY

FULL TIME: **29**

PERCENT WITH ADVANCED DEGREES:
100%

PERCENT WITH A DOCTORATE: **90%**

The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) is a public, residential high school for academically talented juniors and seniors from across the state. Established in 1988, GSSM provides opportunities for intellectual development beyond the scope of a traditional high school. Rising juniors apply for admission through a rigorous selection process, including an essay, standardized test scores and interviews, as well as external and internal application reviews.

- GSSM is an educational leader enabling and nurturing future STEM leaders for South Carolina and beyond
- GSSM aims to learn, to change, to share, to innovate, to inspire, to lead
- GSSM builds character through the purposeful integration of the moral and intellectual virtues within a community of learners

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

By combining rigorous STEM, humanities and social sciences courses, extended field trips, intensive 2–3 hour science labs and mentored research (year-long and/or summer), GSSM fosters a student's ability to think critically, to apply theory and to develop ideas independently. The small faculty-student ratio allows GSSM instructors to provide individualized attention to encourage students to reach their full potential. GSSM's schedule mirrors that of a traditional college. The students are held to high standards with classes being taught at a college level. GSSM also subscribes to a rigorous grading system. Many of our students exhaust AP offerings and elect to take courses that are taught above the AP level. In our STEM departments, 23 out of the 50 courses (46%) are considered above AP, which means they require an AP course as a prerequisite or there is no AP course sanctioned by College Board in that area.

GSSM has memorandums of understanding with Clemson University and the University of South Carolina to grant college credit for university approved GSSM courses that are closely aligned with the university's courses.

SUMMER PROGRAM FOR RESEARCH INTERNS

The Summer Program for Research Interns and its international compliment, the Research Experience Scholars Program, are two distinguishing learning experiences for GSSM students. During the summer following their junior year, all GSSM students are provided a six-week opportunity to experience research guided by professional reserachers in laboratories, field sites, and industry reserach facilities regionally, nationally and internationally. Some of these sites include SC's three major research universities and centers, MIT, The German Cancer Research Center, The Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software, and the Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology. Students gain a unique and direct experience with the research process, which develops their understanding of the scientific method, the methods of discovery, subject matter expertise, critical thinking skills, data analysis and quantitative skills, creativity, and communication skills. During their senior year, students work with a GSSM faculty advisor to develop an academic research paper and oral presentation describing their research findings which are presented at the GSSM Annual Research Colloquium and South Carolina Junior Academy of Science annual meeting. GSSM students have the opportunity to present their research in academic journals or at professional conferences in conjunction with their summer research mentor.

JANUARY INTERIM

For three weeks before the second semester begins, students at GSSM participate in a "mini-mester," or January Interim, during which they focus on one experiential course. Interim classes provide a wide variety of course offerings that allow students to tap into undiscovered talents and explore new hobbies. Several courses include travel and field experiences, and there are typically two or more international and one or more in-country trips offered. In years past, groups have visited places like Silicon Valley and the Galapagos Islands. Course topics are diverse and include science, technology, art, music and drama.



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GRADING SCALE

All high schools in South Carolina are required to utilize the South Carolina Uniform Grading Scale. Only grades of C or higher are given credit at GSSM. Additional weighting is given for grades earned in Honors, AP, and Dual Enrollment. The GPAs provided include all courses listed on the transcript, including courses posted from 8TH grade.

Prior to Fall 2016

A = 93 – 100
B = 85 – 92
C = 77 – 84
D = 70 – 76

Fall 2016 and later

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

GSSM is on the semester system with Interim courses offered in January each year and mentored research completed during the summer between junior and senior year.

Total graduation requirement for a State of SC and GSSM diploma: **26 credits**. Our Course Catalog can be found on our website: www.scgssm.org/residential/academics/course-catalog-and-faqs

Our typical course load is six courses each semester; seven courses is an overload. To meet GSSM and SC diploma requirements, students must complete:

Mathematics	5	Social Studies.....	3
Laboratory Science.....	3	Foreign Language.....	3
Computer Science.....	1	Mentored Research	1
STEM or Economics Electives...	2	Interim Course.....	1
English	4	General Electives.....	3

RANKING POLICY

GSSM does not rank its students; we enroll students from across South Carolina, many ranked first in their 10TH grade class. The grade distribution junior year chart provides a context for our students' transcripts.

GPA RANGE (Weighted/SCUGS) Class of 2018: **4.124 – 5.331**

NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

Class of 2017 National Merit Finalists **18**

SAT CLASS OF 2017: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N = 111	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE- BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Evidence-Based Reading & Writing	690	640 – 720	494	494
Math	690	660 – 720	493	508

ACT CLASS OF 2017: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N = 126	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE	SOUTH CAROLINA COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN	ALL COLLEGE-BOUND SENIOR MEAN
Composite	30.5	28 – 33	18.5	20.8

ACT CLASS OF 2018, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N = 123	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Composite	29.9	27 – 33

SELECTED ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMINATIONS FOR THE 2016–2017 YEAR

EXAMINATIONS	BIOLOGY	CALCULUS BC	CHEMISTRY	COMPUTER SCIENCE	ENGLISH LANGUAGE	PHYSICS C: E&M	PHYSICS C: MECH	STATISTICS
# of Students Tested	83	34	54	24	80	14	17	11
Average Score	3.53	3.65	3.09	3.83	3.63	4.43	4.41	3.46

GRADE DISTRIBUTION JUNIOR YEAR, CLASS OF 2018

	A (90-100)	B (80-89)	C (70-79)	D (60-69)
Math				
Advanced Math II	28	28	5	0
Advanced Math III	24	17	6	0
Math Analysis I	17	19	1	0
Math Analysis II	8	16	9	0
AP Calculus AB 201	14	8	1	0
AP Calculus AB 202	20	5	1	0
AP Calculus BC (year-long course)	8	2	1	0
Science				
AP Biology 201	25	56	11	0
AP Biology 202	42	47	5	1
Principles of Chemistry (year-long course)	5	8	18	7
AP Chemistry 201	14	33	30	5
AP Chemistry 202	18	36	23	1
Fundamentals of Physics 101	2	6	3	0
Fundamentals of Physics 102	2	11	3	0
AP Physics 1-A	4	9	2	0
AP Physics 1-B	5	8	0	0
AP Physics: C:M	9	3	1	0
AP Physics C:EM	2	11	1	0
Computer Science				
AP Computer Science	22	21	17	1
English				
AP English Language (year-long course)	78	52	3	0
Social Science				
AP U.S. History (year-long course)	63	42	7	0

SAT CLASS OF 2018, SPRING JUNIOR YEAR: MIDDLE 50% RANGES AND MEANS

	GSSM MEAN N = 95	GSSM MIDDLE 50% RANGE
Evidenced Based Reading & Writing	690	650 – 730
Math	700	650 – 740

MATHEMATICS CORE COURSES	MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES (ABOVE AP)
Advanced Math	Linear Algebra (offered on alternate years)
Math Analysis	Multivariate Calculus (offered on alternate years)
Calculus with Applications	Ordinary Differential Equations (offered on alternate years)
AP Calculus AB	Discrete Structures (offered on alternate years)
AP Calculus BC	Abstract Algebra (offered on alternate years)
	Number Theory
	AP Statistics
	Regression Analysis

COMPUTER SCIENCE CORE COURSES	COMPUTER SCIENCE ELECTIVES (ABOVE AP)
AP Computer Science	Introduction to Computer Graphics using Python
	Data Structures using Java
	Application Design and Implementation using C++ and Linux (CSC 201)
	Programming Interaction and Visual Design (CSC 202)
	Robotics
	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
	Game Design, Prototyping and Production

SCIENCE CORE COURSES	BIOLOGY ELECTIVES (ABOVE AP)	CHEMISTRY ELECTIVES (ABOVE AP)	PHYSICS ELECTIVES (ABOVE AP)
AP Biology	Molecular Biology	Introduction to Organic and Biochemistry	Modern Physics
Principles of Chemistry	Human Anatomy and Physiology	Analytical Chemistry	Fluids, Thermodynamics and Optics
AP Chemistry	Neuroscience	AP Environmental Science	Astronomy
Fundamentals of Physics	Advanced Genetics		Computational Physics
AP Physics 1	Biological Evolution		
AP Physics C:M	Vertebrate Biology		
AP Physics C:EM	Botany		

ECONOMICS & FINANCE CORE COURSES	ECONOMICS ELECTIVES
	Quantitative Business Methods
	Technology Ventures
	Economic Analysis
	Quantitative Financial Analysis
	AP Microeconomics
	AP Macroeconomics
	International Economics

ENGINEERING CORE COURSES	ENGINEERING ELECTIVES
	Applications of Engineering Design
	Engineering Mechanics: Statics
	Engineering: Electronics
	Engineering: SolidWorks
	Engineering: Project Design

SOCIAL SCIENCE CORE COURSES	SOCIAL SCIENCE ELECTIVES
AP U.S. History	Irish History
	World War II
	Civil War and Reconstruction
	Medieval History
	Spanish Inquisition
	Native American History
	Colonial America
	American Mid-Century
Government and Economics	AP U.S. Government
	AP Comparative Government

ENGLISH CORE COURSES	ENGLISH ELECTIVES
AP English Language	Introduction to Creative Writing
AP English Literature	Studies in Creative Writing: Poetry
	Drama
	Introduction to Film
	Introduction to Philosophy
	Christian Literature
	Topics in Science Fiction
	Shakespeare's Plays
	African-American Literature

FOREIGN LANGUAGE CORE COURSES	FOREIGN LANGUAGE ELECTIVES
French I	French IV
French II	French V
French III	AP French
Spanish II	Spanish IV
Spanish III	Spanish V
	AP Spanish
	Hispanic Caribbean Cultural Studies
Introduction to Chinese I (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese II (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese III (Dual Enrollment)	
Introduction to Chinese IV (Dual Enrollment)	

MUSIC CORE COURSES	MUSIC ELECTIVES
	AP Music Theory

RESEARCH CORE COURSES	RESEARCH ELECTIVES
Summer Mentored Research	Scientific Investigation I
	Scientific Investigation II
	Scientific Investigation II

DISCIPLINARY REPORTING POLICY

Adhering to NACAC's Statement of Principles of Good Practice, it is GSSM's policy for the Office of College Counseling and Advising to 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.

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

All GSSM students are required to live on campus. The residential living program is based on a House System where each of the six floors in the residence hall represents a House. The system is led by six senior leaders known as House Captains. There are six full-time live-in professional staff members, holding bachelor's or master's degrees, that provide developmental curricular-based programs. The six focus areas of the GSSM Residential Curriculum are:

- Academic Support
- Health and Wellness
- Cultural Competency
- Leadership Development
- Interpersonal Development
- Intrapersonal Development

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

GSSM views engagement as essential to the holistic experience of all students. Be it through leadership, club participation, or service, it is expected that all students will be involved to some degree in the life of the school beyond their academic pursuits. As a response to the State for this opportunity, the local community for their gracious support of the school, and each other as a demonstration of citizenship, students are encouraged to support the campus, local, and South Carolina communities to encourage institutional values.

Over the years, students have been encouraged to design and develop projects related to their personal interests, passions and community needs. Some of them include:

VARSITY ATHLETICS

Participation in athletics is one of the ways GSSM students engage beyond the classroom. Approximately 70% of our student body participates in varsity interscholastic sports. Many of these individuals have never participated on an athletic team prior to coming to the Governor's School. Despite the novice status of many of our athletes, GSSM has won numerous competitions. Varsity offerings include:

- Basketball
- Cross Country
- Golf
- Soccer
- Swimming
- Tennis
- Track & Field
- Volleyball

- Student 2 Student – an tutoring initiative with the local Boys and Girls Club
- Tech Talk – technology workshops offered to local, mature Hartsville residents who need remedial technical training
- Connect Hartsville – program where students assist local merchants with website development and social media presence for their businesses
- Beta Club, National Honor Society, 4H, Student Council, Service Saturdays at the Humane Society
- Mental Health Walk – 5K coordinated by GSSM students to bring awareness to encourage support of those with these vulnerabilities

2014–2017 ACCEPTANCES & MATRICULATIONS

*INDICATES MATRICULATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INSTITUTIONS

Charleston Southern University
Claflin University*
Clemson University*
Coastal Carolina University*
Coker College
College of Charleston*
Converse College
The Citadel, the Military College of SC
Erskine College
Francis Marion University
Furman University*
Lander University
Newberry College
Presbyterian College*
University of South Carolina, Aiken
University of South Carolina, Beaufort
University of South Carolina-Columbia*
Winthrop University*
Wofford College*

Georgia Institute of Technology*
Georgia Southern College
Howard University*
Iowa State University
Johns Hopkins University*
Kansas State University
Lehigh University*
Liberty University
Louisiana State University
Loyola University
Chicago Mercer University
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology*
New York University*
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina State University*
Northeastern University*
Nova Southeastern University*
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Princeton University
Purdue University*
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University*
Rochester Institute of Technology*
Rutgers University-New Brunswick*
San Francisco State University
Southern Methodist University
St. John's University - Queens Campus
Stanford University*
State University of New York at Albany
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University
SUNY College of Enviro Science and Forestry
Syracuse University
Temple University
Tennessee Technological University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
The George Washington University*
The Ohio State University*
The University of Alabama*
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Alabama in Huntsville*
The University of Arizona
The University of Georgia
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
The University of Texas, Austin*
Tufts University*
Tulane University

University of California, Berkeley*
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles*
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Central Florida*
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Denver
University of Florida
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of Michigan*
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
University of Missouri
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of Notre Dame*
University of Oklahoma*
University of Pennsylvania*
University of Pittsburgh*
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester*
University of Southern California*
University of Tennessee, Knoxville*
University of Vermont
University of Virginia*
University of Washington*
University of West Florida
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Utah State University
Vanderbilt University*
Villanova University
Virginia Tech*
Wake Forest University*
Washington State University*
Washington University in St. Louis*
West Virginia University*
Worcester Polytechnic Institute*
Yale University*

Armstrong State University*
Bellarmine University*
Belmont University
Berry College
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo*
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
California State University, Monterey Bay
Campbell University
Champlain College
Elon University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University*
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida Southern College
Hampton University*
Hawaii Pacific University
Kettering University
King's College
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Loyola University New Orleans*
Manhattan College
Marywood University
McGill University*
Missouri State University
Norfolk State University
North Carolina Central University
Queen's University (Canada)*
Queens University of Charlotte
Quinnipiac University
Rollins College
Rowan University
Rutgers University - Camden
Simmons College
Stetson University
SUNY College at Geneseo
The College of New Jersey
The University of Tampa
Towson University*
University of Dallas
University of New England
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
University of North Florida
University of Wisconsin, La Crosse*
Western Carolina University
Wingate University*

Bryn Mawr College
Bucknell University
Colgate University
College of Wooster*
Colorado College
Davidson College*
Earlham College
Eckerd College
Grinnell College*
Hamilton College
Harvey Mudd College
High Point University
Juniata College
Kenyon College*
Lafayette College
Lewis & Clark College
Macalester College
Middlebury College
Morehouse College
Mount Holyoke College
New College of Florida
Oberlin College *
Oglethorpe University
Olin College of Engineering*
Reed College*
Rhodes College*
Roanoke College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Savannah College of Art & Design
Sewanee: The University of the South*
Siena College
Smith College
Soka University of America
Spelman College
St. Lawrence University
St. Mary's College of Maryland
Swarthmore College
The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science & Art
Union College
United States Naval Academy*
Unity College
University of North Carolina at Asheville
University of Richmond*
Vassar College*
Virginia Wesleyan College
Washington and Lee University*
Washington College
Webb Institute*
Wellesley College*
Wesleyan University

BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTIONS

Agnes Scott College*
Allegheny College
Bard College
Barnard College
Birmingham-Southern College

MASTER'S INSTITUTIONS

Alaska Pacific University
Appalachian State University