



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Your student's school is a proud member of Global Online Academy (GOA), a non-profit organization made up of an [international consortium of schools](#) that provides high-quality online learning experiences for students and educators. We are delighted that you are exploring GOA learning experiences and your student is considering taking a passion-based course through GOA. This letter outlines why GOA may be of interest to your student, explain how it works, and answer questions you may have as you explore this option.

Every member school we work with has a GOA Site Director on campus, an employee of the school who offers support and guidance to every student who enrolls in a GOA course. The Site Director coordinates enrollments, has answers to any school-specific policy questions, and collaborates with your child's GOA teacher and our organization to ensure a quality learning experience. We encourage you to contact your Site Director with any questions you might have about GOA.

The information below provides a brief overview of GOA, but we encourage you to take a moment to visit our website to browse our [course catalog](#) of over 60 semester and yearlong offerings, learn about our [eight learning pathways](#) and Pathway Certification, and review our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

We look forward to working with you and your student,

The GOA Team



What is Global Online Academy?

The mission of GOA is to reimagine learning to empower students and educators to thrive in a globally networked society. We deepen learning through courses that equip students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be successful in high school, college, career, and life. GOA expands educational opportunities for students by making available the hallmarks of our 135+ member schools – teaching expertise and intellectually rigorous courses. By banding together as a consortium, GOA schools are able to offer far more courses than any single school could offer on its own.

Students will join a global learning community through a high-quality online learning experience that allows them to develop critical skills and habits of learning such as cross-cultural collaboration, time management, project planning, advocacy, and real world problem-solving. GOA's [course catalog](#) is comprised of more than 60 unique, passion-driven courses targeting learners in grades 9-12. In addition, we offer a series of shorter, not for credit, flex courses for students in grades 7-12 that can be tied into on-campus courses and learning experiences.

Why would my student take a GOA class rather than a class on campus?

The most popular reasons students cite are: the chance to explore a topic they're interested in that may not be offered on campus; the opportunity to learn with students whose backgrounds, experiences, and opinions differ from their own; and the ability to develop and practice new skills and learning strategies they will need and use in the future.

How can I be sure this is a quality experience?

Our member schools have all evaluated the GOA program and affirmed that the quality of instruction and student experience are equivalent to the quality of courses offered on campus. GOA courses are taught by expert educators predominantly from our member schools who are experienced and deeply skilled in teaching and supporting students both in-person and online. All GOA teachers receive 70 hours of professional development prior to teaching a course and are paired with an instructional coach for ongoing mentoring and support. Courses are observed and evaluated by our staff to ensure they meet the standards of our exemplary schools. In 2016, GOA became the first online academy to receive accreditation from the [New England Association of Schools and Colleges \(NEASC\)](#). GOA is also accredited by the [Western Association of Schools and Colleges \(WASC\)](#).



What are GOA's Learning Pathways and Certification?

Students seeking to demonstrate depth of interest and expertise in a field of study can pursue one of GOA's eight pathways to earn a Pathway Certification. Students who take three or more courses from a particular pathway will be issued a GOA transcript that lists the courses taken, the competencies mastered in those courses, and the certification earned. Schools will continue to record grades from GOA courses on the school's transcript as well. Pathway Certification allows students to further distinguish themselves and create opportunities for sharing their unique learning journey in the college admissions process.

How does it work?

GOA courses are teacher facilitated and paced, but they are predominantly asynchronous, offering students flexibility to work at their own pace and time with regular feedback and guidance from their teachers. Designed as highly interactive, the use of online discussion tools and scheduled video conferencing allows students to build relationships and share experiences with peers and teachers around the world. All student work is submitted and assessed in our Learning Management System. Students communicate frequently with teachers and peers via email, our discussion platform, and periodic video calls. Students can expect to connect synchronously with teachers and classmates via video call on a weekly or biweekly basis.

If enrolled, what are the expectations of my student?

A GOA course takes a similar commitment of time, effort, and engagement as an on-campus course. Courses are collaborative, engaging learning experiences and dependent upon student participation. Students typically spend 5-7 hours a week on GOA courses -- a significant commitment-- so it's wise to discuss your student's readiness with the Site Director and review the [Student & Family Enrollment Presentation](#) with your child before requesting enrollment.

What can parents expect of GOA?

It is of paramount importance to us that families and schools are in the know when it comes to a GOA student's experience. As a consortium of schools, you can expect that we have created frameworks and policies to help us unify our approach to teaching and learning and the student experience. You can expect reliable, regular communication from GOA and your student's school when it comes to issues of student support and wellness. Our [Student and Family Handbook](#) outlines the details of our program.



What are the important dates to know?

- **March 31, 2023 – 00:00 UTC:** 2023–24 Enrollment Period Opens
- **August 30, 2023:** 23–24 Semester 1/Yearlong Courses Begin
- **October 20, 2023:** Sem 1 Midterm
- **December 15, 2023:** Semester 1 Courses End
- **January 10, 2024:** 22–23 Semester 2 Courses Begin/ Yearlong Courses Resume
- **March 1, 2024:** Sem 2 Midterm
- **April 26, 2024:** Semester 2/Yearlong Courses End