Mission

GOA imagines a future where all students acquire and practice modern learning skills to be global citizens.

The mission of Global Online Academy 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. We coach teachers to think differently about how they design student learning experiences. We work with educational leaders to ensure they have the strategies and tools to lead innovation and change.

About

Global Online Academy is a not-for-profit consortium of 70+ independent schools from around the world. Started by a group of independent schools looking to bring the benefits of online learning to their teachers and students, Global Online Academy prepares students for a global future by providing new, modern ways for students to learn and teachers to teach.

The schools that are members of Global Online Academy are well known for the strengths of their curricula and the excellence of their teaching.

Academic Program

Our program brings together experienced teachers and highly capable students in an interactive, rigorous learning environment. Our courses encourage the awakening of new interests and a passion for learning. Our classrooms bring together a variety of voices representing the geographic, cultural, and ethnic diversity possible in a global online environment.

Class size is limited to 20 students.

Curriculum

All GOA courses are developed and taught by teachers who work at one of our member schools.

Teachers create their own materials for classes and connect students to curated material gathered from a variety of sources. Just like in brick and mortar classrooms at our member schools, in GOA classrooms emphasis is on engagement, interaction, and collaboration among students and with the teacher. GOA classrooms are teacher-paced, meaning students are assigned work throughout the week rather than given assignments to complete over a large block of time. All classes contain both synchronous and asynchronous components, giving students the opportunity to connect in real time but also providing them with the flexibility to work when and how they would like.

Through their curricula, teachers aim to meet three main goals: to create and maintain meaningful relationships with, and among, students; to create opportunities for students to share their local and personal perspective on global issues; and for the work to be meaningful and rigorous.
Course List

9/11 in a Global Context
Abnormal Psychology
Advanced Topics in Economics
Advocacy
Applying Philosophy to Modern Global Issues
Arabic Language Through Culture I, II & III
Architecture
Bioethics
Climate Change and Global Inequality
Comparative Politics
Creative Nonfiction
Computer Science I: Computational Thinking
Computer Science II: Analyzing Data with Python
Computer Science II: Game Design and Development
Computer Science II: Java
Digital Photography
Entrepreneurship in a Global Context
Fiction Writing
Filmmaking
Game Theory
Gender Studies
Genocide and Human Rights
Global Health
Graphic Design
Introduction to Investments
Introduction to Psychology
iOS App Design
Japanese Language Through Culture I & II
Linear Algebra
Macroeconomics
Medical Problem Solving I & II
Microeconomics
Multivariable Calculus
Music Theory and Digital Composition
Neuropsychology
Number Theory
Poetry Writing
Positive Psychology
Prisons and the Criminal Law
Social Psychology

Student Experience

The core demand of modern learning is that students learn how to navigate an increasingly complex, networked society. In a GOA class, students practice and hone modern skills in practical, hands-on ways.

In GOA courses students practice and master six core competencies to become modern learners:

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

By participating in learning experiences that are interactive, generative, and personalized, GOA’s students and teachers develop the skills necessary to become modern learners who can leverage online environments to connect with people, places, and resources beyond their school communities.

Faculty

All Global Online Academy faculty teach at a GOA member school and are nominated by their head of school to be considered to teach in the GOA program.

Our skilled teachers guide and support GOA students throughout the learning process. Teachers offer ongoing feedback, ask engaging questions, seek to challenge student assumptions, and facilitate discussions. Teachers give each student one-on-one attention and are prepared to respond effectively to the needs of the individual student learner.

GOA faculty seek to preserve in modern online pedagogies a central and highly valued core component of their experience in traditional independent school classrooms: the transformative connections they can make with students. They embrace and seek to demonstrate the creative collaboration, networked learning communities, online skills development, and global connections made possible through the online environment.

Credit

All GOA courses are taken for credit, which is granted from a student’s member school. GOA courses are typically taken as part of a student’s normal course load, as the requirements are the same for any advanced level course a student might take on his/her campus. GOA courses are usually taken in place of a regular academic or elective course.

Each semester includes 14 weeks of coursework. Students are expected to commit an average of 5-7 hours each week to these courses.

Accreditation

GOA is accredited by New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).