



Admissions Test-Optional Policy for Standardized Testing for Application Cycle 2020-2021

Due to the unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19, many students will face a lack of access to standardized testing (SAT, ACT, PSAT, PreACT). The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM), in recognition of that challenge, will adopt a test-optional policy for the standardized testing requirement as part of our holistic review process for the 2020-21 application cycle for all programs, including Residential, Accelerate, and TEAM UP.

Students who submit standardized test scores will not have an advantage over those applicants that do not submit test scores.

GSSM is committed to evaluating each applicant with a holistic review process that utilizes experienced committees comprised of diverse faculty, staff, and leadership to review each application with equity and impartiality. Standardized test scores are among a myriad of factors considered when reviewing applicants. For applicants that provide standardized test scores, the Admissions Review Committees will view the scores within the context of the holistic review of the entire application. Scores will be evaluated with a focus on the super score for applicants that submit more than one score. GSSM will accept official and self-reported (unofficial) scores for the purposes of application review. Students who do not submit standardized test scores will not be at a disadvantage in the application review.

Regardless of standardized test score(s) submitted by an applicant, the Admissions Review Committees will examine applicants' high school transcripts, letters of recommendation, essays, character and demonstrated commitment and perseverance in their academics. Admissions Review Committees will remain committed to rendering the most informed admissions decisions guided by a holistic review that considers applicants backgrounds and experiences. Our goal is to create a GSSM community with students of all different talents, backgrounds, personalities, interests and passions. We invite you to let us get to know all about you.

The Governor's School for Science & Mathematics, in response to these unprecedented events, remains committed to serving the constituents of South Carolina and to provide students with an unparalleled STEM education experience.