Admissions Test-Optional Policy for Standardized Testing for Application Cycle 2023-2024

The South Carolina Governor's School for Science & Mathematics (GSSM) has implemented a test-optional policy for the standardized testing required as part of our holistic review process for the 2023-24 application cycle for all programs, including Residential and Accelerate.

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

GSSM is committed to evaluating each applicant with a holistic review process that utilizes experienced committees 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 who provide standardized test scores, the Admissions Review Committees will view the scores within the holistic review of the entire application. Scores will be evaluated, focusing on the super score for applicants who submit multiple scores. GSSM will accept official and self-reported (unofficial) scores for application review. Students who do not submit standardized test scores will not be disadvantaged in the application review.

Regardless of an applicant's standardized test score(s), 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 continue to render the most informed admissions decisions guided by a holistic review considering applicants' backgrounds and experiences. We aim 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 remains committed to serving South Carolina's constituents and providing students with an unparalleled STEM education experience.