



# S.C. Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

## Application for Admission

### Application Instructions 2009 – 2010 School Year

#### **Application Checklist – Your complete application file must include the following**

- Student Application Form with photo
- Guidance Counselor Report Form
- English Teacher: Student Evaluation Form (current 10<sup>th</sup> grade teacher)
- Mathematics Teacher: Student Evaluation Form (current 10<sup>th</sup> grade teacher)
- Science Teacher: Student Evaluation Form (current 10<sup>th</sup> grade teacher)
- High School Transcript through December of sophomore year (including a list of second semester courses)
- Standardized Test Score (PSAT, SAT, ACT, or PLAN) of the student's sophomore year
- Essay – essay prompt is available from the Admissions office or on our website [www.scgssm.org](http://www.scgssm.org). Students choose one of three essay prompts.

\*\*\* Note: The GSSM Admissions Office will acknowledge the receipt of each application and notify the student of any missing information.

- You must select an official at your school to act as your \***Application Coordinator**. This person may be a guidance counselor, gifted and talented coordinator, a teacher, or other school administrator. This person may not be your parent, unless you are home schooled.
- Complete the Student Application Form (4 pages). Please note that some questions will need to be answered on a separate sheet of paper and attached to the Student Form. Make sure the form is signed by both the applicant and parent or guardian.
- The applicant and parent(s) or guardian should complete the top halves of the Teacher Evaluation Forms. Give these to the appropriate teachers and instruct them to return the completed forms to your Application Coordinator. Ask your Guidance Counselor to complete the Guidance Counselor Report Form and return it to the Application Coordinator. Be sure to allow each person ample time to complete these forms well before the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.
- If you did not take the PSAT in October of your sophomore year, you **MUST** take the SAT, ACT or PLAN before the March 1<sup>st</sup> application deadline. You may have your SAT scores reported directly to GSSM by using the College Board code 6073 or you may mail a copy of the score report to the GSSM Admissions office.

#### **\*APPLICATION COORDINATOR:**

The Application Coordinator is an individual that is responsible for collecting all of the required application forms and ensures that all forms have been submitted to the GSSM's Admissions office. The Application Coordinator will collect the three Teacher Evaluation Forms, the Guidance Counselor Report Form, the Student Application Form with the attached sheet/s of responses, a complete transcript that includes **all** high school credits earned to date, a list of Sophomore Spring Term courses, PSAT, SAT, ACT or PLAN score reports, and the applicants' rank (if applicable).

- **Application deadline – March 1<sup>st</sup> of students' sophomore year.**
- **Admission decisions will be mailed by May 1.**

## **Important Test Information**

### **SAT Reasoning Test**

The SAT Reasoning Test is a measure of the critical thinking skills you'll need for academic success in college. The SAT assesses how well you analyze and solve problems—skills you learned in school that you will need in college. Many colleges and universities use the SAT as one indicator among others—class rank, high school GPA, extracurricular activities, personal essay, and teacher recommendations—of a student's readiness to do college-level work. SAT scores are compared with the scores of other applicants and can be used as a basis for awarding merit-based financial aid.

Each section of the SAT is scored on a scale of 200-800, and the writing section will contain two sub-scores. Each edition of the SAT includes a Critical Reading, Math, and Writing section, with a specific number of questions related to content.

SAT Fee - \$45.00 Basic registration fee. Visit the SAT website at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information.

### **PSAT**

**PSAT/NMSQT** stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. It is a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT I: Reasoning Test and SAT II: Writing Test. It also gives students a chance to qualify for National Merit Scholarship Corporation's (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures verbal reasoning skills, critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills.

High schools will administer the PSAT/NMSQT during the fall of the student's sophomore year.

Visit the PSAT website at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information.

### **ACT**

The ACT Assessment® is designed to assess high school students' general educational development and their ability to complete college-level work. The tests cover four skill areas: English, mathematics, reading, and science.

ACT Fee - \$31.00 Basic registration fee. Visit the ACT website at [www.ACTstudent.org](http://www.ACTstudent.org) for more information.

### **PLAN**

The **PLAN**® program helps 10th graders build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and post-graduation years.

As a "pre-ACT" test, PLAN is a powerful predictor of success on the ACT Assessment®. At the same time, many schools recognize the importance of PLAN testing for all students, as it focuses attention on both career preparation and improving academic achievement. Typically, PLAN is administered in the fall of the sophomore year.

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#### **Scholastic Aptitude Test Dates (SAT)**

<b><u>Registration Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Test Dates</u></b>
<b>Sept. 9, 2009</b>	<b>Oct. 10, 2009</b>
<b>Oct. 1, 2009</b>	<b>Nov. 7, 2009</b>
<b>Oct. 30, 2009</b>	<b>Dec. 5, 2009</b>
<b>Dec. 15, 2009</b>	<b>Jan. 23, 2010</b>

#### **American College Test (ACT)**

<b><u>Registration Deadline</u></b>	<b><u>Test Dates</u></b>
<b>Aug. 7, 2009</b>	<b>Sept. 12, 2009</b>
<b>Sept. 18, 2009</b>	<b>Oct. 24, 2009</b>
<b>Nov. 6, 2009</b>	<b>Dec. 12, 2009</b>
<b>Jan. 5, 2010</b>	<b>Feb. 6, 2010</b>

# The Application Process (and other important facts)

**The South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics (GSSM)** is a nine-month public residential high school for academically advanced juniors and seniors located in Hartsville, South Carolina. GSSM offers an enriched and balanced academic curriculum, while placing special emphasis on courses and research in science and mathematics. GSSM builds a strong sense of community among students, faculty, and staff because of the unique blend of residing on campus and being instructed at a college level while still in high school. GSSM is an educational resource, which serves the state of South Carolina as a model for academic excellence.

## Eligibility

South Carolina residents who have completed the equivalent of ten years of education, excluding preschool and kindergarten, and are not currently enrolled beyond the tenth grade may apply to GSSM. Any applicant who has not yet enrolled in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade must submit documentation of earning high school credits through Algebra 2 and English 2. Current eleventh and twelfth grade students are not eligible to apply.

Students enrolled in home-school programs will need to provide an official transcript from the appropriate Home School Association, and documentation explaining their curriculum, evaluation process, and textbooks

Graduation from GSSM is dependent upon satisfactory academic performance and compliance with all the school's expectations, including participation in research, the residential life program, and campus work service.

## Admission

Qualified applicants will meet the following criteria:

- History of high academic achievement
- Demonstrated interest and talent in mathematics and / or science.
- Expectation for success within the GSSM academic and residential environment.

GSSM is highly selective, which means that everything is important, including the level of coursework completed and grade point average. GSSM also evaluates class rank, standardized test scores (SAT, PSAT, ACT, or PLAN), recommendations, and extracurricular activities. GSSM not only considers aptitude, but also demonstrated interest in science and mathematics, potential for leadership, expectation for success within the GSSM environment, and course availability in current school.

Applicants must have completed Geometry, Algebra I and II, a lab science, and English II by the end of their sophomore year. Although not required, we encourage at least one year of a foreign language.

## Alternate List

An additional group of students are placed on a waitlist and identified as Alternates. These students are placed on the Alternate List because they have met the requirements for acceptance to GSSM, but cannot be housed due to the limited residential capacity. Appointments are extended to students from the Alternate List as space becomes available. The number of students selected from this list varies from year to year.

## Application deadline

Students seeking admission to GSSM must complete and submit their application (postmarked) by March 1<sup>st</sup> of their sophomore year in high school. The completed application should be mailed directly to the GSSM Admissions office or submitted online. The Admissions office will accept separate items of the application or a completed application packet. The GSSM Admissions office will acknowledge the receipt of each application and notify the student if any information is missing. All applicants must submit a copy of scores from the PSAT, SAT, ACT or PLAN.

- **Application deadline – March 1<sup>st</sup> of students' sophomore year.**
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### Tips To Improve Your GSSM Application

#### **Your application file represents you to the Admissions Committee**

The care and thought with which you complete your application is revealed by things such as correct spelling and punctuation, legible handwriting, and attention to the intent of the question. Lack of care and thought causes the Admissions Committee to question your commitment to the task, and in turn, your probable commitment to the GSSM academic program. If possible, we recommend that you type your responses on the application form. Please do not use a very small font.

#### **The Admissions Committee will evaluate potential in several areas**

- 1.) Mathematical interest demonstrated by specific achievements and/or activities.
- 2.) Scientific interest demonstrated by specific achievements and/or activities.
- 3.) Communication skills demonstrated by written responses to questions.
- 4.) Leadership skills based on reports from teachers of observed behavior and involvement in extracurricular and community activities.
- 5.) Interpersonal skills demonstrated by evidence of understanding viewpoints others than your own, acceptance of both leader and follower roles, and promotion of cooperative behaviors among peers.

#### **The evaluation forms completed by your counselor and teachers support your application.**

Remember that these people are very busy. Please allow them sufficient time to complete the forms carefully and completely.

#### **Your application cannot be reviewed if it is incomplete.**

Check back with your application coordinator to make sure that your package is complete and will be sent to GSSM on time. We will notify you if any information is missing.

#### **Let your personality emerge from your file.**

Let the admissions committee "see" your sensitivity, sense of humor, passion for learning, and insight. Remember, this is the only way the selection committee members learn about you, because GSSM does not interview applicants.

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- Essay (The topic prompt is available from our website or the GSSM Admissions office)

The application can also be downloaded from our website. If submitting your application from the website, please send it to the GSSM Admissions Office in a large manila envelope.

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All applicants are required to visit GSSM's campus before or during the application process. This is a chance to tour the campus and learn more about the academic program, as well as meet current GSSM faculty and students.

Please call the GSSM Admissions office for an appointment.