

Adult Education Program (Evenings) Program Coordinator,
Erika Vazquez at 651-222-0757 ext. 303 or evazquez@gapschool.org

GAP's Adult Education Program is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15 – 8:45 pm and on Saturday mornings from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Student educational levels range anywhere from no formal education to college graduate; however, the majority of students have only completed junior or senior high school.

Most of our students are Mexican and Latin American immigrants who work long hours and often multiple jobs, yet still come to school on their own initiative to learn English. GAP adult students are generally not social service recipients so they are not mandated by state or local requirements to attend class. They have many barriers and few incentives, outside personal initiative, to attend school and a very limited support system to rely on to help them maintain consistent attendance. Despite these barriers, the determination and hard work of our students makes them successful.

The adult evening program volunteers at GAP are very dedicated and come from a wide variety of backgrounds, professions and life experiences. They give their precious time and talent to our students to help them progress in their goal of learning English. Many of our volunteers have been with our adult program for several semesters and some for several years. Some have taken college level ESL teaching courses to improve their skills as tutors and have even gone on to a career in teaching English as a second language. One of our quality assurances to the Department of Education is that our volunteer teachers are trained by the [Minnesota Literacy Council \(MLC\)](#). All lesson plans are prepared in advance of each class by our Program Coordinator, Erika Vazquez and reviewed with the volunteer teacher before class. Teachers are free to work with the materials and teach the lesson plans according to their own discretion.

ESL Curriculum Overview

Teachers work with students in all class levels on Listening, speaking/Communication, Reading, Writing, Grammar and Life Skills. We have special classes that focus on literature and writing composition on an advanced level.

The curriculum is directly linked to the CASAS competencies provided by the State of Minnesota. Each student is pre-tested and post- tested and individual lesson plans are designed for each class based on the CASAS Class Profile by Competency scoring scale so that the areas of the greatest need receive the most focus at the individual class level.

Community Partnerships

GAP has built strong partnerships and relationships that give rewarding payoffs in experiences for volunteer teachers and students.



[Macalester College](#)

For more than 10 years GAP has had the privilege of working with Macalester College students as volunteers in GAP's Adult Education Program. Thanks to the Civic Engagement Center at Macalester College, GAP benefits from the efforts of between 6 and 10 volunteers that teach throughout two semester on Thursday nights and Saturday mornings.

[Sojourner Truth Academy in Minneapolis](#)

is a K-6 public charter elementary school in North Minneapolis with proven academic and fiscal records. Established by parents and community members in 1999, they continue to offer their students a data driven, balanced curriculum with a highly qualified staff that is supported through the Teacher Advancement Program. Their student population of 269 is 24% Hispanic and 75% African American with less than 2% Caucasian and Native American students. Twenty-three percent do not speak English as their primary language. Over 90% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch benefits. GAP is able to offer English classes, Saturdays 1:00 -3:30 p.m., at Sojourner Truth Academy.

[Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium \(SPCLC\)](#)

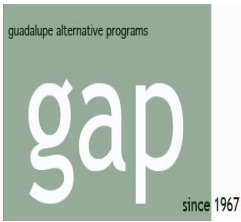
GAP is a member of the SPCLC. This relationship helps GAP maintain the quality, effectiveness and teacher availability for the adult education program. Also, SPCLC helps GAP ensure program accountability, advocacy and represents members in many public policy activities related to adult education services in Minnesota.

Community Impacts

The following are comments from some of our volunteers and students in their own words:

Tutor & Volunteer Teacher From 1998 to 2005 Curtis West.

"I had an excellent teaching experience during the fall quarter of 2005. As always, the students were eager and motivated learners. It was a pleasure to share a classroom with them. In addition, I appreciate the staff support given to myself as a volunteer tutor: Program staff helped me to prepare classes that are effective and interesting. Important administrative functions are always in place such attendance sheets, feedback reports, division of students by level, etc. Since these are in place I can concentrate solely on teaching. Postings informational seminars and support seminars are made available to me, which make it possible to improve my skills as an English as a Second Language (ESL) volunteer. I have participated in these programs sponsored by the Minnesota Literacy Council (MLC). Lastly, having volunteered now for several years, I have had the opportunity to see for myself that the program does work. Beginning students who were shy and awkward learners when they first began now have command of English that allows them to converse freely and easily and negotiate a wide variety of life situations with confidence. I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve as a volunteer ESL tutor at the Guadalupe Alternative Programs once again this coming winter."



Macalester Graduate -Volunteer Teacher From 2001 to 2003-Emily Sauer,

"I have really enjoyed volunteering at GAP for the past few years. My experiences in the ESL program have been eye opening, enlightening and just plain fun! My experience working as an ESL tutor with GAP has also given me direction for my future career plans and I am currently completing a course in TESOL certification. I doubt I would have become interested in the field if not for the work I have done with GAP."

Dave Swanson Volunteer Teacher Since January, 2007.

"Teaching ESL at GAP turned to be a wonderful experience and I feel that I learned as much from the students as they learned from me. The students were enthusiastic and have a great desire to learn to read, write and speak English. All of the students were very hard working and come to class with a very positive attitude. I like the ESL program at GAP because it provides a needed service to this community. This program seems to be run very well and is a successful asset in the West Side community."

Student since 2006- Benedicto

"The English classes have helped me a lot. When I came for the first time to GAP I could not speak, read or write English. Thank you volunteer teachers."

Thanks to the English classes we can now understand orders from managers, can have conversations in English, can answer calls, understand ads, responds to need to speak English to work and to buy food, can go to the store and ask for things, it is easier to ask for help, English is essential to job, can watch news and understand some. Better relationship with boss and can do job better.

Student since 2007-Profirio

"The English classes have helped me to learn more grammar and to express myself a little better when using the English language. Now, I can communicate my ideas better when speaking with people who do not speak Spanish. Thanks to the book I am reading in class, I am learning new vocabulary and improving my reading skills and pronunciation."

GAP is always looking for dedicated and caring volunteers. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a teacher for GAP's Adult Education program please contact our Program Coordinator, Erika Vazquez at 651-222-0757 ext. 303 or evazquez@gapschool.org