

WELCOME TO...

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

This information has been gathered by Grand Rapids Community College. Grand Rapids welcomes many new residents from different countries each year. There are many people in the community who work to make the transition to American life possible for new residents and visitors. We hope the information contained in this booklet will be helpful. If anyone has any questions, comments, suggestions, or needs further information, please contact:

Fátima Nieves
ESL Coordinator

Grand Rapids Community College
143 Bostwick NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Telephone: (616) 234-3545

Check our web site for updated information.
<http://www.grcc.edu/ShowPage.cfm?PageID=22>

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COLLEGE CLASSES

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

143 Bostwick NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Contact Person: Fátima Nieves, ESL Coordinator
Phone Number: (616) 234-4151

Beginning in fall of 2002, Grand Rapids Community College will offer a brand new set of English as a second language classes for students whose native language is not English.

Each class is four academic credits, and students can take up to three classes ESL classes at a time. These classes will help beginning students through advanced level students to improve their English so that they can be more successful in college, at work and/or in the community.

Classes are offered at four levels. Students are required to take a placement test before registration to that they can be placed into the correct level.

ESL courses at the College are designed to help individuals in the community reach a wide variety of personal, professional and academic goals through the improvement of their English skills.

Listening and Speaking Courses

(ES 101, 102, 103 and 104)

These courses will help students to improve their listening, speaking and pronunciation skills. Students will learn to understand more of the English that they hear in various situations. They will also learn to speak more clearly so that others can understand them better. The first levels will work with conversational English while the higher levels will work with advanced conversation skills and academic English.

Writing and Grammar Courses

(ES 111, 112, 113 and 114)

These courses will help students to improve their writing skills and learn correct English grammar. Students will learn correct English grammar rules and use them to create clear, comprehensible writing. They will work with sentences at the first level and move on to work with paragraphs and essays at the more advanced levels.

Reading and Vocabulary Courses

(ES 121, 122, 123, and 124)

These courses will help students to improve their reading skills and vocabulary knowledge. Students will develop the skills needed to read and understand a variety of texts. They will also learn techniques and strategies to better understand new vocabulary. Students will work with simplified English writing at the first levels and progress to more complicated, academic writing at the advanced levels.

For More Information

To learn more about the ESL program, please call the English Department at (616) 234-3360.

To receive a college catalog or to get information about admissions, please call the Admissions Office at (616) 234-4100. For information about Financial Aid, please call the Financial Aid Office at (616) 234-4030.

Special Note for International Students seeking student visas:

Unfortunately, at this time, the College does not admit international students who need student visas for the purpose of learning English. These students need to demonstrate English proficiency. For more information about International Student Admissions visit:

<http://www.grcc.cc.mi.us/campus/Attending/Admissions/InternationalAdmissionsAp.pdf>

DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY

415 E. Fulton
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Contact Person: Etsuko Yoshida
Phone Number: (616) 732-1203

Classes offered:

- Beginning Reading
- Beginning Writing
- Beginning Speaking, Listening, Conversation
- Intermediate Reading
- Intermediate Writing
- Intermediate Speaking, Listening, Conversation
- Advanced Speaking, Listening, Conversation

Cost: \$212.00 per credit hour. Classes 4.5 credit hours.

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION CLASSES

COOPERSVILLE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Adult Migrant Education & ESL
198 East St.
Coopersville, MI 49404
Phone Number: (616) 997-3600
Contact Person: Scott Van Til, Adult Education Coordinator

Evening ESL Classes: Sign-in/sign-out system. (Students come and go as their schedules allow.) Classes are also offered at 13 satellite locations in the Conklin area. Most are offered only during the migrant season July through November, but a few are open July through May for students who are in the area all year.

Day classes: Sign in/sign out system. These classes are offered fall and winter semesters, September through May.

Target population is primarily Hispanic migrant workers. However, classes are offered to any person 16 years of age or older who is not enrolled in state-funded K-12 school and whose native language is not English.

Services: ESL instruction, life and employability skills instruction, social/medical/legal employment service referrals, and assistance with citizenship preparation.

Please contact Coopersville Community Services for more information (616-837-8188).

GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

West Middle Adult Education Center
615 Turner NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504
(616) 771-3253
Contact Person: Sarah Krontoft

On site classes offered at local businesses. Call Pat West for information at 771-2862.

Next Registration: Call 771-3253 for registration dates. Generally, every 3 months

Age requirements: Must be 20 years or older. Those 18 and 19 must show proof of high school graduation.

Cost: Free

Child care and bus passes provided (no child care at Church of the Servant evening class)

Six levels of ESL instruction, Citizenship Classes, TOEFL Preparation Class available.

GODFREY LEE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1530 Grandville Ave SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Phone Number: (616) 241-5600
Contact Person: Thelma Meyer

Location: Corner of Clyde Park and Grandville
Classes: Three levels available
Cost: Free
No age restrictions
No residency requirement
Free childcare, bus passes, hot lunch
Registration Dates: Open enrollment – Enroll at anytime
To register: attend any class

GODWIN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Godwin Heights Learning Center
3333 S. Division
Wyoming, MI 49548
Phone Number: (616) 252-2042
Contact person: Jerry L. Emde

Cost: Free
Age: 18 or older
Residency: No restrictions
Four levels of ESL available
Transportation: School bus or city bus for qualified students
Next registration date: Call for dates
To register: Call (616) 252-2042 for appointment with academic advisor

GRAND HAVEN ADULT EDUCATION

300 North 6th St.
Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone Number: 616-580-6800
Contact Person: Linda Ruiter

ESL Classes
Individualized instruction
Age: 18 and older
Cost: Free
Childcare provided
Registration Dates: Open enrollment
Summer: Possible Summer Language Camp

HOLLAND ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Center of Community Education
96 W. 15th St.
Holland, MI 49423
Phone Number: (616) 393-7600
Contact Person: Gary Miller

Open Enrollment – Enroll at any time
Students must have picture ID.
Age: 18 and up
All students must come to this building to register for ESL programs at all sites.
ESL Classes: 4 levels of English

KENT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

2930 Knapp NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
Phone number: (616) 364-5122
Contact Person: Lorna Brown

Offers ESL classes to adult students enrolled in technical classes.
Cost: Students over 20 years old with a high school diploma \$100.00 per semester. Free to non-high school graduates. No summer classes.

KENT COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL

Located in the Grand Rapids Public Library, temporarily at:
Union Station
1100 Hynes Avenue SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Mailing Address:
60 Library Plaza NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone number: (616) 245- 7962
Contact Laurel Yaroch, Workplace Literacy Coordinator

Offers one-on-one tutoring or small group sessions
Encourages oral and written English proficiency
Designed for adults
Cost: free of charge with a minimum six-month commitment
Enrollment: any time – call for an appointment

Also Available: Customized Workplace English
Fee based, by appointment, at workplace

KENTWOOD COMMUNITY EDUCATION

28 60th SE
Kentwood, MI 49548
Phone number: (616) 261-6166
Contact Person: Alice Andre, ESL Coordinator

Four levels available
Age: Must be 18 or older
No residency requirement
Cost: Free
To register call office (616) 261-6166 and set up appointment
*No summer classes

SPARTA COMMUNITY EDUCATION

480 South State Street
Sparta, MI 49345
Phone number: (616) 887-7321
Director: Mike O'Connor

Sparta has a large English instruction program for migrant workers, which is held during the summer months only.

WYOMING COMMUNITY EDUCATION

2950 Clyde Park SW
Wyoming, MI 49509
Phone number: (616) 530-7505 (Student Services)
Contact Person: Marilyn Torres

Four levels of ESL available
Cost: Free
Students must be 20 years old.
Students who are 18 or 19 who have graduated from high school may attend free.
No childcare
No transportation
To enroll: Students must enroll in person to be tested.
Registration Dates: Call (616) 530-7505 for dates

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS (K-12)

Grand Rapids Public Schools has 20 language centers. There are four high school programs, four middle school programs, and twelve elementary school programs that offer English language classes. There are many bi-lingual and ESL programs to meet the needs of students.

Contact Person: Robert Saenz
Phone Number: (616) 771-2129
For students in K-12, contact your local school for information about ESL classes.

SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES

BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES

Refugee Outreach Assistance and Referral Program
901 Eastern NE
P.O. Box 294
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1294
Phone number: (616) 224-7540

Services:

The Refugee Outreach Assistance and Referral program aims at the elimination of any barriers the refugees in need may have to accessing,

receiving and maintaining low-income services. The program helps look and apply for services, outreaches needy refugees and advocates for them, and provides low-income related information to the refugee community and to organizations working with refugees.

CATHOLIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH

650 Burton SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Phone Number: (616) 248-3030
Program Director: Carol Russo

Catholic Human Development Outreach (CHDO) is a refugee resettlement agency.

Services:

- Looks for volunteers and sponsors for newly arrived refugees
- Provides initial employment services for refugees upon arrival
- Provides basic need services for newly arrived refugees which include: housing, food, transportation, medical and dental services.
- Immigration counseling.

P.A.R.A. (Programs Assisting Refugee Acculturation)

744 Burton SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616)247-9350
Language Program Coordinator: Kara Hanson

P.A.R.A. is a refugee resettlement agency.

Services:

- Recruits local church congregations to sponsor refugee families
- Assists in the resettlement process

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES

2976 Ivanrest SW
Grandville, MI 49418
Phone number: (616) 532-8286
Contact Person: Linda Barr, Caseworker

Services:

Comprehensive employment services available including translation, on-the-job training, and job upgrade services. Refugees of all English speaking levels available for employment.

Serving all refugees and asylees for up to five years of being in the USA. English as a Second Language (ESL) available as Vocational English Language Training Program (VELT) on employer site, community based, and agency based sites. No cost to the employer or refugees/asylee for these classes.

Intensive case management available for refugees needing specialized employment services.

Holds the prime contract for Refugee Employment Service for the State of Michigan.

Services free of charge. Not-for-profit agency.

ITP Route #8. Easy access from other bus routes.

CATHOLIC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OUTREACH

Intensive Vocational English as a Second Language (IVESL)

IVESL is a new approach to learning English that will better prepare individuals to successfully gain employment and find higher paying positions. Short, fast and intensive, IVESL focuses on language skills and vocabulary useful in the workplace.

Location: Clyde Park SW, south of 28th Street, Wyoming

Duration: Eight (8) weeks

Cost: Free

Free childcare, lunch and transportation

For more information: call 248-3030 and ask for Rob Miller

GRAND RAPIDS URBAN LEAGUE

745 Eastern SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone number: (616) 245-2207

Director: Dr. Walter Brame

Vice President of Programming: Kenneth Cason

Services:

Provides help finding housing and employment

HISPANIC CENTER OF WESTERN MICHIGAN

730 Grandville SW
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Phone number: (616) 742-0200
Contact Person: Daisy Madrigal

Services:

- Work referrals
- Translation and interpretation services
- Referrals to other resources
- Assistance in filling out forms and paperwork
- Assistance with immigration
- Domestic violence and housing issues
- Youth program

ISLAMIC CENTER

1301 Burton SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Phone number: (616) 241-4555
Contact Person: Imam Rashaad Ramdin

Services:

The Islamic Center sponsors Muslim families from Sudan, Bosnia, Kosovo, and other countries. The center settles families and assists with jobs, housing, transportation, and medical needs.

NATURALIZATION AND IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

CONGRESSMAN VERN EHLER'S OFFICE

110 Michigan NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Nancy Ostapowicz handles immigration matters.
Phone number: (616) 451-8383

U.S. GOVERNMENT IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

333 Mt. Elliott
Detroit, MI 48207
Phone number: (313) 568-6012
TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-375-5283
WEB SITE: www.ins.usdoj.gov