

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION



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.

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

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

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

- ✓ Complete the financial verification process to receive your I-20 (for F-1 visas) or DS-2019 (for J-1 visas)*
- ✓ Pay SEVIS fee and apply for a visa*
- ✓ Apply for housing and submit your deposit
- ✓ Register for Courses:
 - Undergraduate students – sign up for New Student Orientation
 - Graduate students – connect with program advisor
 - Provide final transcript and graduation verification

✓ **Complete the financial verification process***

FINANCIAL VERIFICATION PROCESS

gvsu.edu/admissions/internationaladmits

Now that you have been admitted to Grand Valley, your next step is to get your I-20. To get your I-20, you will need to complete a financial verification form and submit your passport and financial documents in your **Laker Portal**. You can also upload information for any dependents who will be joining you. Your financial verification documents must show that you have enough financial support to cover the estimated costs of academic and living expenses for one academic year. You will also receive an email with instructions to complete this process.

✓ **Pay SEVIS fee and apply for a visa***

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.

SEVIS Fee

The SEVIS fee is a required payment imposed by the U.S. government for students attending Grand Valley on an F or J visa. This fee must be paid before the visa appointment. The SEVIS fees are as follows:

- F Visa: \$350
- J Visa: \$220

You can pay your SEVIS fee online at **FMJFee.com** or through Western Union.

*International students with visa types other than F-1 and J-1 do not need to complete these steps.

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

Be prepared with answers to 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 Student and Scholar Services
Grand Valley State University
130 Lake Ontario Hall
1 Campus Drive, Allendale, MI 49401
Phone: (616) 331- 3898
Email: istudents@gvsu.edu

Social Security Number

Students can apply for a social security number after securing an on-campus job and attending the mandatory International Student Orientation. Details can be found at gvsu.edu/istudents/socialsecurity

Health Insurance

All international students will be required to purchase health insurance through LowerMark. Estimated cost for 2024-2025 is \$1,900. Details can be found at gvsu.edu/istudents/insurance

✓ **Apply for housing and submit your deposit**

HOUSING

gvsu.edu/housing

It is recommended that you apply for housing and submit your housing deposit as soon as possible.

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. GVSU offers many styles of housing to meet individual needs, lifestyles, and fit a variety of budgets. Learn more about housing styles at gvsu.edu/housing/options.

Important Information

- First-year international students are required to live on campus.
- Undergraduate transfer students and graduate students are not required to live on campus.
- Complete an online application at gvsu.edu/housing.
- Students are only eligible for a housing assignment if they have submitted a housing deposit and have completed a housing application and contract.
- For more information on requesting exemption from the undergraduate student housing requirement, visit gvsu.edu/housing.

REGISTER FOR COURSES

✓ **Sign up for orientation**

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

gvsu.edu/orientation

After being admitted, and before arriving in the U.S., you will receive details on how to sign up for a New Student Orientation session where you will collaborate with an academic advisor to choose your courses. This session is an opportunity to ask questions about your study program, class schedule, graduation requirements, and any other academic concerns. Following your appointment, you will be enrolled in 12 to 15 credits per semester. Once you arrive on campus, you'll also attend International Student Orientation hosted by International Student Services

✓ **Connect with your program advisor**

GRADUATE STUDENTS

gvsu.edu/gradadvisors

Graduate students should contact the program director listed on their acceptance letter to get more information about the program curriculum and course registration. If you are unable to find information about your program advisor, please contact us at global@gvsu.edu.

✓ **Provide Final Transcripts**

High School

It is important that you send an official or attested final transcript and graduation certification that includes your date of graduation.

Other Colleges Attended

To receive transfer credit at GVSU for courses completed at another college, you must send your official college transcript along with course descriptions and syllabi translated into English to GVSU.

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

Email: adm-transcripts@gvsu.edu

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

REGULATIONS

Full-time enrollment

In compliance with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (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 9 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 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 status verified by the designated school office. For more information about the status verification process, visit gvsu.edu/istudents/request.

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 and available in your Laker Portal.

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'll be able to access your GVSU email account 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, go to 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. 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.

You may pay your bill by credit card, cash, money order, or through PayMyTuition, a platform that allows you to make tuition payments from any bank, in any country, in any currency and at better than bank exchange rates. Details can be found at gvsu.edu/paymentoptions.

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.

SAFETY

gvsu.edu/gvpd

The Department of Public Safety is dedicated to ensuring a safe and secure environment for working, living, and learning. They offer extensive information on topics such as lost and found items, citations, parking, emergencies, bike registries, crime statistics, and more. For details, visit gvsu.edu/gvpd.

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.

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.

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.

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.

GRAND VALLEY CALENDAR 2025

Winter Semester 2026

Arrival	January 7, 2026
International Student Orientation	January 8-9, 2026
Classes Begin	January 12, 2026
Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess	January 19, 2026
Spring Break	March 8-14, 2026
Classes End	April 25, 2026
Examinations	April 25-May 2, 2026
Semester Ends	May 2, 2026
Commencement	May 1 and 2, 2026

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.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) 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 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 calling **(616) 331-9530**.



Admissions and Recruitment Office

1 Campus Drive
Allendale, MI 49401

Phone: (616) 331-2025
Fax: (616) 331-2000
Email: global@gvsu.edu
Web: gvsu.edu/international

Barbara and Stuart Padnos International Center

Phone: (616) 331-3898
Email: istudents@gvsu.edu
Web: gvsu.edu/istudents

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