

## GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY- TRAVERSE CITY

### Commonly Asked Questions About the Education Programs

1. *What will the majors allow me to teach?*

In the elementary programs, the student will be certified to teach grades K-5 in any subject, K-8 in any subject in a self-contained classroom setting, and the major (Language Arts or Social Studies) in grades 6-8.

In the secondary programs, the student will be certified to teach grades 7-12 in the subject areas of the major and minor.

2. *How are the courses structured?*

Grand Valley State University works in cooperation with Northwestern Michigan College to provide the courses necessary for the degree. There are three components to the program. Typically, a student will, 1) Complete the general education requirements either through a community college or university, 2) Complete the NMC courses required by GVSU, and 3) Complete the GVSU sequence of courses.

3. *Is it possible to take courses from NMC and GVSU concurrently?*

Yes, but it is advisable to complete all or most of the MACRAO requirement (see question 5) before beginning the GVSU sequence of courses. In addition, students find the program much more manageable if most of the NMC course work is completed before taking courses at GVSU. The final 30 hours of the degree completion program must be taken from GVSU. As a result, the student has a limited number of semesters to take course through NMC.

4. *What does the term MACRAO mean?*

The Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO) have formulated an agreement between two-year and four-year institutions within the state regarding general education classes. This agreement allows courses taken at the community college to transfer as a group to the four-year institution. As a result, lower level general education requirements at Grand Valley State University will be waived for persons who have completed the MACRAO requirement.

5. *What is the difference between completing the MACRAO requirement and an Associate of Arts degree?*

The MACRAO requirement is a part of the Associate of Arts degree. Therefore, if the student has the Associate of Arts degree, the MACRAO requirement has been completed.

It is possible to meet the requirements of the MACRAO without completing the Associates degree. See a counselor at the two-year institution to determine the requirements for each.

6. *Are there classes that are required for the major that also can be applied to the MACRAO?*

Yes, it is in the student's best interest to check with a counselor at the community college to choose courses that apply to both the MACRAO requirement and the major.

7. *What if I already have a degree and I want teacher certification only?*

By virtue of completing a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree, you are not required to do any of the coursework at NMC or GVSU to meet general education or MACRAO requirements. See a GVSU advisor for details.

8. *When are GVSU Courses offered?*

Grand Valley provides the courses necessary on a regular basis. Students may build a schedule to meet their needs that might reflect 1-5 courses per semester.

9. *Are there further requirements for teaching certification in addition to completion of the course work?*

Yes. All students must apply for admission to the Teacher Education program. This is done during the semester preceding field experience (teacher assisting). See the GVSU catalog for an explanation of the criteria involved in the admission process.

In addition to the necessary coursework and field experience, students must also pass the state certification exams in both the major and minor.

10. *Can I complete this program on a part-time basis?*

Students often attend NMC on a part-time basis before beginning the GVSU sequence of courses. Similarly, GVSU offers one to four courses each semester, which are typically scheduled during late afternoons and evenings. Some of the education courses require the student to spend additional time in schools. This is especially true the last two semesters of the program where ED 330/331 and ED 430/431 require the student to be in the classroom on a half-time and full-time basis respectively.

11. *What services are available to me in the Traverse City office?*

The GVSU office in Traverse City is staffed to meet a variety of students needs. Students can apply for admission and financial aid, register for classes, get financial aid advice, get assistance with resume writing and job vacancies, and get advising specific to the academic program.

*12. Where is the office located?*

Grand Valley State University-Traverse City is located in Suite 101 of the University Center on Cass Road, one half-mile north of South Airport Road. The office can be reached by telephone at **(231) 995-1785** or toll free **(888) 922-1785**. Email questions regarding the education programs should be directed to **[nminfo@gvsu.edu](mailto:nminfo@gvsu.edu)**.

