

FRESHMAN STUDENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION



Winter 2026

Congratulations on your recent acceptance to Grand Valley State University!

Please read this brochure for important information, deadlines, and other resources that you need to be aware of as you begin your journey as a Laker.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

Depending on what time of year you're admitted to GVSU, these next steps may be available right away or in a few months

- ✓ Apply for Housing
- ✓ File FAFSA to be considered for financial aid
- ✓ Sign up for Orientation
- ✓ Purchase a parking permit *(optional)*

For any questions or to schedule a campus visit, please contact:

Admissions and Recruitment Office
(800) 748-0246 or (616) 331-2025
admissions@gvsu.edu
gvsu.edu/admissions

✓ Apply for Housing early!

HOUSING

gvsu.edu/housing

Now that you have been admitted to Grand Valley, we recommend that you apply for housing as soon as possible.

GVSU offers many styles of housing to meet individual needs, lifestyles, and fit a variety of budgets. Traditional style is the default preference for all incoming freshmen. Learn more about housing styles at gvsu.edu/housing/options.

When living on campus, all living expenses are included in the rate; you manage one consolidated bill. Students enjoy living on campus because of the convenience to dining, classrooms, study areas, and recreation spaces.

Important Information:

- First-year students are required to live on campus.
- Complete an online application at gvsu.edu/housing.
- *(Fall semester only)* Many first-year students choose their specific housing assignments through the room self-selection process which opens in early summer. The sooner a student completes the housing application, the sooner they'll gain access to the self-selection process. Details about the room selection process will be sent to students' GVSU email.
- *(Fall semester only)* Roommate requests must be mutual, be received by May 1, and are not guaranteed.
- For more information on requesting to live off-campus, visit gvsu.edu/housing.

✓ File your FAFSA as soon as possible for priority scholarship consideration

FINANCIAL AID

gvsu.edu/finaid

FAFSA

Financial aid is available from various sources, including scholarships, grants, loans, and work study. To be considered for these types of aid, students must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). **For maximum aid consideration, submit the FAFSA by November 1.**

FAFSA is available online at studentaid.gov/fafsa. Be sure to include **GVSU school code 002268** to ensure we receive your information.

Scholarships

Grand Valley offers merit-based scholarships based on GPA to first-time college students admitted for the Fall semester only.

GVSU provides access to the **myScholarships** database to match students with both GVSU department-specific and donor-funded scholarships, as well as access to more than 10,000 external scholarship opportunities.

The majority of GVSU scholarship deadlines fall between January and March 1, while external scholarship deadlines vary year-round. Students may search and apply for these scholarships each year through gvsu.edu/myscholarships.

Open for More Information

- ✓ Signing up for Orientation
- ✓ Other important details



✓ Sign up for Orientation

ORIENTATION

gvsu.edu/orientation

In mid-September, the Admissions and Recruitment Office begins sending information regarding New Student Orientation, which includes advising and class registration. Your next step is to sign up for Orientation and pay the Orientation fee.

Final High School Transcript

Incoming freshman must submit a final high school transcript, including graduation date, to GVSU before enrollment to comply with federal and state regulations. Contact your high school if you have any questions about submitting a final high school transcript.

Completed College-Level Coursework

If you have completed college-level coursework through dual enrollment or early/middle college, you must have your previous institution send your official transcript to GVSU prior to your Orientation session.

Provide official transcripts to the Admissions and Recruitment Office in any of the following ways:

Email: adm-transcripts@gvsu.edu

Online: Use online service at Parchment.com

Mail: Admissions & Recruitment Office
1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

STUDENT EMAIL AND NETWORK ACCOUNT

gvsu.edu/it

Network ID

As a GVSU student, you'll use a Network ID and password for access to computer labs, email, Banner, multifactor authentication, and more. Instructions to activate your username and password will be emailed to you.

GVSU Email

Grand Valley provides a free Gmail account through Google Apps for Education. This Gmail account will be the official communication method used by the University once you're enrolled in classes. You will be able to access your GVSU email by visiting mail.gvsu.edu once you set up your GVSU network account.

Internet Access

As a GVSU student, you have free access to the internet on campus, either through the wired ports or wireless access. You can find instructions to set up your computer to the wireless network on our website at gvsu.edu/it.

Blackboard

Blackboard is an online course management system that faculty members can use for distributing course materials, communicating with students, posting assignments and grades, and much more. Many courses require the use of Blackboard. Please review the introduction and online tutorial for using Blackboard at gvsu.edu/elearn/help.

Computer Purchase Discounts

If you are considering a computer purchase, please visit our website at gvsu.edu/it/software to find information on computer vendors who offer student discounts.

Resources and Frequently Asked Questions

Laker Dock – access university resources, events, announcements, services, and technology in one online hub. View on your desktop at dock.gvsu.edu or download the app from the Apple or Google Play online store.

Easily access all applications by visiting my.gvsu.edu. Powered by Okta, this site links all apps, logins, and devices into a single account.

Find answers to common tech questions, like WIFI connection, printing, and password help at gvsu.edu/studenttech.

Answers to top student questions: gvsu.edu/studenttechhelp.

ELECTRONIC BILLING

gvsu.edu/studentaccounts

Student electronic billing information can be accessed at gvsu.edu/banner. Students will receive email notifications for new charges or upcoming payments. Parents, if their email was provided, will also receive notifications. Accessing financial information requires the student's Network ID and password, issued upon admission to GVSU. Students can authorize third-party access through proxy setup to view and manage online bills and payments. Instructions for providing proxy access can be found at gvsu.edu/studentaccounts.

For billing questions and support, contact Student Accounts at **(616) 331-2209**, gvsu.edu/studentaccounts, or in person at **1049 Zumberge Hall** on the Allendale Campus.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

gvsu.edu/bus

The Rapid Bus System

GVSU provides daily bus service between the Allendale Campus, Pew Grand Rapids Campus, Health Campus, and the surrounding area. GVSU as well as The Rapid transit routes are free to current students 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.

Rideshare and Carpooling

Sharing a ride or carpooling is a great way to save money on your commute and reduce traffic congestion. Several ride-sharing and carpool options are available to the GVSU community, facilitated by The Rapid. Current offerings can be found at gvsu.edu/rideshare.

✓ **Purchase a parking permit**

PARKING ON CAMPUS

gvsu.edu/parking

Parking your vehicle on a GVSU campus requires a parking permit.

Parking Permits

Permit costs:

- \$240 per semester for those commuting to campus and enrolled in seven or more credit hours.
- \$150 per semester for those commuting to campus and enrolled in six or fewer credit hours.
- \$210 per semester for students living on campus in GVSU housing.

Permits can be purchased online with the Citizen Connect portal, found at gvsu.edu/parking. The cost of the permit will be billed to your student account.

Other Parking Options

- **Temporary day permits** are available for purchase online at a cost of \$10 per day and will be billed to your student account.
- **Pay-to-park** short-term options are available on each campus and can be found on the Parking Services website.
- Parents and guests can get a free **visitor parking permit** at two locations: the Service Building on the north end of the Allendale Campus or the Pew Grand Rapids Campus at 102 Eberhard Center.

For parking questions, contact Grand Valley Parking Services at **(616) 331-PARK (7275)**, visit in person at the Service Building on the Allendale Campus or the Eberhard Center on the Pew Campus, or go to gvsu.edu/parking.

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

gvsu.edu/studentwellness

At GVSU, we define well-being as an optimal and dynamic state that allows people to achieve their full potential. By focusing on the whole person and the whole community, well-being becomes a shared goal and a shared responsibility.

Recreation and Wellness

Recreation and Wellness at GVSU offers numerous opportunities to engage in active and healthy living, from utilizing recreation facilities and participating in group fitness classes to exploring outdoor adventures and joining Esports at the center. Students can also benefit from personalized fitness consultations and engage with the wellness team. Additionally, there are a wide variety of intramural and club sports to compete in.

Visit us at gvsu.edu/rec or follow us on Instagram or Facebook [@gvsurecwell](https://www.facebook.com/gvsurecwell).

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 includes physical therapy services. Visit gvsu.edu/icc for more information.

University Counseling Center

The University Counseling Center offers a broad spectrum of services to support student mental health. Services are free to currently enrolled Grand Valley students. Visit gvsu.edu/counsel for more information.

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Services

The AOD office at Grand Valley offers a range of programs aimed at prevention, education, intervention, and recovery services for students. Emphasizing education and awareness, the AOD office promotes health decision-making concerning alcohol and drugs. Tailored to meet diverse campus needs, services encompass individual and group counseling, outreach events, educational talks, recovery meetings, and access to self-help resources. Learn more and explore resources at gvsu.edu/aod.

STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

gvsu.edu/accessibility

Student Accessibility Resources promotes campus-wide inclusivity and equity by providing support services, accommodations, and educational initiatives that enhance the academic experience for students with disabilities at GVSU.

The transition from high school to college involves a shift from entitlement-based accommodations to civil rights mandates, emphasizing personal responsibility and self-advocacy. Students should visit gvsu.edu/k12transition to learn more about these changes and the resources available at GVSU.

Upon admission, students should complete the online registration form at gvsu.edu/accommodate to register with Student Accessibility Resources, ensuring timely accommodations and connection with an advisor. Advisors help identify barriers, provide custom support, and facilitate personalized accommodations. Advisors can also assist students 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 them to other on-campus resources. Some available services include alternative format textbooks, alternative testing, assistive technology, learning skills assistance, and on-campus transportation.

Connect with Student Accessibility Resources in one of the following ways: **(616) 331-2490**, access@gvsu.edu, or visit the office at **215 The Blue Connection** on the Allendale Campus.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

gvsu.edu/studentjobs

The Student Employment Office provides a centralized source of employment information and opportunities for GVSU students. The office assists students in securing jobs to fund their education and build skills for future careers. Collaborating with university departments and the community, part-time, and summer employment opportunities are available, as well as options for Federal Work Study.

Visit gvsu.edu/studentjobs to learn more and explore employment options.

For more information, please contact student employment at **(616) 331-3238** or visit us in person at **104A Arend and Nancy Lubbers Student Services Center**.

GRAND VALLEY CALENDAR 2025-2026

Fall Semester 2025

Convocation.....	August 22, 2025
Classes begin	August 25, 2025
Labor Day recess	August 31-September 1, 2025
Fall break.....	October 19-21, 2025
Thanksgiving Day recess	November 26-30, 2025
Classes end	December 6, 2025
Commencement	December 6, 2025
Examinations.....	December 6-13, 2025
Semester ends	December 13, 2025

Winter Semester 2026

Classes begin	January 12, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. recess	January 19, 2026
Spring break.....	March 8-15, 2026
Classes end	April 25, 2026
Examinations.....	April 25-May 2, 2026
Semester ends	May 2, 2026
Commencement	May 1-2, 2026

Spring/Summer Sessions 2026

Classes begin first 6 and 12 weeks.....	May 11, 2026
Memorial Day recess	May 25, 2026
Classes end first 6 weeks.....	June 22, 2026
Examinations first 6 weeks	June 23-24, 2026
Classes begin second 6 weeks	June 29, 2026
Independence Day recess	July 3, 2026
Classes end second 6 and 12 weeks	August 7, 2026
Examinations second 6 and 12 weeks	August 10-11, 2026
Session ends	August 11, 2026

Calendars are subject to change. Visit gvsu.edu/registrar for most current academic calendar.



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY

Admissions and Recruitment Office

1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

Phone: (616) 331-2025
or (800) 748-0246

Fax: (616) 331-2000

admissions@gvsu.edu

gvsu.edu

#GVSUbound

Follow Grand Valley on social media!



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Gerald R. Ford International Airport grr.org

This is the primary air transportation facility serving Grand Rapids and West Michigan. Located within Michigan's second largest metropolitan area, the airport provides a full range of air transportation services. The airport is located on 44th Street near Patterson Avenue SE.

Amtrak amtrak.com

Amtrak's Pere Marquette route offers regular rail service between Grand Rapids and Chicago, providing fast and convenient rail connections to many destinations.

Greyhound Lines, Inc. greyhound.com (616) 456-1700 or (800) 231-2222

Intercity bus transportation arrives and departs from the Greyhound Bus Terminal located in downtown Grand Rapids on Grandville Avenue near Wealthy Street.

The Rapid ridetherapid.org (616) 776-1100

Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, and surrounding areas are served by The Rapid transit system. The Rapid buses run seven days a week and include evening hours.

HOTELS

For information on hotels with close proximity to GVSU campuses, visit gvsu.edu/hotels.

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, located at **4015 Zumberge Hall**, by emailing titleix@gvsu.edu, or by calling **(616) 331-9530**.