

Special Education Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Kelsey and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's Master of Education in Special Education. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish this program.

Let's start by explaining to you what this program entails. The Master of Education in Special Education prepares teachers to work effectively with students in a variety of educational settings, opening up a number of career opportunities for professional educators. This is a 33 credit hour program and can be completed in 2 years as a full-time student or 3-4 years as a part-time student.

The career outlook for special education teachers in the state of Michigan and across the country is very positive. According to the US Department of Education Office the state of Michigan as well as much of the United States is experiencing a teacher shortage in all categories of special education teacher positions. In addition, employment in this field is expected to grow 6% by the year 2024.

Standard Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. Your application must include official transcripts, and if English is not your native language you must provide scores from one of our approved standardized tests such as the TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

In addition, this program requires that candidates have a grade point average of 3.0 or better for the last 60 credits of undergraduate coursework and submit three professional or academic recommendations. A prior master's degree from a regionally accredited institution can be accepted in lieu of the minimum grade point average. If an individual does not possess the minimum grade point average or a prior master's degree they may submit their scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) which must be a minimum 282 verbal and quantitative combined score and a 3.5 analytical writing score.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Special Education website, www.gvsu.edu/grad/specialed/.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The Master of Education in Special Education program at GVSU is a 33 credit hour program. This program features three different emphasis areas: cognitive impairment, emotional impairment, and learning disabilities. Each emphasis requires that students complete a 3 credit hour social foundations course, a 3 credit hour research foundations course, a 3 credit hour capstone, and anywhere from 9 to 21 credit hours of emphasis related courses. For those who do not hold a special education endorsement, a 3 credit special education foundations course and a 3 credit

elective course will also be required. For a complete listing of all courses, please visit www.gvsu.edu/grad/specialed/.

The Master of Education in Special Education program is distinguished for a number of reasons. GVSU's College of Education is accredited and adheres to the standards set by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. This program also receives national recognition from the Council for Exceptional Children. Faculty in this program are leaders in the field and are very involved in advising, program planning, and assisting students with field placements. Classes are offered in the evening, weekend, and summer semester as well as online, making it easier for teachers and administrators to plan their schedules.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Education in Special Education graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a graduate program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Special Education Program Coordinator, Amy Schelling at schellia@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.