The mission of Global Online Academy (GOA) is to reimagine learning to enable students to thrive in a globally networked society.

GOA provides a positive, interactive, and intellectually rigorous environment for students to learn. We offer courses that connect students to topics they care about, and the opportunity to learn alongside a global network of peers as passionate and curious as they are.

We have identified the following six core competencies — the specific set of skills and habits of learning — that our students develop in practical, hands-on ways, no matter which GOA course they take:

1. Collaborate with people who don’t share your location.
2. Communicate and empathize with people who have perspectives different from your own.
3. Curate and create content relevant to real-world issues.
4. Reflect on and take responsibility for your learning and that of others.
5. Organize your time and tasks to learn independently.
6. Leverage digital tools to support and show your learning.

To build these skills, GOA courses are:

**Globally connected**
Even though our courses are online, students get to know their teachers and classmates by using technology to build relationships. Our small classes have students from many different schools, led by expert teachers. Students log in multiple times a week to engage in discussions, collaborate on projects, and share ideas.

**Challenging**
GOA courses are designed to be as intellectually rigorous as any course at a home school. GOA courses are mostly asynchronous: students do not show up on certain days at certain times. Instead, teachers publish a calendar of activities, and within that framework, students work on their own schedules, gaining critical independent learning skills along the way. Students have a videoconference experience approximately every 10 days, more frequently in our intensive summer courses.

**Relevant**
We want students to pursue their passions. Our courses offer practical, hands-on experience in how these ideas can be applied to the world outside of school. Students have a voice and a choice in the work they do and the ideas they explore.

To see our full list of offerings and register, please visit:
https://globalonlineacademy.org/student-program/summer-courses
Beginning with the graduating class of 2024, 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.

When a student earns a Pathway Certification, the certification is highlighted on their GOA transcript, which provides additional context and description of a student’s GOA experience. The GOA-issued transcript includes a list of courses the student has taken and the competencies mastered in those courses as well as Pathway Certification earned. Schools will continue to record grades from GOA courses on the school’s transcript as well.

In order to earn a Pathway Certification, students must take three (or more) courses from a particular pathway. GOA’s eight pathways are:

- **ART, MEDIA & DESIGN**
- **BUSINESS, ECONOMICS & FINANCE**
- **COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING**
- **GLOBAL STUDIES**
- **HEALTH SCIENCES**
- **JUSTICE, ETHICS & HUMAN RIGHTS**
- **MATHEMATICS & QUANTITATIVE REASONING**
- **PSYCHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE**

*Please note:* Not all courses are included in a pathway and some courses are cross-listed in more than one pathway. All courses eligible for Pathway certification must be completed through GOA.

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### Earn a Global Learning Certification

Students who take three (or more) GOA courses spread across multiple learning pathways will earn a Global Learning Certification. This certification is highlighted on the student’s GOA transcript and includes a list of courses the student has taken and the competencies mastered in those courses. All semester, yearlong, and summer courses will count toward a Global Learning Certification.
Summer at GOA

Summer at GOA offers some of our most popular courses in an intensive seven-week format. Students should expect to commit 10–12 hours per week* for a summer version of GOA’s signature semester-length course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer 1</th>
<th>Summer 2</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, June 15 – Wednesday, August 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thursday, July 6 – Wednesday, August 23</strong></td>
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*For Geometry, Precalculus, or Spanish Language Through Culture 1, which are designed to replace yearlong high school courses, students should expect to dedicate 15–20 hours per week.

All courses listed below are offered in both Summer 1 and Summer 2.

- Abnormal Psychology
- Academic English Accelerator
- Architecture
- Business Problem Solving
- Computer Science I: Computational Thinking
- Computer Science II: Analyzing Data with Python
- Computer Science II: Java
- Creative Nonfiction Writing
- Cybersecurity
- Digital Photography
- Fiction Writing
- Genocide & Human Rights
- Geometry
- Health & Fitness
- How to Argue Well
- International Relations
- Introduction to Legal Thinking
- Introduction to Psychology
- Investing I
- Medical Problem Solving I
- Microeconomics
- Personal Finance
- Precalculus
- Problem Solving with Engineering & Design
- Religion & Society
- Spanish Language Through Culture I
Abnormal Psychology
This course provides students with a general introduction to the field of abnormal psychology from a western perspective while exploring the cultural assumptions within the field. Students examine the biopsychosocial aspects of what society considers abnormal while developing an understanding of the stigma often associated with psychological disorders.

Through book study, videos, article reviews, and discussions, students consider how our increasingly global world influences mental health in diverse settings. In learning about the different areas of Western abnormal psychology, students study the symptoms, diagnoses, and responses to several specific disorders such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, or schizophrenia.

Students develop an understanding of how challenging it can be to define “normal” as they begin to empathize with those struggling with mental distress. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to attend to their own mental well-being. The course culminates in an independent project where students showcase their learning with the goal of making an impact in their local communities.

Psychology & Neuroscience

Academic English Accelerator
This program helps English language learners in grades 9–12 improve their academic English. The program adapts to meet students’ needs and goals but is intended for students nearing English proficiency. Students bring work from their courses to language coaching sessions with the instructor. There, they improve their written and oral communication. They submit drafts of writing assignments and record rehearsals of presentations. They also set goals and receive feedback and coaching on their English expression.

When students enroll, GOA requests student scores on any standardized English language proficiency assessment. This determines if the program is the right fit for the student. Most students in this program score at least B1 or B2 on the Common European Framework, or 4 on the WIDA scale. The AEA is not an English grammar course or an introductory academic English course, so in order to benefit from the AEA, students need a level of English proficiency that matches or exceeds the suggested standardized test scores. AEA students are often attending or planning to attend English-only high schools or universities.

Students may enroll in this program during the Summer, Semester 1, Semester 2, or any combination of the three. In the summer, students in this program must be taking another GOA course. In semesters 1 and 2, we recommend students in this program take another GOA course, but we do not require it. This program is not graded.

Architecture
In this course, students build an understanding of and apply skills in various aspects of architectural design. While gaining key insights into the roles of architectural analysis, materials, 3D design, and spatial awareness, students develop proficiency in architectural visual communication.

The course begins by learning the basic elements of architectural design to help analyze and understand architectural solutions. Through digital and physical media, students develop an understanding of the impact building materials have on design. At each stage of the course, students interact with peers from around the globe, learning and sharing how changes in materials, technology, and construction techniques lead to the evolution of contemporary architectural style and visual culture.

The course culminates with a final project in which each aspiring architect has the opportunity to work toward a personal presentation for the GOA Catalyst Exhibition. Students, through a variety of outcomes, present an architectural intervention that they have proposed as a solution to an identified need, one emanating from or focused within their own community. Throughout the course, students refer to the design process and use techniques to track, reflect, and evidence their understanding of architecture.

Art, Media & Design

Business Problem Solving
How could climate change disrupt your production and supply chains or impact your consumer markets? Will tariffs help or hurt your business? How embedded is social media in your marketing plan? Is your company vulnerable to cybercrime? What 21st-century skills are you cultivating in your leadership team?

Students in this course tackle real-world problems facing businesses large and small in today’s fast-changing global marketplace where radical reinvention is on the minds of many business leaders. Students work collaboratively and independently on case studies, exploring business issues through varied lenses including operations, marketing, human capital, finance and risk management as well as sustainability. As they are introduced to the concepts and practices of business, students identify, analyze, and propose solutions to business problems, engaging in research of traditional and emerging industries, from established multinationals to startups.

Business, Economics & Finance

Computer Science I: Computational Thinking
This course (or its equivalent) is a prerequisite to all Computer Science II classes at GOA. Computational thinking centers on solving problems, designing systems, and understanding human behavior. It has applications not only in computer science but also myriad other fields of study. This introductory-level course focuses on thinking like a computer scientist, especially understanding how computer scientists define and solve problems.
Students begin the course by developing an understanding of what computer science is, how it can be used by people who are not programmers, and why it’s a useful skill for all people to cultivate. Within this context, students are exposed to the power and limits of computational thinking. Students are introduced to entry-level programming constructs that help them apply their knowledge of computational thinking in practical ways. They learn how to read code and pseudocode as well as begin to develop strategies for debugging programs. By developing computational thinking and programming skills, students will have the core knowledge to define and solve problems in future computer science courses.

While this course would be beneficial for any student without formal training as a programmer or computer scientist, it is intended for those with no programming experience.

Computer Science & Engineering

Computer Science II: Analyzing Data with Python
In this course, students utilize the Python programming language to read, analyze, and visualize data. The course emphasizes using real-world datasets, which are often large, messy, and inconsistent. Because of the powerful data structures and clear syntax of Python, it is one of the most widely used programming languages in scientific computing.

Students explore the multitude of practical applications of Python in fields like biology, engineering, and statistics.

Prerequisite: Computer Science I: Computational Thinking or its equivalent

Computer Science II: Java
This course teaches students how to write programs in the Java programming language. Java is the backbone of many web applications, especially eCommerce and government sites. It is also the foundational code of the Android operating system and many tools of the financial sector.

Students learn the major syntactical elements of the Java language through object-oriented design. The emphasis in the course is on creating intelligent systems through the fundamentals of Computer Science. Students write working programs through short lab assignments and more extended projects that incorporate graphics and animation.

Prerequisite: Computer Science I: Computational Thinking or its equivalent

Creative Nonfiction Writing
Tell your own stories and the stories of the world around you! This course centers on the art of shaping real experiences into powerful narratives while growing foundational writing skills. Participants read, examine, and write diverse works of creative nonfiction including personal narratives, podcasts, opinion editorials, profile pieces, and more.

Emphasizing process over product, this writing workshop provides opportunities to create in new ways. Students practice essential craft elements (e.g., voice, style, structure) while reflecting on stories from their own lives, communities, and interests. They also build a personalized library of inspiring mentor texts, consider opportunities for publication, and develop sustainable writing habits.

Both in real–time video chats and online discussion spaces, students support one another intentionally. Feedback is an essential component of this course, and students gain experience in the workshop model, actively participating in a thriving, global writing community. Creative nonfiction has never been as popular as it is today; participants experience its relevance in their own lives as they collaboratively explore this dynamic genre.

Art, Media & Design

Cybersecurity
Cyber criminals leverage technology and human behavior to attack our online security. This course explores the fundamentals of and vulnerabilities in the design of computers, networks, and the internet. Course content includes the basics of computer components, connectivity, virtualization, and hardening.

Students learn about network design, Domain Name Services, and TCP/IP. They will understand switching, routing, and access control for internet devices, and how denial of service, spoofing, and flood attacks work. Basic programming introduced in the course will inform hashing strategies, while an introduction to ciphers and cryptography will show how shared–key encryption works for HTTPS and TLS traffic.

Students also explore the fundamentals of data forensics and incident response protocols. The course includes analysis of current threats and best–practice modeling for cyber defense, including password complexity, security, management, breach analysis, and hash cracking.

Computational thinking and programming skills developed in this course will help students solve a variety of cybersecurity issues.

There is no computer science prerequisite for this course, though students with some background will certainly find avenues to flex their knowledge.
Digital Photography:
In an era where everyone has become a photographer obsessed with documenting most aspects of life, we swim in a sea of images posted on Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Pinterest, and other digital media. To that end, why is learning how to use a digital camera important and what does taking a powerful and persuasive photo with a 35mm digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera require?

Digital Photography explores this question in a variety of ways, beginning with the technical aspects of using and taking advantage of a powerful camera and then moving to a host of creative questions and opportunities. Technical topics such as aperture, shutter, white balance, and resolution get ample coverage in the first half of the course, yet each is pursued with the goal of enabling students to leverage the possibilities that come with manual image capture. Once confident about technical basics, students apply their skills when pursuing creative questions such as how to understand and use light, how to consider composition, and how to take compelling portraits.

Throughout the course, students tackle projects that enable sharing their local and diverse settings, ideally creating global perspectives through doing so. Additionally, students interact with each other often through critique sessions and collaborative exploration of the work of many noteworthy professional photographers whose images serve to inspire and suggest the diverse ways that photography tells visual stories.

Prerequisite: Students must have daily access to a DSLR camera.

Art, Media & Design

Fiction Writing
This course connects students interested in creative writing (primarily short fiction) and provides a space for supportive and constructive feedback. Students gain experience in the workshop model, learning how to effectively critique and discuss one another’s writing in an online environment. In addition to developing skills as readers within a workshop setting, students strive to develop their own writing identities through a variety of exercises.

The course capitalizes on the geographic diversity of the students by eliciting stories that shed light on both the commonalities and differences of life experiences in different locations. Additionally, students read and discuss the work of authors from around the globe.

Students’ essential responsibilities are twofold: to engage in the class as readers and writers and to focus on their development as readers and writers. Both require participation in discussions of various formats within the course’s online community, as well as dedicated time outside of class reading and providing feedback on one another’s work as well as writing original pieces for the workshop.

Prerequisite: A strong background in Algebra 1 or its equivalent

Health Sciences
In this course, students take a comprehensive look at multiple factors that influence our bodies over a lifetime to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Students gain physical literacy by identifying, applying, analyzing, and evaluating components of fitness, exercise (FITT) principles, principles of training, phases of movement, and athletic performance.

Students set personal improvement goals for both fitness and movement skills utilizing baseline testing and performance analysis. Each week students complete a variety of physical exercises to target specific areas of fitness and movement to assist in achieving their goals. Reflection and feedback will inform students regarding their improvement.

The course culminates in a student-led project where students explore, synthesize, and implement an exercise- or sport-specific topic that directly impacts their lives. Topics of exploration include but are not limited to: nutrition in sport, exercise psychology or mental health in sport, sport exploration for the lifetime, exercise science or sport-specific performance and biomechanics, careers in sport, and community-based improvement design and implementation.

Global Studies; Justice, Ethics & Human Rights

Geometry
This intensive summer course is designed to provide an accelerated path through the traditional high school geometry curriculum. Focusing on Euclidian geometry, students examine topics relating to parallel lines, similar and congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles.

Students can expect to analyze lengths, areas, and volumes of two- and three-dimensional figures and explore transformations and other manipulations. Particular attention is paid to introductory trigonometry with right triangles and the study of circles (radians, sectors, arc length, etc). In addition, the development of a mature, logical thought process will begin through a formal introduction to arguments, deductions, theorems, and proofs.

Because this course covers topics that are typically presented in a yearlong course, students should expect to dedicate 15–20 hours per week during the intensive seven-week summer session.

Prerequisite: A strong background in Algebra 1 or its equivalent

Health Sciences
In this course, students take a comprehensive look at multiple factors that influence our bodies over a lifetime to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Students gain physical literacy by identifying, applying, analyzing, and evaluating components of fitness, exercise (FITT) principles, principles of training, phases of movement, and athletic performance.

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How to Argue Well
This course, which teaches critical-thinking skills through argument mapping, offers students the opportunity to make a significant intellectual leap and improve not only their performance in school but also their ability to engage in productive arguments.

When your teachers push you to “be more specific” or ask, “Where is your evidence?” or say you need more “analysis,” they are highlighting your need to improve your critical-thinking skills. Research has measured argument mapping as being a more effective learning tool than a semester at college when it comes to developing these skills, and it is this skill set that best predicts one’s performance in school and one’s performance on standardized tests, as well.

Further, bad arguments are what give arguments a bad name. We live in a world of polarized communications where name-calling, emotion, and blurred lines between fact and fiction result in arguments based on extreme opinions that eclipse reason. The problem is not that we are arguing: the problem is that we do not know how to engage in arguments using logic and reasoning. These skills — the bedrock of critical thinking — give people the ability to argue thoughtfully and effectively. Good arguments are illuminating, generative, and compelling.

This course teaches students how to master and deploy critical-thinking skills to think independently; improve academic performance across disciplines; create, assess, and engage thoughtfully in arguments; and successfully forge community in the process.

Introduction to Legal Thinking
Inspired by GOA’s popular Medical Problem Solving series, this course uses a case-based approach to give students a practical look into the professional lives of lawyers and legal thinking. By studying and debating a series of real legal cases, students sharpen their ability to think like lawyers who research, write, and speak persuasively.

The course focuses on problems that lawyers encounter in daily practice, and on the rules of professional conduct case law. In addition to practicing writing legal briefs, advising fictional clients, and preparing opening and closing statements for trial, students approach such questions as the law and equity, the concept of justice, jurisprudence, and legal ethics.

International Relations
Are China and the U.S. on a collision course for war? Can the Israelis and Palestinians find a two-state solution in the holy land? Will North Korea launch a nuclear weapon? Can India and Pakistan share the subcontinent in peace? These questions dominate global headlines and our daily news feeds.

In this course, students go beyond soundbites and menacing headlines to explore the context, causes, and consequences of the most pressing global issues of our time. Through case studies, students explore the dynamics of international relations and the complex interplay of war and peace, conflict and cooperation, and security and human rights. Working with classmates from around the world, students also identify and model ways to prevent, mediate, and resolve some of the most pressing global conflicts.

Investing I
This course is a prerequisite to Investing II at GOA. In this course, students simulate the work of investors by working with the tools, theories, and decision-making practices that define smart investment. Students explore concepts in finance and apply them to investment decisions in three primary contexts: portfolio management, venture capital, and social investing.

After an introduction to theories about valuation and risk management, students simulate scenarios in which they must make decisions to grow an investment portfolio. They manage investments in stocks, bonds, and options to learn a range of strategies for increasing the value of their portfolios. In the second unit, students take the perspective of venture capital investors, analyzing startup companies and predicting their value before they become public. In the third unit, students examine case studies of investment funds that apply the tools of finance to power social change.

Throughout the course, students learn from experts who have experience in identifying value and managing risk to argue thoughtfully and effectively. Good arguments are illuminating, generative, and compelling.
in global markets. They develop their own ideas about methods for weighing financial risks and benefits and leave this course not just with a simulated portfolio of investments, but the skills necessary to manage portfolios in the future.

↑ Business, Economics & Finance

Medical Problem Solving I
This course is a prerequisite to Medical Problem Solving II at GOA. In this course, students collaboratively solve medical mystery cases, similar to the approach used in many medical schools. Students enhance their critical-thinking skills as they examine data, draw conclusions, diagnose, and identify appropriate treatment for patients.

Students use problem-solving techniques in order to understand and appreciate relevant medical/biological facts as they confront the principles and practices of medicine. Students explore anatomy and physiology pertaining to medical scenarios and gain an understanding of the disease process, demographics of disease, and pharmacology. Additional learning experiences include studying current issues in health and medicine, interviewing a patient, and creating a new mystery case.

↑ Health Sciences

Microeconomics
In this course, students learn about how consumers and producers interact to form a market and then how and why the government may intervene in that market. Students deepen their understanding of basic microeconomic theory through class discussion and debate, problem solving, and written reflection.

Students visit a local production site and write a report using the market principles they have learned. Economic ways of thinking about the world help them better understand their roles as consumers and workers, and someday, as voters and producers.

↑ Business, Economics & Finance

Personal Finance
In this course, students learn financial responsibility and social consciousness. They examine a wide array of topics including personal budgeting, credit cards and credit scores, career and earning potential, insurance, real estate, financial investment, retirement savings, charitable giving, taxes, and other items related to personal finance.

Students apply their understanding of these topics by simulating real-life financial circumstances and weighing the costs and benefits of their decisions. Throughout the course, students have the opportunity to learn from individuals with varying perspectives and expertise in numerous fields. By reflecting on their roles in the broader economy as both producers and consumers, students begin to consider how they can positively impact the world around them through their financial decisions.

↑ Business, Economics & Finance

Precalculus
In this intensive summer course, students deepen and apply their understanding of mathematics in order to be prepared for higher-level courses. The emphasis is on understanding functions, including transformations, domain/range, and visual representations. In addition, students deepen their understanding of the concept of equivalence through numerical, graphical, and algebraic representations. This includes developing fluency with algebraic manipulation.

Much of the work involves problem solving and the application of previous and current skills to new situations. Projects include opportunities to apply topics such as polynomials, matrices, trigonometry, and sequences and series to real-world scenarios. Students analyze situations, create models, develop solutions to problems, and then reflect on this work. The course culminates in a project that provides students a chance to explore a situation and bring to bear the skills they have learned to analyze it and present their understanding of the situation.

This course is intended for students who are looking to accelerate through a Precalculus course and, as such, concepts and topics are presented quickly allowing for time to apply the skills to novel situations. This course replicates what is typically a yearlong course, so students should expect to dedicate 15–20 hours per week during the seven-week summer session.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or its equivalent
Problem Solving with Engineering & Design
This course investigates various topics in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics using a series of projects and problems that are both meaningful and relevant to the students’ lives. Students develop engineering skills, including design principles, modeling, and presentations, using a variety of computer hardware and software applications to complete assignments and projects.

This is a course that focuses on practical applications of science and mathematics to solve real-world issues. Project-based learning, working in collaborative teams, and designing prototypes are essential components of the course. Throughout the program, students step into the varied roles engineers play in our society, solve problems in their homes and communities, discover new career paths and possibilities, and develop engineering knowledge and skills.

There are no particular math or science prerequisites for this course, just an interest in using STEM to solve problems and a desire to learn!

↑ Computer Science & Engineering; Mathematics & Quantitative Reasoning

Religion & Society
Religion is one of the most salient forces in contemporary society but is also one of the most misunderstood. What exactly is religion? How does religious identity inform the ways humans understand themselves and the world around them? How can increased levels of religious literacy help us become more effective civic agents in the world today?

Students in this course conduct several deep dives into specific case studies in order to understand how religious identity intersects with various systems of power, including race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. By engaging with material from a variety of academic fields (history, sociology, anthropology, and psychology), students grapple with the complex ways in which society and religious identity relate to one another.

↑ Justice, Ethics & Human Rights

Spanish Language Through Culture I
This intensive summer course gives students with no prior exposure to Spanish the vocabulary, grammatical background, and communicative skills that they need to jump into Spanish 2 at their schools.

This course replicates what is typically a yearlong course, so students should expect to dedicate 15–20 hours per week during the seven–week summer session. Please note, this course is not recommended for those wanting a light introductory course to get a taste of Spanish before deciding if they want to study it further, nor for those wanting to get a jumpstart for a Spanish 1 course during the academic year.

In this course, students master greetings and introductions, question formation, describing daily routines, expressing likes and dislikes, describing familiar people and places, and other fundamental communicative functions. Students learn to communicate using common regular and irregular verbs in the present tense and the immediate future. Students also develop a broad-based vocabulary related to common settings including school and the classroom, home and family life, and others.
To see our full list of offerings and register, please visit:
https://globalonlineacademy.org/student-program/summer-courses