

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION



Congratulations on your recent acceptance to Grand Valley State University. Please read this brochure carefully for important information regarding deadlines and other events that you need to be aware of before you arrive at GVSU.

If you have any questions, please contact the Admissions and Recruitment Office at global@gvsu.edu.

HOUSING DEADLINES

✓ Please submit your \$150 housing deposit and complete the housing application by logging into your myBanner account at gvsu.edu/housing.

Now that you have been admitted to Grand Valley, we recommend that you apply to live on campus as soon as possible. New first year undergraduate international students are required to live

on campus. Undergraduate transfer students and graduate students are not required to live on campus. The housing application opens in September and housing assignments are made in order of application date. Students who apply early are more likely to be placed in their top preference housing style. Complete the housing application by logging into your myBanner account at gvsu.edu/housing using your GVSU credentials.

Important Information:

- Please apply online at gvsu.edu/housing and log into your myBanner account using your GVSU Network ID and password.
- Incoming students are eligible for a housing assignment if they have a housing deposit, a completed housing application, and contract.
- You will be notified of your housing and roommate assignment via email prior to your arrival on campus. Roommate and room-style requests are not guaranteed.
- Visit gvsu.edu/housing to view housing photos, room layouts, and furniture included.

VISA APPOINTMENT

Check Documents:

Before applying for your visa, you must make sure all of the documents sent to you by Grand Valley are correct. Pay special attention to the spelling of your name, date of birth, major, and funding source.

✓ **COMPLETE THESE NEXT STEPS**

- Complete the financial verification process to receive your I-20
- Pay SEVIS fee and apply for a visa
- Apply for GVSU housing
- Undergraduate students, register for Orientation
- Graduate students, meet with program director to register for courses and sign up for Orientation

SEVIS Fee:

The SEVIS fee is a mandatory fee charged by the U.S. government for students attending Grand Valley on a F or J visa. The SEVIS fee is \$350 for students attending on an F visa and \$220 for students attending on a J visa. You will pay your SEVIS fee at FMJfee.com, either online or through Western Union.

✓ Pay the SEVIS fee before your visa interview.

Visa Appointment:

Once you have the receipt for your SEVIS fee, you should visit the U.S. Embassy website in your country and apply for a visa appointment.

Visa Application Questions:

You must be prepared to answer questions on the following topics:

- Family background
- Academic background
- Finances
- Why did you choose Grand Valley State University?
- Intent to return home

Point of Contact:

When you are asked for your point of contact in the U.S., please use the information below:

Libby Jawish
Director of International Students
Grand Valley State University
130 Lake Ontario Hall
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401
Phone: (616) 331-3898
Email: jawishel@gvsu.edu

SAFETY

The Department of Public Safety, whose job is to provide a safe and secure environment in which to work, live, and learn, provides a great deal of information concerning lost and found items, citations, parking, emergencies, bike registries, crime statistics, and more. For information, visit gvsu.edu/gvpd.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Students will apply for a social security number after securing an on-campus job and two weeks of the semester have passed. Details can be found at gvsu.edu/istudents.

ELECTRONIC BILLING

Students will be notified by email when new charges have been added to their account or when a monthly payment becomes due.

If the student provided a parent email address, they will also receive notification. The student's Network ID and password are required to view any financial information. If the student set up proxy access for a third party, they will be able to review the bill and make payment with their email and PIN.

You may pay your bill by credit card, cash, money order, or through Western Union. Details may be found at gvsu.edu/studentaccounts/payment-options-52.htm.

You may view your specific Grand Valley billing account through your myBanner account.

COMPUTER AND INTERNET INFORMATION

If you are considering a computer purchase, please visit our website at gvsu.edu/it/softwarehardwareapps-69.htm, where you will find information on computer vendors who offer student discounts.

As a GVSU Student, you have free access to the Internet on campus through wired ports or wireless access. You can find instructions to your computer to the wireless network on our website, go to gvsu.edu/it and select Gaming and Mobile Resources.

GVSU STUDENT EMAIL ACCOUNT

Grand Valley has contracted with Google to provide a GVSU Gmail account along with Google Apps for Education and Calendar for all GVSU students. This GVSU Gmail account is free and required for all students. Your GVSU Gmail account will be the official method of communication used by the university while you are enrolled at GVSU. Please visit gvsu.edu/it for additional information. Instructions to locate your GVSU Gmail address will be emailed to you.

DISABILITY SUPPORT RESOURCES

Disability Support Resources (DSR) in the Division of Inclusion and Equity strives to educate the campus community on disability issues to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable campus. DSR provides support services and

accommodations that enhance the learning environment for students with documented disabilities. These practices help to identify innovative approaches and resources that support a diverse range of abilities and opportunities while maintaining compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

DSR encourages the university community to empower students, enhance equity, and provide a platform for innovation and inclusion.

Students should register with DSR as soon as possible after admission to the university to ensure the timely provision of accommodations. Advisors can also assist students with disabilities with questions regarding course selection, scheduling, and exploration of their areas of career interest. If a student requires more comprehensive services in these areas, advisors can refer students to other on-campus resources. Some available services include alternative format textbooks (if alternative books are unavailable), alternative testing, assistive technology, learning skills assistance, and transportation on the Allendale Campus. DSR also strives to educate the campus community on disability issues to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable campus for the benefit of all.

If you feel that you can benefit from these resources, please call us at (616) 331-2490, email at dsrgvsu@gvsu.edu, or visit our office at 215 The Blue Connection.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

As a new Laker, using the eight dimensions of wellness to guide your personal well-being and engaging with resources on campus can support your physical and mental health. Learn more about prioritizing your health and well-being at gvsu.edu/studentwellness.

Campus Health Services

- The Campus Health Center in Allendale, operated by Trinity Health Medical Group, provides convenient and quality care for GVSU students, faculty, and staff. Visit gvsu.edu/campushealth for more information.
- The Injury Care Clinic (ICC) is operated by Trinity Health Muskegon, in collaboration with GVSU. ICC is conveniently located on the Allendale campus and even includes physical therapy services. Visit gvsu.edu/icc for more information.
- The GVSU Family Health Center, operated by the Kirkhof College of Nursing, is near GVSU's Robert C. Pew Grand Rapids and Health Campuses in Grand Rapids. Visit gvsu.edu/fhc for more information.

Recreation and Wellness

Recreation and Wellness has many ways for you to get involved, be active, and live healthy! RecWell has both formal and informal opportunities and many of the options are free or low cost. Students can be active at our recreation facilities, meet with a fitness specialist, join friends in a group fitness class, participate in outdoor adventures, game

with others at the Esports Center, engage with our wellness team and compete in a variety of intramural or club sports. Visit us at gvsu.edu/rec or follow us on Instagram or Facebook @gvsurecwell for more information.

University Counseling Center

The **University Counseling Center** offers a broad spectrum of services to support student mental health, including counseling, referral, and self-help resources, in addition to community outreach and consultation. Services are free to currently enrolled Grand Valley students. Visit gvsu.edu/counsel for more information.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS (AOL)

The AOD office provides prevention, education, and recovery services to students on the Grand Valley campus. Our philosophy focuses on education and building awareness about making healthy and safe choices regarding alcohol and other drugs. The needs of Grand Valley's campus community vary greatly, our office focuses on providing a variety of services, which include individual and group substance use counseling, outreach events, educational presentations, recovery meetings, and self-help resources.

HEALTH INSURANCE

All international students will be required to purchase health insurance through LewerMark. Visit gvsu.edu/istudents for more information.

✓ Visit Handshake to search current job postings.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The Student Employment Office is a resource for job-seeking students and hosts an online

database called Handshake.

International students may work on campus for 20 hours a week during the academic year and 40 hours a week during the summer. All off-campus employment must be authorized by your academic advisors and the Padnos International Center.

Graduate students may also find information about available graduate assistantships on the Handshake website. Also, you may contact your department for more information about potential awards.

Please visit our website at gvsu.edu/studentjobs and look for the New Student Login tab under the Handshake section to create an account and begin searching for current jobs. Both on-campus and off-campus part-time jobs are posted daily. For more information, please contact Student Employment at (616) 331-3238 or visit us in person at 100 Arend and Nancy Lubbers Student Services Center.

FINAL TRANSCRIPT

It is important that you send us an official or attested final transcript and graduation certification that includes your date of graduation. According to federal and state regulations, Grand Valley State University must verify your

graduation and have a transcript on file.

ORIENTATION – UNDERGRADUATE

After admission, you will register for an Orientation session where you will work with an academic advisor to select your courses. The Orientation session is a time for you to ask questions about your program of study, your class schedule, graduation requirements, and any other academic concerns you may have. After your appointment, you will be registered for 12 to 15 credits per semester.

Federal law requires undergraduate international students to be registered for a minimum of 12 credits for both fall and winter semesters. For more information, contact us by email at global@gvsu.edu.

CLASS REGISTRATION – GRADUATE

You should contact your program director to get more information about the program curriculum and course registration. You can find the name of the program director on your acceptance letter. If you are unable to find your program director, contact us at global@gvsu.edu.

REGULATIONS

Full-time Enrollment:

In compliance with the United States Citizenship, Immigration, and Naturalization Service (USCIS), undergraduate international students are required to carry no fewer than 12 credits each semester and have two semesters to achieve a 2.0 GPA. Graduate international students are required to carry no fewer than nine credits each semester and have one semester to achieve the appropriate GPA. For that reason, students must have the written approval of the director of international student and

✓ Maintain your immigration status.

scholar services before adding, dropping, or changing classes. Failure to meet these guidelines may result in dismissal from

Grand Valley State University and the USCIS will be notified that the student is out of status.

Change of Address:

United States immigration law requires the reporting of a change of address within 10 days of the move, even if it is changing apartments within the same complex.

Travel Signature:

Students wishing to leave the U.S. for either travel or vacation must have their I-20 or DS-2019 endorsed by the designated school office. Students must go to the Barbara and Stuart Padnos International Center to get the signature. Please allow a minimum of two days for the signature.

GRAND VALLEY CALENDAR 2024

Winter Semester 2024

Arrival.....	January 4, 2024
International Orientation	January 5, 2024
Classes Begin	January 8, 2024
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess	January 15, 2024
Spring Break.....	March 3 – 10, 2024
Classes End	April 20, 2024
Examinations.....	April 20 – 27, 2024
Semester Ends	April 27, 2024
Commencement	April 26 and 27, 2024

Fall Semester 2024

Arrival.....	August 16 – 18, 2024
International Orientation	August 19 – 21, 2024
Convocation.....	August 23, 2024
Classes Begin	August 26, 2024
Labor Day Recess	September 1 – 2, 2024
Fall Break.....	October 20 – 22, 2024
Thanksgiving Day Recess.....	November 27 – December 1, 2024
Classes End	December 7, 2024
Commencement	December 7, 2024
Examinations.....	December 7 – 14, 2024
Semester Ends	December 14, 2024

Please note these dates may change. If dates do change, you can find the updated orientation schedule and Grand Valley calendar information at gvsu.edu/istudents/orientation.

PARKING PERMITS

Parking your vehicle on the Allendale Campus, Pew Grand Rapids Campus, or Health Campus requires a parking permit. Please direct parking questions to Grand Valley Parking Services by phone at (616) 331-PARK (7275) or by visiting the website at gvsu.edu/parking.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

GVSU offers transportation services ranging from carpooling to transit services. GVSU provides daily bus service between the Allendale Campus, Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Health Campus, and the surrounding area. All GVSU and The Rapid transit routes are free to current students, faculty, and staff with a valid Grand Valley ID card.

For more information on bus schedules, routes, and transportation programs, visit gvsu.edu/bus. Please note that frequency of service is reduced during spring/summer semesters and university breaks. Questions or concerns? Contact GVSU Transportation Services at (616) 331-6700 or at bus@gvsu.edu.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

All students should fly into Grand Rapids via the **Gerald R. Ford International Airport** – airport code GRR. You will receive an emergency contact number that you may call if there are any emergencies throughout your travel time. **We strongly suggest that you NOT attempt to take the train from Chicago to Grand Rapids.** Please book connecting flights that will bring you to the Gerald R. Ford International airport. Visit grr.org for more information about the airport.

TITLE IX

Grand Valley State University is an affirmative action, equal opportunity institution. It encourages diversity and provides equal opportunity in education, employment, all of its programs, and the use of its facilities. It is committed to protecting the constitutional and statutory civil rights of persons connected with the university. Grand Valley is required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 to ensure that none of its education programs and activities discriminate on the basis of sex/gender. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX coordinator, 4015 Zumberge Hall, titleix@gvsu.edu, (616) 331-9530.



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Admissions and Recruitment Office

Phone: (616) 331-2025

Email: global@gvsu.edu

Web: gvsu.edu/international

Barbara and Stuart Padnos International Center

Phone: (616) 331-3878

Email: istudents@gvsu.edu

Web: gvsu.edu/pic/expectations

#GVSUbound

