

Welcome to . . .  
Grand Rapids Community College  
English as a Second Language  
Community Resource Guide



**CLASSES IN THE GRAND RAPIDS AREA  
SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES  
IMMIGRATION, NATURALIZATION AND VISA INFORMATION**



Check out our website at [www.grcc.edu/esl](http://www.grcc.edu/esl) for information updates  
Information prepared by the Counseling Center at Grand Rapids Community College

The following information has been gathered by Grand Rapids Community College. You will find program information and referrals for Adult Community Education, Social Service Agencies, Church Sponsored Classes, and Naturalization and Immigration information. 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 will be helpful. If anyone has any questions, comments, suggestions, or needs further information, please contact:

**For information about the ESL Program:**

English Department  
Grand Rapids Community College  
143 Bostwick NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Telephone: (616) 234-3360  
[www.grcc.edu/esl](http://www.grcc.edu/esl)

**For information about Registration:**

Counseling and Career Center  
Grand Rapids Community College  
143 Bostwick NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
Telephone: (616) 234-3900  
[www.grcc.edu/counseling](http://www.grcc.edu/counseling)

**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 contact the Admissions Office or you can download an International Student Application at [www.grcc.edu/admissions](http://www.grcc.edu/admissions).

Students interested in international admission for the purpose of learning English can contact [Western Michigan University](http://www.wmich.edu) or [Davenport University](http://www.davenport.edu) for program information.

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.

## ESL Classes in the Grand Rapids Area (REVISED 1/28/10)

There are several educational opportunities in the Grand Rapids area to learn English. Davenport University and Grand Rapids Community College offer beginning, intermediate, and advanced ESL courses for a fee. Many local school districts offer ESL classes free through Adult Community Education. Also, several Social Service Agencies also provide ESL classes.

### Higher Education

#### DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY

6191 Kraft Ave.

Grand Rapids, MI 49512

**Contact Person:** Mike Zhang, Director of International Enrollment and Programs

**Email:** [mike.zhang@davenport.edu](mailto:mike.zhang@davenport.edu)

**Phone:** (616) 554-5078

- Classes offered:

Beginning Reading

Beginning Writing

Beginning Speaking, Listening, Conversation

Intermediate Reading

Intermediate Writing

Intermediate Speaking, Listening, Conversation

Advanced Speaking, Listening, Conversation

- Cost: TBA per credit hour. Classes 4.5 credit hours.

#### GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

143 Bostwick NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Contact:** Counseling and Career Center

**Phone:** (616) 234-3900

- Classes offered: four levels (beginning through advanced)

Reading and Vocabulary

Listening and Speaking

Writing and Grammar

- Cost: Tuition based on residency. Classes are 4 contact hours

## Adult Community Education

### GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Vandenberg Adult Education Center

409 Lafayette St

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Contact Person:** Sarah Krontoft

**Phone:** (616) 819-3253

- On site classes offered at local businesses; call Pat West for information at 819-2862
- Next Registration: Call 819-3253 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
- Limited child care provided
- Six levels of ESL instruction, Citizenship Classes, GED classes
- Morning and evening classes
- No summer available
- Fall registration begins Sept. 5-7, 2006 and classes begin Sept. 11th

### GODFREY LEE COMMUNITY EDUCATION

1530 Grandville Ave SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Location: Corner of Clyde Park and Grandville

**Contact Person:** Thelma Meyer

**Phone:** (616) 241-5600

- Classes: Beginning and Intermediate level available
- Cost: Free
- No age restrictions
- No residency requirement
- Free childcare, bus passes, hot lunch
- Fall 2006 registration begins 2nd week of August, morning classes available
- Call for a testing appointment
- No summer available

### GODWIN HEIGHTS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Godwin Heights Learning Center

3333 S. Division

Wyoming, MI 49548

**Contact Person:** William Fetterhoff

**Phone:** (616) 252-2042

- Cost only for 20 yrs and older: \$25 for adult students living in Godwin district; \$50 for out of district
- Age: 18 or older
- Residency: No restrictions
- Three levels of ESL available
- Morning, afternoon and evening classes
- Next registration date: Call for dates; currently there is a waiting list for this program
- To register: Call (616) 252-2042 for appointment with academic advisor
- Summer available (current students will be registered first)

**GRAND HAVEN ADULT EDUCATION**

106 South 6th St.

Grand Haven, MI 49417

**Contact Person:** Linda Ruitter

**Phone:** (616) 850-6880

- ESL Classes
- Individualized instruction
- Age: 18 and older
- Cost: Free
- Registration Dates: Open enrollment; sessions begin in September and February but students can begin at any time
- No summer available

**KENT COUNTY LITERACY COUNCIL**

111 Library St. NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Located in the Grand Rapids Public Library

**Contact Person:** Angela Mayer, Adult Tutoring Program Coordinator  
or

Kristin Ekkes, Customized Workplace English Program Director

**Phone:** (616) 459-5151

- 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: call for an appointment
- *Also Available:* Customized Workplace English Program  
(for companies)
  - Intensive Workplace ESL Program
  - Fee based group classes on-site
  - For companies in West Michigan(for individuals)
  - Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced levels
  - For individuals who are employed or looking for employment
  - Workplace and Life skills
- *Ottawa County Residents only:*
  - Classes begin July 11-September 28
  - Cost: free
  - Tuesdays and Thursdays
  - Level one: 6pm-8pm, Level two: 3:30-5:30pm
  - Location: 1830 172nd Ave. #G, Grand Haven, MI 49417
  - Call (616) 4595151 ext. 14 for details (Se habla español ext. 12)

**KENTWOOD COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

28 60th SE

Kentwood, MI 49548

**Contact Person:** Alice Andre, ESL Coordinator**Phone:** (616) 261-6166

- Four levels available
- Age: Must be 18 or older
- No residency requirement; priority is given to Kentwood residents
- Cost: Free
- Students can come one to four nights; classes meet Monday through Thursday 4:30-8pm
- To register call office (616) 261-6166 and set up appointment
- No summer classes

**SPARTA COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

480 South State Street

Sparta, MI 49345

**Contact Person:** Mike O'Connor, Director**Phone:** (616) 887-7321

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

**WASHINGTON EDUCATION CENTER (HOLLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS)**

156 W. 11th St.

Holland, MI 49423

**Contact Person:** Gary Miller**Phone:** (616) 355-1808

- Managed Enrollment
- Students must have picture ID.
- Age: 20 and up
- ESL Classes: 4 levels of English
- Morning and evening classes
- Cost: ESL - Free (GED testing: \$25/test for all 5 tests)

**WYOMING COMMUNITY EDUCATION**

2950 Clyde Park SW

Wyoming, MI 49509

**Contact Person:** Tom Spaak**Phone:** (616) 530-7505 (Student Services)

- Two levels of ESL available (Beginning & Intermediate only)
- Cost: \$20 non-refundable registration fee
- 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
- Evenings: Monday through Thursday 5:30-9:30pm
- To enroll: Students must enroll in person to be tested.
- Registration Dates: Call (616) 530-7505 for dates

### **ZEELAND WEST OTTAWA HIGH SCHOOL**

294 West Lakewood

Holland, MI 49424

**Contact Person:** Christina Quimby

**Phone:** (616) 494-8803

**Email:** cquimby@zps.org

- Classes are held at Michigan Works! Job Connections – South, 121 Clover St., Holland, MI
- Cost: Free
- Class times: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 12:30pm
- Students can join at anytime

## **Social Service Agencies**

### **BETHANY CHRISTIAN SERVICES**

Refugee Outreach Assistance and Referral Program

901 Eastern NE

P.O. Box 294

Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1294

**Contact:** Barb Foster

**Phone:** (616) 224-7540

- 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.

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

744 Burton SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**Contact Person:** Kara Hanson, Language Program Coordinator

**Phone:** (616) 247-9350

- P.A.R.A. is a refugee resettlement agency
- Recruits local church congregations to sponsor refugee families
- Assists in the resettlement process

**LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES**

2976 Ivanrest SW  
Grandville, MI 49418

**Contact Person:** Linda Barr, Program Coordinator  
or  
Erica Spohr, VELT Coordinator

**Phone:** (616) 532-8286

- 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.

**GRAND RAPIDS URBAN LEAGUE**

745 Eastern SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Phone:** (616) 245-2207

**Contact Person:** Dr. Walter Brame, Director  
or  
John Gussenbauer, Vice President of Programming

- Provides help finding housing and employment

**HISPANIC CENTER OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

730 Grandville SW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Contact Person:** Daisy Madrigal

**Phone:** (616) 742-0200

- 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 and tutoring age 13-19 years old
- Food distribution

**MICHIGAN WORKS - SHELDON COMPLEX**

121 Franklin SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

**Contact Person:** Jim Thiel**Phone:** (616) 336-4040

- Mid level classes focuses on work and employment language, conversation, pronunciation
- Open enrollment held first Friday of every month
- Classes continue all year round
- Approximately 10 week program
- Students must have social security number to register

**Church Sponsored Classes****BETHEL ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

832 Grandville Ave. SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**Contact Person:** John Vega, Pastor**Phone:** (616) 245-3718

- Tuesday and Thursday evenings 7-8:30pm
- Six week sessions; three levels of ESL classes
- Cost: books and supplies (approximately \$25-30)
- Child care is available for a fee
- Large group setting
- All Spanish speakers

**CHURCH OF THE SERVANT**

3835 Burton SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49508

**Contact Person:** Rick Eitman or Jill Frazee-Eitman**Phone:** (616) 956-7611

- Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6-8pm (no summer classes)
- ESL certified instructor
- Open to all (adults only)
- Classes held at 3065 East Paris Ave., Kentwood, MI
- Call in August 2006 to inquire about fall registration

**GRAND RAPIDS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP**

3765 Kalamazoo Ave. SE

Kentwood, MI 49508

**Contact Person:** Max or Lizzy Quero**Phone:** (616) 245-2151

- Wednesday evening 6:30-8:00pm
- No registration required
- Class emphasis is on speaking and listening
- All class materials and instruction are provided free of charge
- Childcare provided
- Classes available all year

**KENTWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH**

1200 60th St.

Kentwood, MI 49508

**Contact Person:** Nancy (Max or Lizzy Quero)

**Phone:** (616) 455-0031 (698-0118)

- Tuesday evenings 7-9:00pm
- Open registration
- Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced levels
- Class emphasis is on speaking and listening
- All class materials and instruction are provided free of charge

**LEONARD HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**

1273 Lamont Ave. NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Contact Person:** Sandy Weber

**Phone:** (616) 456-7668

- Classes every Sunday 11am-12:15pm
- Three levels
- Cost: Free
- Material includes some Biblical references, but is not a bible study
- Primarily Asian population

**ROOSEVELT PARK COMMUNITY CRC**

811 Chicago Dr. SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49509

**Contact Person:** Lisa DeYoung

**Phone:** (616) 447-9088

- Tuesday & Thursday evenings 5:30-7:30pm
- Beginning & Intermediate level
- New students may join anytime; no advance registration required
- 6 week sessions
- Summer session: Tuesdays only 5:30-7:30pm

**STEEPLETOWN CENTER**

671 Davis Ave. NW

Grand Rapids, MI 49504

**Contact Person:** Sr. Carmen Rostar

**Phone:** (616) 454-4874 or (616) 451-4215

- Monday or Wednesday 10-11:30am; Tuesday or Thursday 7-8:30pm
- There is a wait list for evening times
- All levels; learners are assessed and lesson plans made according to level
- Priority given to those living in the NW side, zip code 49504
- Call anytime to be added to wait list

## Naturalization and Immigration

**CONGRESSMAN VERN EHLERS**

110 Michigan NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Contact Person: 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](http://www.ins.usdoj.gov)