



PIONEERS Co-Op

P.O. Box 6425, JACKSON MI 49201 VOICEMAIL: (517) 888-4328

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TURNING HEARTS TOWARDS HOMESCHOOL SINCE 1994



Dear Homeschool Parents:

Pioneers Co-op once again has the exciting opportunity and privilege of partnering with the Student Statesmanship Institute (SSI), Michigan's premiere Leadership and Biblical Worldview Training Program, to host the Mock Legislature Onsite Program at **Spring Arbor University's Poling Center on Monday & Tuesday, March 6th & 7th**. SSI offers this dynamic program that provides **Biblical worldview teaching sessions**, and **real-world Leadership Training**, involving the students in a true-to-life mock legislative experience. Students role-play as legislators as they debate actual bills from the Michigan Legislature, hear testimony from lobbyists during a Mock Committee hearing, and participate in a Mock Legislative Session where they will give speeches and vote on key issues facing our society.

Pioneers has been participating in this amazing program since 1999, and they continue to make it a requirement for all students participating in their Government and Speech classes. Our Government and Speech students are already pre-registered, however, the onsite is open to all 9th – 12th grade homeschool students.

SSI and Pioneers wholeheartedly believe that young people have a destiny to be Christ's Ambassadors to the world. It is their mission to come alongside parents and teachers to equip these future leaders to distinguish between secular and Biblical approaches to life and to shine for Christ without compromising their values. The practical application of the Mock Legislature serves as a training exercise, reinforcing the responsibilities of Christian citizenship and the validity of Christian values by applying Biblical principles to real-life issues.

The capstone is when all the participating students will assemble as a legislative body on **Tuesday evening, March 7th** to debate their bills and cast their votes. This will be the final session of the program. **Attendance is required for all participating students, and we encourage all families, relatives and friends to attend this session** to observe these young "legislators" as the Speaker of the House calls the Legislature to order. In addition, parents are also welcome to attend any portion of the program.

A registration form is attached with this letter and an additional information sheet. *There is also a copy of the 2020 Onsite Itinerary (subject to change) to give you an idea of how the schedule will run.* **The registration form should be filled out, signed and returned along with your registration fee in order for your student(s) to participate in the program.** Please read over the information and feel free to contact Patti Sailor, Onsite Coordinator with any questions you might have. You can also check out the SSI web site at www.ssi.online.org to learn more about the ministry. A complete 2023 packet of information will be uploaded to the Pioneers website this next week. Space is limited and registration is received on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Please mark MARCH 6th and 7th on your calendar now and plan to come and support your student(s) during this exciting and dynamic program.

Sincerely,

Patti Sailor, Director
SSI Onsite Coordinator

"I have no greater joy than to know my children walk in truth." III John 4

PIONEERS LEADERSHIP TEAM

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**Pioneers Co-op is a cell group of the PIONEERS Home Education Support Services, a 501C-3 non-profit educational ministry*



Student Statesmanship Institute
MOCK LEGISLATURE ONSITE PROGRAM INFORMATION
Sponsored by Pioneers Homeschool Co-op
Hosted at Spring Arbor University Spring Arbor, MI
March 6th & 7th, 2023

TOPICS OF DYNAMIC CLASSROOM SESSIONS:

- America's Judeo-Christian Heritage
- Ambassadors for Christ
- Biblical Worldview
- Responsible Christian Citizenship Training
- Civics: Mock Legislature teaches the process of how a bill becomes law. Students role-play state representatives and debate actual bills from the Michigan Legislature.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS:

- Greater realization of God's destiny and purpose for them, and a greater motivation to learn, study and become all God wants them to be.
- Greater ability to distinguish between secular and biblical worldview approaches to life.
- Greater application of biblical principles to every area of life.
- Develop practical skills of leadership, teamwork, critical and strategic thinking, debate and communication, and speech writing.

ONSITE SCHEDULE:

- **Monday, March 6th from 8:10 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
- **Tuesday, March 7th from 8:10 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.**

The Final Legislative Session will be held *approximately* 5:45 – 8:30 PM

(The official time will be on the schedule given to the students on the first day of the Onsite)

All students are required to attend and participate in the Final Legislative Session. Parents, family members and friends are invited to watch from the "gallery" as student legislators debate the issues of our times.

REGISTRATION FEES: Early Registration (received by Wednesday, February 15th).....\$50.00
Registration (Postmarked after February 15th)\$60.00
Registration Closes Friday, February 25th

JOSEPH CECIL, INSTRUCTOR

Joseph Cecil serves as the President of SSI and is an alumnus of the SSI LEAD Summer Program. Previously, he worked in the Michigan House of Representatives as a Legislative Director and Member Advisor. He has also been privileged to work with many local and statewide campaigns. Joseph is passionate about empowering young people and equipping them to be effective leaders in their communities.

Nearly 300 students a year from across Michigan attend LEAD, SSI's summer program. Students from Christian, public, and home schools report how this program dramatically affected their lives. The SSI Onsite Program is designed to replicate the same life-changing impact of LEAD.

For more information:

www.ssionline.org/onsite

SSI Office
517-321-6233

On-Site Coordinator
Patti Sailor
517-262-6686

Early Bird Registration Deadline
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

To Register:

(Hand-in or mail w/payment)

Hand-In - Pioneers Co-op Office
(Wednesdays 1/4 – 2/22 9 AM – 3 PM)
Ganson Street Baptist Church
637 W. Ganson St., Jackson, MI

Mail - Pioneers Co-op (SSI)
2707 Walcott Rd. Jackson, MI 49201

Registration Closes:

Friday, February 25, 2023



Student Statesmanship Institute

MOCK LEGISLATURE ONSITE PROGRAM INFORMATION

Sponsored by Pioneers Homeschool Co-op
Hosted at Spring Arbor University, Spring Arbor, MI
March 6th & 7th, 2023

STUDENT INFORMATION

Student's Full Name _____ Birth date (mm/dd/yyyy) _____ ☐ Male ☐ Female
*Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Student resides with: ☐ Mother ☐ Father ☐ Both ☐ Guardian
*Student's Email _____ Grade _____ Age _____
Church Attending _____ City _____ School/Group Name _____
☐ I have previously attended an SSI Onsite or I am an SSI LEAD Alumnus. Which bills did you debate? _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr. Full Name _____ Relationship to student _____
Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
Spouse Name _____
*Email _____

* Providing your email permits SSI to send periodic updates unless you opt to unsubscribe. All personal information is used solely by Student Statesmanship Institute and our partner organizations, and will not be released, rented, sold, or otherwise distributed to anyone at any time for any reason.

Please aid our preparations by registering EARLY. Registration closes on Monday and Tuesday, March 6th & 7th, 2023.

- ☐ I am registering by **February 15th** and qualify for the \$10.00 per student **early registration discount**. My **\$50.00** registration fee is enclosed.
- ☐ I am a Pioneers Government/Speech Student and my registration fees were included with my Lab Fees (submit form and lunch payment only).
- ☐ I missed the early deadline but recognize the value of the program. My **\$60.00** registration fee is enclosed.
- ☐ I am interested in purchasing a meal plan for **Tuesday, March 7th** which provides lunch and pizza dinner on day 2 only – all for \$10. (Please include amount in check). ***All students are responsible to bring/provide their own lunch on Monday, March 6th (Day 1).***
- ☐ I am not interested in purchasing any meals. My student will be providing his/her own lunch/dinner on both days – March 6th & 7th.
- ☐ (Parents) I am interested in volunteering to assist with the program. Please call or e-mail me with details at: _____. I am available to help ☐ before, ☐ during or ☐ after the Onsite Program.

Please make checks payable to: PIONEERS Co-op, and return with this form to:

Pioneers Co-op Education Office, Attn: SSI Onsite, or mail to Pioneers, 2707 Walcott Road, Jackson, MI 49201.

Permission and Photo Release

I, _____, as a parent/guardian of the student listed above who is attending the SSI Onsite Program, do hereby give my permission for his/her attendance and, further, I and my child give SSI permission to use my child's photograph and/or written comments in promotion of SSI. I do agree to hold SSI harmless and indemnify them for any injury or illness, which may result to my child over the course of the two days. We also agree to abide by SSI behavioral standards, including ACTIVE participation in the program, and attendance in all sessions.

Date: _____, 2023 X _____
Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian of student attending
Date: _____, 2023 X _____
Signature of student attending

**Questions? Contact SSI at 517-321-6233 or visit our website at www.ssionline.org.
On-Site Coordinator – Patti Sailor 517-262-6686**



Student Statesmanship Onsite Tuesday Meal Ticket Information

Form & Payment DUE FRIDAY, February 25, 2023

Date and Time: **Tuesday, March 7th, 2023**
Location: **SAU Walker Lounge**
Lunch: **Sloppy Joes, Chips, Veggie Tray, Pickles, Dessert, Water**
Dinner: **Pizza, Caesar or Green Salad, Dessert, Pop or Water**
Ticket Price: **\$10.00 Payable @ Registration or no later than February 25th.**

STUDENT NAME (Please complete one form/student) _____

PARENT NAME _____ Parent Cell Number _____

- Students are responsible to bring a Sack Lunch on Monday, March 6th.
- Tuesday Meals must be pre-paid with this completed Meal Ticket Form

Gluten Free Options - Buns, Pizza, and Desserts will be provided upon request. Please indicate if you would like the gluten free options: _____ (YES only).

Please indicate Pizza Choice Below:

Cheese _____ Pepperoni _____ Ham/Pineapple _____ Sausage _____ Veggie _____

Gluten Free (Cheese & Pepperoni) _____ Gluten Free (No Cheese) Pepperoni _____

I typically eat # _____ number of slices (maximum four).

Please note your (3) favorite soda flavors:

(1) _____ (2) _____ (3) _____ (4) Water _____

*To help offset expenses (not included in SSI Registration Fee), there will be a sign-up sheet posted with the SSI Parent Packet for parental assistance with food services, food donations for snacks and desserts, and the VIP reception. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Parent Signature Date _____

Student Statesmanship Institute

PIONEERS Co-op Onsite Itinerary

Monday, March 6, 2023

Session	Time	Student Track	Room #
	8:15 – 8:30	Student Sign In	Walker Lounge
1	8:30 – 9:00	Orientation to SSI	Munn #105
2	9:10 – 10:00	<i>Biblical Civics I</i>	Munn #105
3	10:10 – 11:10	Caucus Meeting I	Assigned Areas
4	11:15 – 12:00	<i>U.S. Congressman Tim Walberg – Living our Faith in a World of Politics</i>	Munn #105
	12:00 – 12:45	Lunch (Please bring a sack lunch)	Walker Lounge
	12:55 – 1:00	Instructions for Caucus Meeting	Munn #105
5	1:00 – 2:10	Caucus Meeting II	Assigned Areas
6	2:20 – 3:00	<i>Prep for Committee Hearings & Speeches</i>	Munn #105

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Session	Time	Student Track	Room #
	8:00 – 8:15	Orientation with Committee Chairs and Lobbyists	#104
	8:10 – 8:20	Student Sign In	Walker Lounge
1	8:20 – 8:30	VIP Introductions	Munn #105
2	8:30 – 9:50	Committee Hearings with Testimony	Assigned Areas
3	9:50 – 10:10	VIP Reception	Walker Lounge
4	10:10 – 10:50	<i>VIP Speaker or Biblical Civics II</i>	Assigned Areas
	10:50 – 10:55	Committee Hearing Debrief	Walker Lounge
5	10:55 – 11:55	Caucus Meeting III – Strategy Session	Munn #105
	12:00 – 12:45	Lunch – (Provided)	Walker Lounge
	12:45 – 12:50	Instructions for Caucus Meeting	Munn #105
6	12:50 – 1:50	Caucus Meeting IV – Speech Writing	Assigned Areas
7	1:55 – 2:05	<i>Spring Arbor Representative</i>	Munn #105
8	2:10 – 3:00	<i>Biblical Leadership – Ambassadors for Christ</i>	Munn #105
9	3:00 – 4:00	Caucus Meeting V – Speech Writing	Assigned Areas
	4:00 – 5:45	Pizza Dinner (Provided) and Final Prep	Walker Lounge
10	6:00 – 8:30	*Final Legislative Session	Ralph Carey Rm

Students should wear BUSINESS ATTIRE on the morning of the 2nd day for the Committee Hearings and in the evening for the Final Legislative Session.

*Family, relatives, and friends are invited to observe the Final Legislative Session which will be held in the Ralph Carey Room at Spring Arbor University

Student attendance is required at ALL Sessions

4407 W. St. Joseph Hwy ♦ Lansing, MI 48908-0108 ♦ 517-321-6233 ♦ www.ssionline.org ♦ ssi@ssionline.org

Emergency Contact: Patti Sailor (517) 262-6686

Student Statesmanship Institute Onsite Program

Policies, Standards and Expectations

It is our desire to make this a profitable, life-changing and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. While we expect no problems from the students while they are with us, it is important to lay the foundation for expectations ahead of time so everyone is aware of policies and procedures. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Respect

"Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another, be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble." ~ **1 Peter 3:8**

The foundation for all behaviors at all times shall be respect. We ask that you take the time to go over these Policies, Standards and Expectations with your students prior to attending the On-Site Program to insure understanding and mutual agreement. It is our desire that each student has a teachable spirit and is willing to be cooperative, obedient, and respectful to any person in God-ordained authority. Remember that you are FIRST representing Jesus Christ, then your family, your school, as well as yourself.

Policies, Standards, and Expectations

A. In the classroom *"But all things should be done decently and in order"* ~ 1 Cor. 14:40

1. Students are to be respectful of their instructor and other authorities
 - a) Listen respectfully when instructor/authority is speaking
 - b) Raise hand before speaking out loud and wait for instructor to call on you
2. Students are to be respectful of their classmates
 - a) Respect each other's space
 - b) Speak respectfully to your classmates
 - c) No foul language or jokes, especially taking the Lord's name in vain

B. Outside the classroom

1. Respect the building and properties. These properties have been very graciously provided for our use and should be treated well.
2. Please stay in designated areas
3. Food and drink only in approved areas and NOT during class time. Everyone cleans up after himself or herself

C. Schedule

To be handed out the first day. Copies are available for parents.

D. Clothing

"Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers..."
1 Peter 2:17

1. Students should wear neat, clean, and modest clothing at all times. Suggested attire would include:
 - a) Nice pants and shirts, skirts or dresses, shoes or sandals. Skirts and dresses must be longer than fingertip length when arms extended down your side, with no high slits. Shirts must not show the lower back, the front, or any of the midsection, including when leaning over or reaching ahead or forward. Guys, no low pants with the "layered look", with boxers showing.
 - b) You will be interacting with Community Leaders on the second morning for the Committee meeting, so business dress is appropriate.
 - c) Dress for the final Mock Legislative Session will be more formal, so dress in a nice suit, or pants and a dress shirt with a tie, dresses or skirts, nice shoes, etc.

E. Behavior

For children and teenagers, as well as adults, behavior is governed by a series of decisions. One decides to engage in proper or improper behavior. All decisions carry with them natural consequences.

"A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature... will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit... will reap eternal life."

Galatians 5:7-8

Thus, the first step in any disciplinary action is to make the student aware that every action is the result of a decision he/she has made and carries with it natural consequences. If the need to discipline a student arises, the chaperone/instructor will deal with that student individually. If needed, parents will be called to discuss the situation. It is our desire that the student and chaperone/instructor will resolve the matter between themselves.

We realize that good Biblical discipline involves two factors: clear standards and expectations, and consequences that are appropriate for the infraction.

F. What to Bring and NOT to Bring

Do Not Bring: Video or computer equipment, or electronic devices: such as games, iPods, or CD/DVD players. Cell phones will also not be allowed to be used during sessions.

Bring: Bible, pen or pencil, and extra note paper if desired.

Disclaimers

All students are assigned two bills to debate within their committee. They are assigned one bill to support and one bill to oppose. Students may be asked to take a position on a bill/issue that is not their own. This is the principal of debate - to know both sides of an issue in order to argue it more fully. Students are allowed to debate the issues from a variety of positions, and are not required to argue the "liberal" position.

The issues being debated are actual bills taken from the Michigan Legislature and include: Unmarried Adoption, Cell Phones, Bullying, Epi Pens, Bias Motivated Crimes, Motorcycle Helmets, Teen Drivers and Texting, and Wrongful Imprisonment.

SSI Mock Legislature Onsite Program
Hosted by PIONEERS Co-op
Held at Spring Arbor University – Poling Center

Dates and Times:

March 6th & 7th

Daily Schedule (tentative)

Monday, March 06:

Student Sign-In

Teaching Sessions & Caucus Meetings:

Parents welcome to sit in on all sessions.

8:15 AM – 3:00 PM

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Tuesday, March 7th:

Student Sign-In

Committee Meetings:

Parents welcome to observe Committee Meeting Process. **Student should dress in very nice casual or business attire.**

VIP Reception:

For students, parents and interested parties to meet with local and state elected officials and other VIPs.

Caucus Meetings & Teaching Sessions

Lunch

Caucus Meetings -Speech Writing

Spring Arbor Representative (Presentation)

Biblical Leadership – Ambassadors for Christ

Caucus Meeting & Speech Writing

***Pizza Dinner & Final Prep**

8:10 AM – 8:20 AM

8:20 AM – 9:50 AM

9:50 AM – 10:10 AM

10:15 AM – 11:55 AM

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM

12:45 PM – 1:50 PM

1:55 PM – 2:05 PM

2:10 PM – 3:00 PM

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

4:00 PM - 5:45 PM

Mock Legislative Session: (Evening)

Held in Ralph Carey Forum at Spring Arbor University

SSI Students are **REQUIRED** to attend. Parents, family & friends are encouraged to come and watch from the "gallery"! **Students should dress in business attire.**

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

What to bring:

Bible

Pencils/Pens/a highlighter

Student Notebook (provided)

Paper

What *NOT* to bring:

NO electronic devices, including: mp3 players, Gameboys, etc.
Laptop Computers can be brought only with permission from Onsite Coordinator. Cell phone use will not be allowed during sessions.

Student Statesmanship Institute

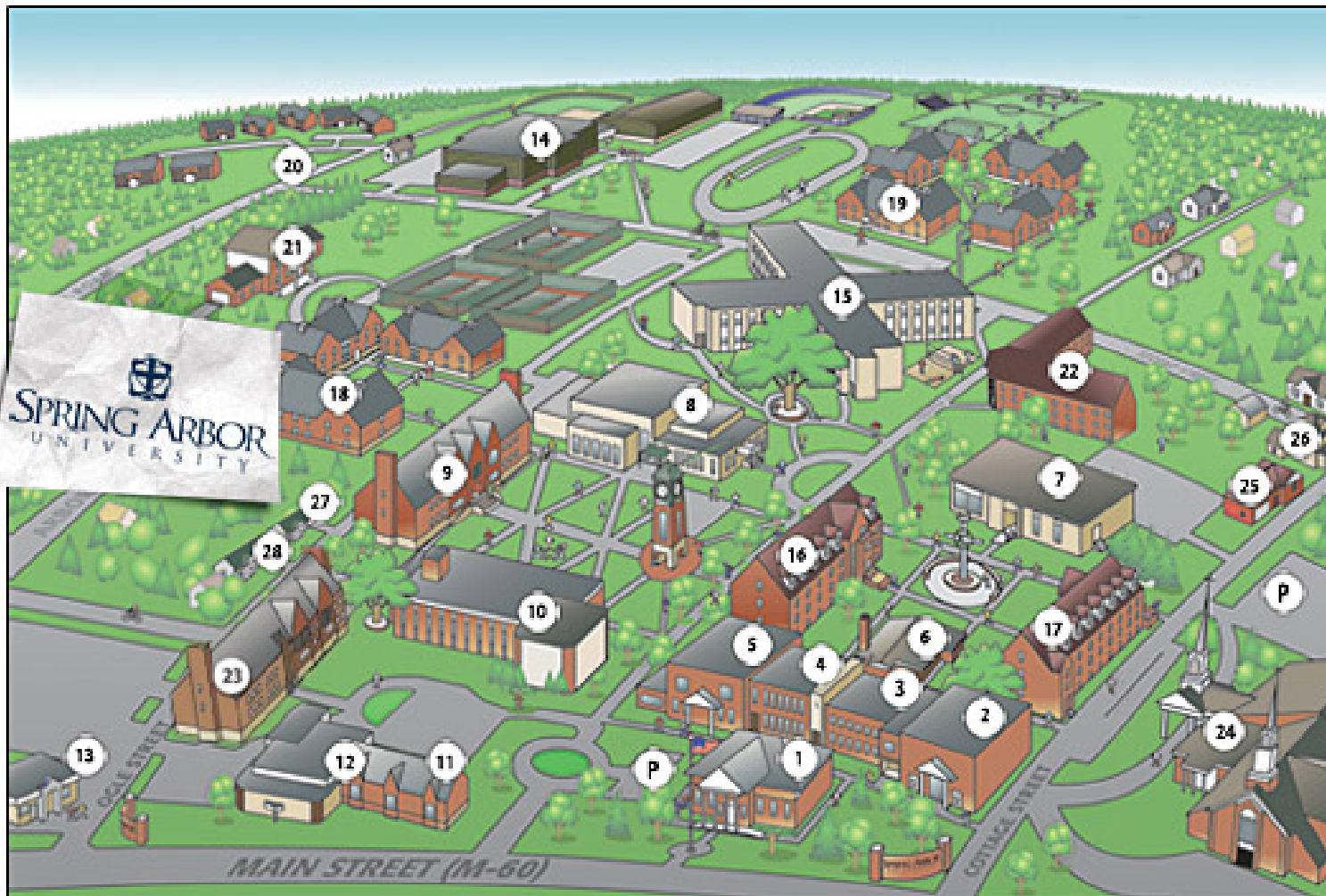
4407 W. St. Joseph Hwy, Lansing, MI 48908-0108
517-321-6233 ♦ www.ssionline.org ♦ ssi@ssionline.org

Campus Map – 2008

NORTH ↑

Map Legend:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------|---|
| 1. Chapman Welcome Center | 11. Ganton Art Gallery | 21. Voller House |
| 2. White Auditorium | 12. Ogle Art Center | 22. University Hall |
| 3. Sayre Hall (SDH) | 13. The Prop Shop | 23. POLING CENTER FOR GLOBAL LEARNING & LEADERSHIP |
| 4. Decan Hall (SDH) | 14. Field House (PEC) | 24. Spring Arbor Free Methodist Church |
| 5. Smith Music Center (SMC) | 15. Lowell Hall | 25. Human Resources |
| 6. Business Office | 16. Muffit Hall | 26. Koinonia House |
| 7. Dietzman Hall | 17. Ormston Hall | 27. History House |
| 8. Kresge Student Center | 18. Post Village | 28. University Communications |
| 9. White Library | 19. Ogle Village | |
| 10. Whiteman-Gibbs Science Center (WG) | 20. Apartments | |



The Gainey School of Business is located on the 2nd floor of the Poling Center for Global Learning and Leadership, shown as building #23 on this map.

Any classrooms with the abbreviation POL are also located in this building.