

NYU Tandon School of  
Engineering  
General Studies (GS) Program



**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

# What is GS?



GS is a program for some first-year students at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering (NYU-SOE) which provides proactive, structured support. Students are chosen for the program by the NYU Admissions Office, and they must meet benchmarks at the end of each semester in order to complete the program.

# Why was my child admitted into GS?



The NYU Admissions Office has determined that your child would benefit from the additional support that the GS Program provides.

GS is not a remedial program. Students in GS take the same classes as other NYU students, and most finish the program and go on to successfully graduate from NYU. They just get a little extra help in the first year.

# What does GS do for my child?



## The GS Program's purpose is as follows:

- To facilitate each student's adjustment to the unique and challenging environment of a top engineering school
- To help students realize their fullest academic potential
- To empower students to navigate their collegiate environment even after they've successfully completed their GS year

# What does GS do for my child?



Over the course of the first year, GS provides students with:

- Pre-first-year preparatory courses, to ease the transition from high school to engineering school,
- Weekly tutoring in a variety of difficult subjects,
- Regular one-on-one advising, in which students are encouraged to discuss academic difficulties,
- Periodic informational meetings, to prepare students for upcoming events and deadlines,
- Study skills brush up/training, and
- Fun activities designed to relieve stress and strengthen social networks.

# How GS works: Admission



The program starts with your child's Letter of Admission to NYU. At this time, the student is notified of which GS Summer Intensive they must complete before attending NYU in the fall. Either:

- Summer Intensive **On-Site**: Students come to Brooklyn, New York and take several courses for six weeks, or
- Summer Intensive **Online**: Students complete an online math course for four to six weeks

Placement into either of these Intensives is determined by Admissions.

# How GS works: the Benchmarks



Students must meet a series of benchmarks:

- At the end of the Summer Intensive:
  - On-site students must earn a C- or better in each class.
  - Online students must complete and submit all assignments by the required deadline.
- At the end of the Fall Semester:
  - Earn a minimum of eight (8) credits. (Students are enrolled in 13-18 at the beginning of Fall.)
- At the end of the Spring Semester:
  - Earn a minimum of twenty-four (24) credits at NYU-SOE with a minimum 2.0 GPA.

# How GS works: Failure to complete



**Students who fail to complete any of the required benchmarks may be Academically Disqualified from NYU-SOE. Why?**

Engineering school is notoriously difficult. A student who cannot meet the very modest GS benchmarks is clearly struggling academically, and may not graduate. It may be better for the student to start fresh at another institution, rather than risk further investment of time and money here. If a student is Academically Dismissed, it is done with their best interests in mind.

# How GS works: the Summer On-Site



The Summer Intensive On-site includes:

- Classes in Pre-college Math, English, Physics, and Computer Skills for Engineers,
- Embedded and required group tutoring for Math and Physics,
- Weekly one-on-one academic advising,
- Opportunities for students to make friends and form support networks, which are crucial to engineering school success.

# How GS works: the Summer On-Site



## Other Intensive On-site details:

- Laptops and TI-30 model (only) calculators are required.
- Classes run approximately 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Breaks and lunch time are built into the schedule.
- Textbooks will be provided to the students at no charge as long as the books are returned in good condition at the end of the summer.
- Social activities take place on Fridays. Because the program must purchase tickets in advance, and because strong peer networks are important to engineering school success, these programs are mandatory.

**Please see the GS website for other details such as important dates, how to apply for room and board if needed, and more.**

# How GS works: the Summer Online



## The Summer Intensive Online includes:

- A “tech check” in the first week of July to ensure that all students have the tools necessary to complete the program (e.g., reliable internet),
- A rigorous six-week online Pre-college Math (Pre-calc & Calc) course requiring regular homework, group project work, and discussion,
- Work at the student’s own pace, provided all work is completed by or before 11:59 pm on the program’s last day, and
- Regular and frequent contact with some of the same Math Department professors who run Fall math courses.

**Please see the GS website for other details such as important dates, technical requirements, and more.**

# How GS works: the Fall Semester



## The Fall Semester includes:

- Online and On-site students begin taking the same classes, along with other NYU-SOE students,
- Students take 13-18 credits, depending on pre-Fall performance and major,
- Weekly one-on-one academic advising sessions,
- A required study skills course,
- Weekly mandatory small group tutoring in Math and Chemistry,
- Monthly meetings to discuss academic policies.

**Remember, at the end of the Fall semester, students must have earned at least 8 credits, or they may be Academically Dismissed.**

# How GS works: the Spring Semester



During the Spring term,

- Students may take a full course load, based on Fall grades,
- Students continue with mandatory weekly tutoring, regular one-on-one academic advising sessions, and monthly meetings,
- Participation in athletics is now permitted if the student has earned at least a 2.0 GPA as of the end of Fall.

**Remember, students are expected to complete at least 24 credits (earned at NYU-SOE) and have a 2.0 or higher cumulative GPA by the end of Spring or if not, then by the end of their first summer.**

# How GS works: the Transition Summer



During the Transition Summer,

- Students who earned 24 credits and a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 by the end of Spring:
  - are reassigned to the advisor in their major department.
- Students who do not complete GS Requirements by the end of Spring:
  - Will have until the end of the Transition Summer to complete up to two (2) first year courses, if doing so will allow them a chance to complete GS Program Requirements.
  - May need the whole summer (12 weeks) to complete the course(s).
  - Are responsible for summer tuition, fees, and if applicable, summer housing costs.
  - Please Note: Transition Summer one-on-one academic advising sessions are optional and tutoring is available solely through the Polytechnic Tutoring Center (PTC).
  - Students who complete GS Program Requirements by the end of the Transition Summer are reassigned to the advisor in their major department.

**Students who do not complete GS by the end of the Transition Summer will be academically dismissed.**

# How can I help my child complete GS?



Good question! Here are a few tips.

- **Talk with your child frequently** about their academic performance, emotional state, and other aspects of college life. Most students show the warning signs of academic difficulty well before the end of a semester.
- Because your child is now treated as an adult under Federal law, **GS advisors cannot speak with you** about your child's performance unless your child gives permission. Please see the "Clarification for Parents" [on this page](#) for more information and discuss what permissions, if any, your child will grant you before they start school.
- **Read** the Requirements Form for [Online](#) OR [On-site](#) carefully, and discuss its implications with your child, before signing it.

# How can I help my child complete GS?



## Tips, cont'd:

- Should your child begin struggling academically, consider carefully whether NYU is the best school for them. **Discuss** the matter with them.
- College is meant to prepare students for post-graduate professional life. To assist with this, encourage your child to **communicate** frequently with professors and advisors, **avoid procrastination**, and **seek help** when needed. You might be paying for their education, but remember: ultimately it is their investment of time and labor and sweat.

# Where can I learn more?



- [Frequently Asked Questions about GS](#)
- [Upcoming important dates, on-site housing and board information, and required forms your student must fill out](#)
- [The GS Handbook](#), which contains everything your child is being told about the program
- [The GS staff](#), who can answer any remaining questions you may have

That's it!



Welcome to NYU and the GS Program!