

Transfer Students FAQ's to study abroad

I completed a MACRAO agreement, why do I still have General Education courses to take at GVSU?

Students who transfer to GVSU under the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO) agreement or the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) satisfy the Foundations category of the General Education Program, as well as one SWS course. Transfer students still must complete one SWS course, the General Education Cultures requirement consisting of 2 courses, and the two-course Issues requirement.

While students cannot transfer their Issues courses from an outside institution, these courses can be fulfilled easily through study abroad. Please see *Issues Abroad* under the General Education tab.

When is the earliest that I can study abroad?

Students must attend one semester, full-time, at GVSU to establish a GPA before studying abroad. Students will not be approved to study abroad their first semester at GVSU. Students are welcome to submit a study abroad application during their first semester with the goal of studying abroad during their second semester.

How should I choose my 2 faculty recommendations?

It is ideal for students to have 2 references from GVSU. We understand that this may pose challenges to transfer students, so we will allow a new transfer student to use (1) faculty reference from their previous institution, and (1) GVSU faculty or staff member recommendation.

How can a new student build a rapport with a GVSU faculty or staff member?

Students can begin building a rapport with GVSU faculty or staff by participating in class discussions and activities, attending office hours, and participating in related on/off campus events. We recommend that students introduce themselves to colleagues' on-campus who might work with them during the course of their academic career at GVSU. This may include academic advisors, student organization advisors, a major advisor, or colleagues who work with directly with students to support them in their pursuit of their academic and personal goals. It is recommended that you meet in person with a faculty and/or staff member to describe your goals for studying abroad so they have an opportunity to get to know more about your interests.

How can I study abroad if I have to finish my last 60 credits at Grand Valley?

Students will be required to maintain their enrollment at GVSU during the semester they will be abroad. Details will be provided to students during the pre-departure orientation. Since students are enrolled at GVSU during the semester they are abroad, they maintain their residency status.

How late can I study abroad?

Students can study abroad at any time up to the point of their degree being processed. This means, students can study abroad during their last semester as a GVSU student.