

Grand Rapids Center Profile



ELS Language Centers
Grand Valley State University
10745 48th Avenue
Allendale, Michigan 49401
Telephone: 1(616) 892-5720
Fax: 1(616) 892-5721
E-mail:

Center Hours

8:00 am to 5:00 pm (Monday – Friday)
 Closed on weekends and holidays

Key Location Features

- Public university campus location
- University dormitory housing
- Free access to many campus recreational facilities
- Concurrent Enrollment available at GVSU for qualified students
- TOEFL® iBT and IELTS™ testing center

Area Attractions

- Skywalk – a downtown shopping area with exciting nightlife and restaurants
- Lake Michigan beaches and boardwalk
- Van Andel Museum Center
- Weekend trips to beaches, Detroit or Chicago, Niagara Falls

Climate

Michigan is a state with four distinct seasons with a variety of weather conditions. Summers are hot and humid. Spring days are warm and comfortable. Fall brings cool evenings. Winters are cold and snowy.

Average Temperatures (Celsius)

	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Maximum</u>
Winter	-10	-2
Spring	2	14
Summer	14	28
Autumn	4	16

Host University Information

Visit <http://admissions.gvsu.edu> to learn more about Grand Valley State University and their degree programs. Visit the ELS University directory www.usauniversityguide.org to learn about other local colleges & universities that accept ELS completion in place of the TOEFL®.

Surrounding Area Information

Average travel time (in minutes) from ELS Center:

<u>Housing Options</u>	<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Method</u>
Downtown GVSU	25	By bus
Dorm:		
Homestays:	10-45	By car/bus

Local Places

Airport:	40	By taxi
Bank:	5	By bus
Downtown:	25	By bus
Post Office:	25	By bus
Restaurant(s):	3	By foot
Shopping Mall:	40	By bus
Sports Center:	25	By bus
Supermarket:	5	By bus
Bus Stop/Subway:	1	By foot

Nearby Cities/Attractions

Lake Michigan	15	By taxi
Beaches		
Detroit, MI	2.5	By taxi
	hours	
Chicago, IL	3.5	By train
	hours	

Local Transportation

Public transportation (buses) is good. Students may ride the public bus for free with their GVSU ID card. GVSU operates a shuttle bus between the Grand Rapids downtown and Allendale campuses. Bus stops are located across the street from ELS and a 5-10 minute walk from the dorm. ELS students are eligible to get a Michigan Drivers License for \$25 (no credit cards) and there are fewer requirements if students have their national license (not an international permit) and it is translated into English by a certified agency. The Center has details about additional requirements.

Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted in the ELS Center, but students may smoke outdoors in designated areas.

Housing Check-in and Departure

Students with confirmed ELS housing reservations should go directly to their assigned housing upon arrival (not to the ELS Center) on the Sunday before their course begins. Checkout is the Saturday after the program ends. Arrivals and departures on dates/times other than those listed require special approval.

Please see "Check-in" instructions in the following sections for exact arrival details and times.

Student Residence / Dorm**Grand Valley State University (GVSU)
Winter Hall at 32 Winter Avenue SW
Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Downtown GVSU student residence. Students can take a free bus to the ELS Center.

Rooms (standard option): Singles (1 person)

Students have their own bedroom in a shared suite in this urban student residence. Shared suite-style bathrooms. Suites include full size refrigerator, stove, microwaves may be available, dining table and chairs. Big screen TV, gym located in building. Linens are also included and can be changed weekly. Students clean their own suite during stay.

Rooms (other): Married Couple Rooms

Married Couple rooms may be available on campus with prior arrangements if both parties study at ELS.

Meals Included: None - Can purchase a GVSU cafeteria Debit Dollarcard.

Age Minimum: 18+ years old

17 year old students can stay in student residence option with parental permission.

Laundry Facilities: Self-service machines are available on each floor for a small fee.

Security/Resident Assistant: Key card-access building. A resident assistant lives in the dormitory.

Check-In: 12 noon to 10:00 pm (Sunday) check-in

During standard check-in hours, students with confirmed reservations report to Winter Hall at 32 Winter Avenue. Push the call box phone button and dial 1-7600 (or look for note with other instructions) to reach the desk assistant. The desk assistant provides keys to the room. Students arriving before the check in date (Sunday before the session begins) must check into a hotel until that Sunday. If your plane will not arrive until after the check-in time (9 pm, as it takes about 1 hour from landing to get to Winter Hall) on Sunday you also must check into a hotel for the night. Please see the list to the right. On Monday go directly to the Center for orientation. On Monday afternoon you may check into Winter Hall. If your plane has been unexpectedly delayed on Sunday and you will arrive after the check-in time (9 pm) please call the ELS Help Line at 1(800) 435-7357 (1-800-HELP-ELS) for assistance in finding you a hotel.

Damage/Key Deposit: None

Checkout Time: 1:00 pm (Saturday)

🏠 Homestays**Rooms: Single (1 person)**

Meals Included: 16 per week (daily continental breakfasts/dinners with lunches added on weekends)

Age Minimum: 14+ years old

Flight Information: Homestay students should notify their Host Families or ELS of their arrival times so that families will know to be home when they arrive.

Transportation to ELS: Host family students are responsible for their personal transportation. Most students use the bus to get to campus.

Check-In: 10:00 am to 9:00 pm (Sunday) check-in

Students go directly to homestay address. Only students under the age of 18 may get permission to check in to a homestay early. All other students must go to a hotel if arriving before the check-in date (Sunday before the session begins)

Checkout Time: 1:00 pm (Saturday)

➔ Airport Arrival Information

ELS Language Centers recommends that students choose the ELS Airport Pickup Service for arrivals (booked through ELS Central Admissions), however other transportation options are also available.

Area Airport: Grand Rapids - Gerald R. Ford International (GRR)

ELS Airport Pickup Service Provider Information:

Metro Cab: 1-800-456-1701, Local: 616-957-1835

Students will collect their luggage and go outside. The white and yellow taxi vans will be parked right in front of the airport. There is usually a taxi manager outside the door.

International: Outside in front of the airport

Domestic: Outside in front of the airport

Other Transportation Options From the Airport:

Taxis from Grand Rapids Int'l airport to the downtown Winter Hall or homestays will cost approximately \$25 to \$40 plus tips, with a travel time of 20-40 minutes. Taxis to the Allendale campus or homestays will cost approximately \$50-\$75 plus tips, with a travel time of 40-50 minutes.

☎ Toll-free Emergency Phone Numbers

1(866) 277-3053 for Arrival Weekend emergencies. For other emergencies requiring immediate attention outside of business hours, call the ELS Help Line 1(800) 435-7357 (1-800-HELP-ELS).

🏨 Recommended Hotels

If hotel accommodations are needed before the housing check-in date, we recommend the following hotels. Advance reservations are recommended. Prices (hotel tax included) are subject to change. Ask for GVSU (See below in **BOLD**) student discount.

Sleep Inn 4869 Becker Dr. Allendale, MI 49401	\$120 per night \$75 GVSU discount Tel: 1(616) 892-8000
Courtyard by Marriott 11 Monroe Ave. NW	\$145 per night \$125 Tel: 1(616) 242-6000
Days Inn (downtown) 310 Pearl Street NW	\$110 per night \$90 Tel: 1(616) 235-7611
Comfort Inn Airport 4155 28th St. SE	\$85+ per night \$78 Tel: 1(616) 957-2080

Center Arrival Information

New Students should report to the ELS Grand Rapids Center at **8:30 am on the first Monday** of their program for registration, the ELS placement test and orientation. New students need to bring the following:

- Passport (plus I-94 card & I-20 form - if applicable)
- Funds to pay tuition and housing and other relevant fees (or receipt showing pre-payment)
- Proof of medical insurance (or funds to purchase ELS insurance)
- Materials contained in the acceptance package