



GSST New Student Orientation Questions

Here is a compilation of questions asked during the New Student Orientation event on Wednesday, June 1, 2022.. If you have other questions, feel free to [email a faculty member](#).

General

- Program
 - How do you know if you have a summer assignment?
Juniors planning to take PreCalculus or Calculus at GSST will have a math summer assignment through ALEKS (online). Students in the engineering strand will have an additional summer assignment ([here](#)). There is no summer assignment for Advanced Chemical Analysis.
 - How do the course grades impact the high school GPA? Are grades weighted on a 5.0 scale for high school GPA purposes?
How GSST classes are weighted is dependent upon your school district. You will need to ask your guidance counselor how they weigh the GSST classes.
 - Dual Enrollment
 - Will this program require payment due to enrollment in college classes?
Currently, there are no fees for Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) dual enrolled courses but that could change in the future. Course approval and fees are determined by TNCC and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS).
 - What are the benefits of dual enrolled courses?
Please refer to the Transfer Virginia Dual Enrollment Student Guide for more detailed information. [Transfer Virginia Dual Enrollment Student Guide](#)
 - Will we receive our ID numbers from TNCC when we come on site for the VPT?
After completing the TNCC application, you will be assigned an ID number. We will also have a representative from TNCC at the testing event should any issues arise.
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Math

- Registration
 - Where is the math registration form located?
A link to the math registration form was provided on the handout that contained the Zoom links for the new student orientation. You can also find the link here: <https://forms.gle/VVMfB3rhEY1qm1Ce6>
 - I took Calculus AB at my school, so will I be taking Calculus at GSST? Is Calculus at GSST equivalent to Calculus BC?
The GSST Calculus class correlates to Calculus BC. Students that have only completed Calculus AB will need to register for our Calculus class.
 - I am currently dual enrolled in Calculus 1. What class would I need to take at GSST?
The GSST Calculus class dual enrolls students for Calculus 1 in the fall and Calculus 2 in the Spring. If you have only completed Calculus 1, then you will need to register for the GSST Calculus class.
 - Placement Testing
 - If we fail the Virginia Placement Test or do not make the requirement for Calculus, are we automatically placed in PreCalculus?
GSST is using the VPT to provide recommendations for course placement. If you fail the VPT, you can still register for Calculus, but you will be advised to repeat PreCalculus.
 - If I have already taken dual-enrolled Calculus 1 at PDCCC, but not Calculus 2, would I still have to take the VPT?
If you have completed a dual-enrolled Calculus class, you do not need to take the VPT. Please indicate on the Math Registration Form that you need an alternate testing time and inform Mrs Yee of your dual enrollment status when she contacts you.
 - Since AP Calculus BC exam scores come out on July 5th, do we still need to take the placement exam for Calculus because it is possible we could have gotten below a 4?
Students that have completed Calculus BC do not need to take the VPT because it does not examine readiness for MultiVariable.
 - Is the only requirement to take MultiVariable a 4 or 5 on the AP Calculus BC exam? Can one take the Virginia Placement Test as well if they don't have their AP score yet?
The Virginia Placement Test does not examine readiness for MultiVariable, so TNCC will only accept the AP Calculus BC score to satisfy the prerequisite requirement.
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- We are not aware of any details regarding the June 15th exam. Any info is appreciated.
Juniors interested in taking Calculus at GSST are asked to complete the Virginia Placement Test to examine student readiness. The test has two parts: readiness for Calculus without trigonometry and readiness for Calculus with trigonometry. These questions will be based upon material they learned in their PreCalculus class.
- Other
 - What form do we need to complete to receive the ALEKS registration information?
Juniors looking to take PreCalculus only need to complete the Math Registration Form (<https://forms.gle/VVMfB3rhEY1qm1Ce6>) . Juniors looking to take Calculus will receive the ALEKS registration information after completing the Virginia Placement Test. Juniors looking to take MultiVariable Calculus and Linear Algebra will have a different summer assignment that is not through ALEKS.
 - Is it better to dual enroll or take the AP test for Calculus?
TNCC collaborates with Virginia four-year colleges with transferring college credits. If your student is looking to attend college in Virginia, dual enrollment will satisfy those requirements. If your student is looking to attend college outside of Virginia, it is best to communicate with a college admissions counselor; it is possible a college outside Virginia will not accept a dual enrollment credit transfer without an AP score to back it up.

Research

- What strand does the “Research” class belong to?
All juniors and seniors are enrolled in a research course. It is a required course for students enrolled in each of the strands.
- For mentorship, are they meeting with mentors during the school day?
The mentorship meetings take place outside of regular school hours.
- Does your mentorship have to correspond with your strand at GSST?
The mentorship placements should correspond to your strand. Most mentors are familiar with our strands and expect that the students have the background knowledge learned in the strand courses to prepare them for completing the mentorship projects.



Biological Science

- If I'm in chemistry now at Bethel, am I supposed to retake this course at TNCC?
Most of the students are currently taking high school chemistry at their home school. GSST chemistry is a 2nd year course with labs. You don't need to retake a course at TNCC.
- Do we take the AP Chemistry exam?
You can take the AP Chemistry exam if you would like to. We will have covered the material found on the exam. It is not administered by GSST. You will need to sign up at your home school.
- Would we need to purchase the textbook?
Textbooks will be provided to students free-of-charge. They will be signed out and returned at the end of the school year. There is a fee for lost or damaged textbooks or technology.

Computational Science

- Are we going to learn Java?
Currently, Java is not part of the curriculum; Python and C++ are.

Engineering

- Are the engineering classes preselected for juniors?
For juniors, the engineering physics course and research course are required, the math course is based on student preparedness and could be calculus, multivariable calculus and linear algebra, or differential equations.

College Prep

- Is there any ACT prep recommended other than Khan Academy?
The College Board has partnered with Khan Academy to provide excellent test prep software to prepare for the SAT. Unfortunately, the organization that administers the ACT appears to have chosen to partner with Kaplan to promote its prep products, most of which are not free. Here's a booklet provided by ACT, however, that gives an overview of the test and a print version of a free practice test:
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<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/Preparing-for-the-AC T.pdf>

