

# FRESHMAN STUDENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION



Fall 2026

***Congratulations on your recent acceptance to Grand Valley State University!***

***Read on for key dates, resources, and next steps as you start your Laker journey.***

## 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 by March 1
- ✓ Commit to GVSU, sign up for Orientation by May 1
- ✓ Apply for scholarships in the myScholarships platform

**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](https://gvsu.edu/housing)

Now that you have been admitted to Grand Valley, we recommend that you apply for housing as soon as possible as housing assignments are first-come, first-served.

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](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/housing).
- Many first-year students choose their specific housing assignments through the room self-selection process which opens in early summer for fall start students. 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.
- First-year students are only eligible for a housing assignment upon completing a housing application and reserving an Orientation session.
- After applying for housing, students will receive instructions to their GVSU email address for My College Roomie, GVSU's roommate matching and connection platform. Completing the preference questionnaire on My College Roomie is essential, as it informs room and roommate assignments.
- Roommate requests must be mutual, be received by May 1 for fall start students, and are not guaranteed.
- For more information on requesting to live off campus visit [gvsu.edu/housing](https://gvsu.edu/housing).

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

## FINANCIAL AID

[gvsu.edu/finaid](https://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 March 1.**

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

### Scholarships

Grand Valley offers merit-based scholarships for students based on GPA. Students admitted by March 1 are automatically considered for GVSU merit scholarships. Initial eligibility is assessed upon admission, with further scholarship and grant decisions communicated through the Office of Financial Aid. Final scholarship determinations are made by July 31.

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](https://gvsu.edu/myscholarships).

**Open for More Information**

- ✓ **Signing up for Orientation**
- ✓ **Other important details**



✓ **Commit to GVSU**

## ORIENTATION

**[gvsu.edu/orientation](https://gvsu.edu/orientation)**

Grand Valley does not require an enrollment deposit. To indicate your commitment to attend GVSU, sign up for Orientation and pay the Orientation fee by May 1. After May 1, we cannot guarantee space in the incoming class.

*If you cancel your application to Grand Valley prior to May 1, the Orientation fee is refundable.*

### 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

Students may be eligible to receive advanced placement or college credit by taking examinations available nationally, including Advanced Placement (AP), among others.

To learn more visit **[gvsu.edu/cbe](https://gvsu.edu/cbe)**.

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](mailto:adm-transcripts@gvsu.edu)

**Online:** Use online service at [Parchment.com](https://Parchment.com)

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

## STUDENT EMAIL AND NETWORK ACCOUNT

**[gvsu.edu/it](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/elearn/help)**.

### Computer Purchase Discounts

If you are considering a computer purchase, please visit our website at **[gvsu.edu/it/software](https://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](https://dock.gvsu.edu)** or download the app from the Apple or Google Play online store.

Easily access all applications by visiting **[my.gvsu.edu](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/studenttech)**.

Answers to top student questions: **[gvsu.edu/studenttechhelp](https://gvsu.edu/studenttechhelp)**.

## ELECTRONIC BILLING

**[gvsu.edu/studentaccounts](https://gvsu.edu/studentaccounts)**

Student electronic billing information can be accessed at **[gvsu.edu/banner](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/studentaccounts)**.

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

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**[gvsu.edu/bus](https://gvsu.edu/bus)**

### The Rapid Bus System

GVSU provides daily bus service between the Valley Campus, City 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](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/rideshare)**.

✓ **Purchase a parking permit**

## PARKING ON CAMPUS

[gvsu.edu/parking](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/parking). The cost of the permit will be billed to your student account.

Parking permit costs are subject to change. Visit [gvsu.edu/parking](https://gvsu.edu/parking) for the most up-to-date information.

### Other Parking Options

- **Temporary day permits** are available for purchase online through the Citizen Connect Portal 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 Valley Campus or the City 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](https://gvsu.edu/parking).

## STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

[gvsu.edu/campushealth](https://gvsu.edu/campushealth)

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

GVSU Recreation and Wellness (RecWell) provides the campus community with a variety of opportunities that engage all levels of ability, skill, and interests. RecWell programs and services include: Intramural Sports, Club Sports, Fitness Services, Outdoor Adventures, Climbing Wall, Esports, and Spirit Programs. RecWell also hosts events throughout the year and employs student workers. A full list of opportunities and employment information can be found on our website at [gvsu.edu/rec](https://gvsu.edu/rec). Follow us on Instagram or Facebook @gvsurecwell.

### Campus Health Services

- The Campus Health Center in Allendale provides convenient and quality care for GVSU students, faculty, and staff. Visit [gvsu.edu/campushealth](https://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 Valley Campus and includes physical therapy services. Visit [gvsu.edu/icc](https://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](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/aod).

## STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES

[gvsu.edu/accessibility](https://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](https://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](https://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](mailto:access@gvsu.edu), or visit the office at **215 The Blue Connection** on the Valley Campus.

## STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

[gvsu.edu/studentjobs](https://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](https://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 2026-2027

## Fall Semester 2026

Move-in Week .....	August 24-28, 2026
Classes begin .....	August 31, 2026
Labor Day recess .....	September 6-7, 2026
Fall break .....	October 25-27, 2026
Thanksgiving Day recess .....	November 25-29, 2026
Classes end .....	December 12, 2026
Commencement .....	December 12, 2026
Examinations .....	December 12-19, 2026
Semester ends .....	December 19, 2026

## Winter Semester 2027

Classes begin .....	January 11, 2027
Martin Luther King Jr. recess .....	January 18, 2027
Spring break .....	March 7-14, 2027
Classes end .....	April 24, 2027
Examinations .....	April 24-May 1, 2027
Semester ends .....	May 1, 2027
Commencement .....	April 30-May 1, 2027

## Summer Sessions 2027

Classes begin first 6 and 12 weeks .....	May 10, 2027
Memorial Day recess .....	May 31, 2027
Classes end first 6 weeks .....	June 21, 2027
Examinations first 6 weeks .....	June 22-23, 2027
Classes begin second 6 weeks .....	June 28, 2027
Independence Day recess .....	July 5, 2027
Classes end second 6 and 12 weeks .....	August 9, 2027
Examinations second 6 and 12 weeks .....	August 10-11, 2027
Session ends .....	August 11, 2027

Calendars are subject to change. Visit [gvsu.edu/registrar](https://gvsu.edu/registrar) for most current academic calendar.

# TRAVEL INFORMATION

## Gerald R. Ford International Airport [grr.org](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://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](https://gvsu.edu/hotels).

# TITLE IX

Grand Valley State University is an antidiscrimination, equal opportunity institution, consistent with its obligations as a federal contractor. 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. University policy extends protections to additional identities. Inquiries regarding the application of Title IX may be referred to the Title IX coordinator by emailing [titleix@gvsu.edu](mailto:titleix@gvsu.edu), calling (616) 331-9530, or visiting 4015 Zumberge Hall.



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](mailto:admissions@gvsu.edu)  
[gvsu.edu](https://gvsu.edu)

#GVSUbound

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