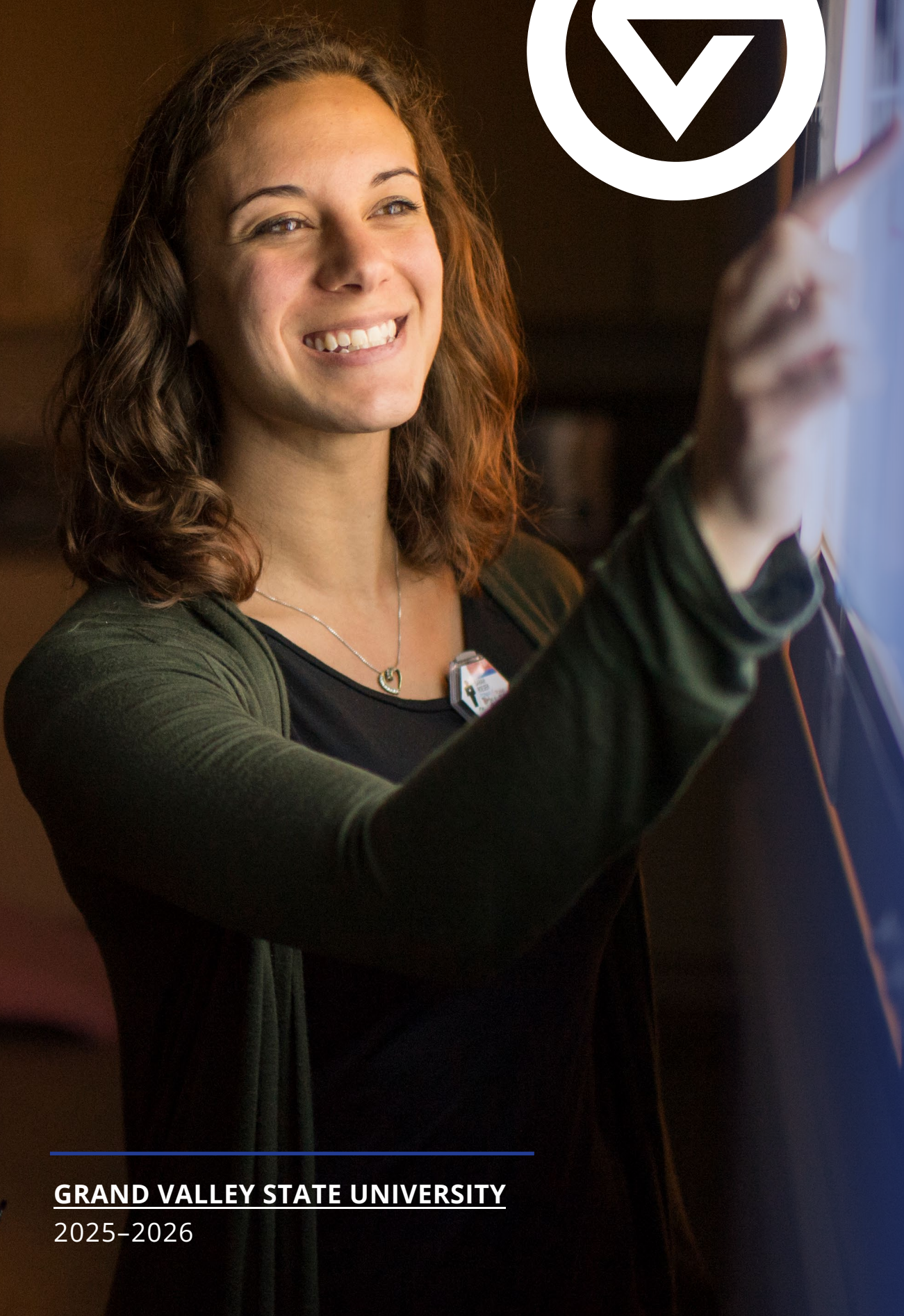




COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS



GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
2025-2026

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

Changes and advancements in health and healthcare not only affect the way we work and live, but also the quality of life for everyone. This is why employers look to GVSU for prepared health professionals who want to make a difference. Our approach is simple. We offer industry-relevant programming that combines practical coursework, experiential learning opportunities, and state-of-the-art facilities on our Health Campus, located in the heart of West Michigan's Medical Mile.

96%

OF GRADUATES
HAVE A JOB OR
ARE CONTINUING
THEIR EDUCATION
WITHIN SIX
MONTHS OF
GRADUATING



20+

DEGREE
PROGRAMS



90+

FACULTY
& STAFF



1,900+

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS



455+

GRADUATE
STUDENTS

STUDENT SERVICES

The College of Health Professions Student Services Office provides academic advising, admissions, and other student services to undergraduate and graduate students in support of their academic, professional, and personal development on campus and within the greater community.

Both current and prospective students can make an appointment with a professional academic advisor to help them find their passion program at GVSU.

CAREER CENTER

The GVSU Career Center offers career consultations, a drop-in Career Lab, mock interviews, and an exclusive Healthcare Career Community, where students can get connected to internships and future employers. They also provide opportunities to meet with employers on campus, helping students make real world connections early.



THREE PREMIUM FACILITIES. ONE UNBEATABLE LOCATION.

Our Health Campus is strategically located on the Medical Mile in Grand Rapids, creating a hub of healthcare innovation and collaboration. The Medical Mile is a critical part of West Michigan's health network, housing numerous hospitals, research centers, and medical institutions. This prime location provides GVSU students with unparalleled access to cutting-edge facilities, diverse clinical experiences, and opportunities to engage with leading health and healthcare professionals, making it an ideal environment for aspiring leaders in the health professions.



The Daniel and Pamella DeVos Center for
Interprofessional Health



The Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences



Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING



BIOMECHANICS AND MOTOR PERFORMANCE LABORATORY

The Biomechanics and Motor Performance Laboratory (BMPL) is a multipurpose teaching and research space equipped with state-of-the-art hardware and software. Students and faculty use the lab to study strength, movement, muscle activity, and both dynamic and static balance.



MODEL LIVING SUITE

The Model Living Suite is designed to resemble a residential home, complete with a kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, living room, and dining room. This lab allows students to practice conducting home visits and supporting patients in maintaining independence in their own surroundings.



HOSPITAL SIMULATION SUITE

The Hospital Simulation Suite offers realistic patient care experiences through high-, medium-, and low-fidelity simulators. With an ICU room, nine medical-surgical rooms, and a maternity suite, the space provides students with opportunities to practice lifelike clinical scenarios in a safe, controlled environment.



INTERPROFESSIONAL SIMULATION CENTER

Located on Grand Valley State University's Health Campus in downtown Grand Rapids, the GVSU Simulation Center is a state-of-the-art, 67,828 square foot facility for students, faculty, health professionals, and researchers dedicated to skill acquisition, patient safety, and interprofessional collaboration.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCE

Open the door to countless healthcare careers with a degree you can tailor to your goals and passions. Courses in biology, statistics, medical terminology, healthcare management, and health ethics provide a solid foundation, while six emphases (General, Health Degree Completion, Histotechnology, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Physician Assistant, and Social Science) allow you to customize your path. At GVSU, you will graduate prepared for graduate school, advanced clinical programs, or non-clinical roles in the healthcare field.

APPLIED FOOD AND NUTRITION*

Turn your passion for food and health into a career that makes a lasting impact. You will study anatomy, biology, chemistry, medical nutrition therapy, food service management, and nutrition counseling, building knowledge to support healthy communities. This program emphasizes hands-on work in our state-of-the-art culinary laboratories and the GVSU Sustainable Agriculture Project farm.

COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS*

Help individuals find their voice by combining science, communication, and compassionate care. Courses explore audiologic rehabilitation, speech and hearing anatomy, and disorders of articulation and phonology, paired with real-world observation and practice. GVSU's program gives you a competitive edge for graduate study in speech-language pathology, audiology, and related fields.

HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGEMENT*

Transform your precision and problem-solving skills into a career safeguarding health data. You will study medical coding, electronic health records, data analytics, and healthcare law while applying your skills through professional fieldwork. As Michigan's only baccalaureate HIM program with an integrated Health Care Information Systems minor, GVSU offers unmatched preparation for certification and career advancement.



MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE*

Bring your curiosity and commitment to accuracy into the lab with a degree in Medical Laboratory Science. Courses cover clinical microbiology, hematology, transfusion medicine, molecular diagnostics, and clinical chemistry, supported by hands-on rotations at affiliate hospitals. Small class sizes and a tight-knit cohort experience make GVSU's program stand out.

RADIATION THERAPY*

Play a pivotal role in cancer care as a skilled radiation therapist. Courses cover radiation biology, therapy physics, dosimetry, and image guidance, all paired with hands-on hospital placements. At GVSU, students rotate through at least three clinical facilities, gaining broad exposure to cutting-edge treatment technologies.

RECREATIONAL THERAPY*

Design and deliver therapeutic activities that promote physical, emotional, and social well-being for people with disabilities or chronic conditions. Courses include program design, assessment and documentation, and intervention strategies in recreational therapy. GVSU's nationally recognized program features a dedicated recreational therapy classroom and lab space, including an adventure therapy course and adaptive sports facilities.

RESPIRATORY CARE*

Step into a high-demand field assessing, diagnosing, and treating patients with respiratory and cardiopulmonary disorders. In this program, you will study anatomy, cardiopulmonary pharmacology, and advanced respiratory care techniques while completing extensive clinical rotations. With flexible online options and an exceptional record on national certification exams, GVSU graduates are ready to excel in hospitals, clinics, and beyond.

SONOGRAPHY*

Master the art and science of medical imaging in Michigan's only baccalaureate-level sonography program. Learn from practicing sonographers as you study physiology, pathophysiology, and specialties such as abdominal and obstetric-gynecologic sonography. At GVSU, students can major in Diagnostic Medical or Cardiovascular Sonography, gaining clinical experience at the forefront of patient care.

** Secondary admission required*

UNDERGRADUATE TESTIMONIALS



**BRIYANNA
ARMOUR**
(she/her)
Class of 2026

Why did you choose this program?
I chose GVSU's Health Information Management (HIM) program because of the wide range of career opportunities offered within the field and the flexibility that the program's online format offers. A career in HIM will allow me to work behind the scenes in healthcare, combining clinical knowledge with data, technology, and organization. The program truly prepares students for success in all areas of HIM, while fostering a powerful sense of community and professional growth.

Favorite class or experience?
My favorite classes so far have been HIM 361 and 362. These classes cover all aspects of coding for ICD-10-CM and ICD-10-PCS. Initially, I was intimidated by the reputation of these classes, known for being challenging with a heavy workload. However, they have turned out to be the classes I look forward to the most because they allow me to apply the foundational knowledge I've developed throughout the program.

Any advice for future students in their program?
My greatest piece of advice to students is to use your resources! Seriously, one of the best things about the HIM program is the incredible amount of support and resources that the professors provide. However, it is up to you to take advantage of those things. Do not be afraid to ask questions. The professors genuinely want you to succeed. Likewise, keep an open mind. As I mentioned before, HIM is a vast and rapidly growing field. You might discover areas of HIM that you never previously considered and find great joy and success within it.



ASHLEY GREENE,
BSRT, RRT-ACCS
(she/her)
Class of 2024
Respiratory Therapist
Intermediate, University
of Michigan Health
Adult Hospital

Why did you choose this program?
I chose the BSRT pathway after I had been working as a Respiratory Therapist for 6 years. I love the impact we are able to make in our patients' lives and the value we provide to the interdisciplinary team! I specifically decided to go through Grand Valley State University because of my previous experience with Dr. Ann Flint. She was previously the director of the Associates Respiratory Therapy program I attended, and I felt very prepared to enter my field and have been successful thus far!

Favorite class or experience?
During this program, I loved how we worked on multiple systematic review papers which allowed us to dive deeper into the research and data that supports Respiratory Therapy protocols, policies, and procedures. We, as a cohort, were able to select specific topics relevant to our current situations, which added a personal touch to the content!

What skills or knowledge did you gain at GVSU?
The BSRT program helped further ingrain my knowledge in respiratory therapy while also teaching me to evaluate research for validity and applicability. I was also able to expand my network to include the wonderful women in my cohort, expanding on my teamwork, communication, and organizational skills. After graduating with this degree, I am more confident in how I communicate as an interdisciplinary team member and am able to serve as a resource and mentor for the upcoming generation of Respiratory Therapists.



ERICA VAZQUEZ
(she/her)
Class of 2025
Recreational Therapist,
Bethany Christian
Services

Why did you choose this program?
I chose recreational therapy because I've always believed in the healing power of meaningful activity. I've seen how recreation—whether it's art, music, sports, or outdoor experiences—can uplift people, restore confidence, and improve both mental and physical well-being. I wanted a career where I could combine creativity, compassion, and clinical knowledge to help others live fuller, more satisfying lives. Recreational therapy allows me to make a direct impact, not just by treating illness holistically but by enhancing quality of life. It's rewarding to be part of someone's journey toward recovery and independence using tools that bring joy and purpose. What stood out to me about recreational therapy is its focus on using strengths—not just treating limitations. It's about helping people rediscover their abilities, build confidence, and find purpose through recreation.

What skills or knowledge did you gain at GVSU?
One of the most valuable skills I've developed is communication—learning how to connect with clients of all ages and abilities, listen actively, and build therapeutic relationships based on trust and empathy. I've also strengthened my ability to assess individual needs, create personalized treatment plans, and adapt recreational activities to meet physical, emotional, cognitive, and social goals. Time management, teamwork, documentation, and leadership have also become essential parts of my professional toolkit.



**LOREAN
YEOMANS**
(she/her)
Class of 2025

Why did you choose this program?
I wanted a program that would prepare me for graduate studies, and AHS did that and more by providing valuable knowledge on topics such as health insurance and the inner workings of the healthcare system. I also appreciated the curriculum's emphasis on real-world application and collaboration within interdisciplinary healthcare teams. Being surrounded by classmates with diverse career goals challenged me to grow as a communicator, building several skills I will continue to practice in my future as a healthcare provider.

Favorite class or experience?
My favorite class was the elective AHS 352: Introduction to Holistic Health Care. I enjoyed learning about alternative approaches to wellness. AHS 352 not only shared how alternative approaches could be integrated within traditional treatments to help my future patients achieve healthier, more balanced lifestyles.

Any advice for future students in their program?
Build strong connections with your classmates and professors, as they will support you throughout the program and may become lifelong colleagues and mentors. Be open to hearing different perspectives, as they will challenge you and make you a better provider. Everyone brings unique strengths and experiences to the table, and some of the best insights come from learning together. Above all, remember that no matter what you're studying, real people will benefit from your hard work and dedication because "one day" will eventually become "day one".

FINISH FASTER WITH A COMBINED DEGREE

Grand Valley State University's combined degree programs offer students the opportunity to complete an undergraduate and graduate degree concurrently, meeting their unique personal, academic, and career goals. Pursuing a combined degree can reduce the cost and total time required to complete both.

Student-Initiated Combined Degrees Available

Allied Health Sciences (B.S.) +
Public Health (M.P.H.)

Applied Food & Nutrition (B.S.) +
Clinical Dietetics (M.S.)

Exercise Science (B.S.) +
Athletic Training (M.A.T.)

Exercise Science (B.S.) +
Public Health (M.P.H.)

Occupational Therapy (M.S.) +
Doctor of Occupational Therapy (Dr.O.T.)

Recreational Therapy (B.S.) +
Recreational Therapy (M.S.)

RESEARCH PROJECTS WITH IMPACT

ALE BRENES AND SAWYER CRUM
Undergraduate Students

Brenes, an allied health sciences major, and Crum, a clinical exercise science major, are collaborating on a clinical trial under the guidance of physical therapy faculty member Dr. Lisa Kenyon. The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, aims to help children with cerebral palsy become comfortable using powered wheelchairs.

At GVSU, both undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to collaborate with faculty on research.





GRADUATE PROGRAMS

ATHLETIC TRAINING (M.A.T.) *

Join the healthcare team as a specialist in injury prevention, therapeutic intervention, and rehabilitation. Students will engage in coursework covering a range of essential areas, including prehospital care, general medical conditions, injury assessment, and therapeutic interventions. With exceptional Board of Certification pass rates and extensive real-world preparation, graduates are ready to excel in schools, professional sports, hospitals, and beyond.

AUDIOLOGY (Au.D.)

Help people of all ages protect, improve, and regain their hearing and balance. This program boasts unique coursework in pharmacology, tinnitus, and radiographic imaging, moving from in-house labs to full-time external clinical experiences. GVSU's accelerated three-year program offers strong preparation for national certification and state licensure.

CLINICAL DIETETICS (M.S.) *

Promote better health and improve patient outcomes as a registered dietitian. Courses include nutritional assessment, dietetic management, medical nutrition therapy, and patient care, blending theory with practical application. GVSU's hybrid format combines flexibility with hands-on experience in simulation and culinary labs, preparing graduates for the national registration exam and successful careers in nutrition and dietetics.

MEDICAL DOSIMETRY (M.S.)

Design the precise radiation treatment plans that help fight cancer. Courses cover computer technology, clinical disease processes, human anatomy, and radiation physics in a hybrid and online learning environment. As Michigan's only program and one of just six nationwide, it provides unmatched preparation for Certified Medical Dosimetrist (CMD certification).

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (M.S.O.T.)

Empower individuals to live more independently through therapeutic care. Prepare for entry-level practice with coursework in pediatrics, adult and older adult care, group therapy, mental health, and research, paired with fieldwork in hospitals, schools, and community agencies. Students can complete the program in a traditional two-year format or a three-year hybrid option designed for working professionals, both benefiting from GVSU's strong clinical partnerships across West Michigan.

POST-PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATE IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (Dr. O.T.)

Deliver high-quality, patient-centered care through advanced medical training. You will study anatomy, medical physiology, clinical problem solving, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and evidence-based medicine while engaging in interprofessional education. In addition to required clinical rotations, students complete eight weeks of elective rotations, either in the U.S. or abroad, allowing them to explore specialty areas and gain diverse experiences that prepare them for certification and impactful practice.

PHYSICAL THERAPY (D.P.T.)

Help people move better, recover faster, and live healthier lives. Courses include anatomy, neuroscience, cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, and neuromuscular physical therapy, plus pediatrics and geriatrics. GVSU's program offers collaborative research, expert faculty mentorship, high licensure pass rates, and a 100% employment rate for graduates.

** Programs available as combined degrees*

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES (M.P.A.S.)

Deliver high-quality, patient-centered care through advanced medical training. You will study anatomy, medical physiology, clinical problem solving, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and evidence-based medicine alongside interprofessional education. Students complete eight weeks of elective rotations, domestic or abroad, gaining diverse clinical experiences that prepare them for certification and impactful practice.

PUBLIC HEALTH (M.P.H.) *

Tackle pressing health challenges and create healthier communities. You will study policy, environmental health, epidemiology, and health disparities, gaining practical skills through community-based experiences. Students can choose concentrations in Health Promotion or Epidemiology.

RECREATIONAL THERAPY (M.S.R.T.) *

Expand your expertise in using therapeutic activities to improve health, independence, and quality of life. Courses include research methods, grant writing, and evidence-based practice, designed for Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists. As Michigan's only recreational therapy master's program, and the first advanced-practice program in the U.S. within a college of health professions, GVSU graduates are prepared to lead the field.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY (M.S.)

Help individuals communicate and thrive by assessing and treating speech, language, and swallowing disorders. Courses cover speech sound and fluency disorders, autism spectrum disorders, voice and resonance, feeding and swallowing, augmentative and alternative communication, and language development. At GVSU, every semester includes community-based clinical placements, ensuring consistent hands-on experience.

GRADUATE TESTIMONIALS



**EMILY
POKORSKI, MPH**
(she/her)
Class of 2022

Epidemiologist,
District Health Dept. #10

Why did you choose this program?

I've wanted to become an Epidemiologist since 8th or 9th grade. When I discovered that GVSU's Master of Public Health (MPH) program offered a concentration in Epidemiology and the opportunity to learn from experienced faculty, I knew it was the right fit for me.

Favorite class or experience?

My favorite class was the introduction to public health because we had the opportunity to work with community partners. However, Quantitative and Qualitative Data Analysis class was the most beneficial to my career.

What skills or knowledge did you gain at GVSU?

The main skill I gained was learning how to clean, analyze and interpret data. Currently, I work with primary and secondary data on a daily basis and these skills are essential.

Any advice for future students in their program?

My advice for future students is to get as much experience in and out of the classroom as possible. Seek out as many opportunities as you can; analyze focus group data for a professor, shadow at the health department, intern with nonprofit, etc.



JOE ROBINSON,
DPT, ATC
(he/him)
Class of 2016

Head Physical Therapist/
Assistant Athletic Trainer
Boston Bruins Hockey Club

Why did you choose this program?

I chose Grand Valley State University's Athletic Training and Doctor of Physical Therapy Programs because of the established culture set by those professors within the AT/DPT programs. The high standards of accountability from the students and knowledge from the professors created a learning environment that is hard to match. I knew that when I graduated from both programs, I would be prepared for the field. As an entry level clinician, I felt as though I had a higher level of foundational knowledge because of the rigors of these programs.

Favorite class or experience?

Orthopedic evaluation classes with Dr. Brian Hatzel, Spinal Manual Therapy with Dr. Corey Sobeck and Advanced Sports Elective with Dr. Barb Hoogenboom.

What skills or knowledge did you gain at GVSU?

Critical thinking, foundational knowledge and manual therapy.

Any advice for future students in their program?

Every opportunity has the potential to be life changing, no matter how big or small. Attack these opportunities every chance you get. A dream is a goal without a plan.



**DAVID
BUCHANAN**
(he/him)

B.S., Allied Health
Science **Class of 2024**

Physician Assistant
Program **Class of 2026**

Why did you choose this program?

Growing up in Jamaica, one of the memories that has never left me is caring for an elderly lady in my village who was both bedridden and blind. I was only ten years old, yet she entrusted me with her care. What made her extraordinary was not only her resilience, but also her past. She was a retired nurse with years of experience. Despite her condition, she patiently taught me how to take vital signs such as using a blood pressure cuff and check blood sugar with a glucometer. She poured a lot of wisdom into me during those years, and before she passed, she planted the seed of my passion for medicine. Looking back, I realize that she gave me my very first glimpse of what it means to care for others with knowledge, skill and compassion.

Sometime after I moved to Northern Michigan, during the COVID-19 pandemic, that seed began to grow again. I watched healthcare workers courageously show up day after day again and I learned for the first time about the PA profession. In Jamaica, the profession doesn't exist, so I had no idea what was a PA. However, through interacting with PAs and PA students, I began to perceive them as "modern clinicians" people who collaborate with physicians, nurses, physical therapist and other interprofessional team to deliver compassionate and effective care in various setting and specialty. "Within Jamaica its primary nurses and physicians who cared for patients". That idea lit a fire within me. I started to imagine how impactful the PA profession could be if it were introduced in Jamaica, where access to care is limited.



"If I could share one piece of advice with current and future students, it would be this: Believe in yourself! There will be challenges, there will be doubts but if you lack overall confidence, you are twice defeated. Hold on to your purpose, stay steady, and know that you have the power to make a real difference."

David Buchanan (Class of 2026)

My goal became not only to serve rural communities within Northern Michigan, but one day to bring the profession home where it could truly change lives.

Favorite class or experience?

Along this journey, I have been blessed with mentors who guided my steps. One of many is Jackie Abeyta who gave me a clear roadmap of the classes, volunteer hours and healthcare experiences I would need. As a husband, father and nontraditional student, having that structure kept me moving forward. The GVSU Traverse City Regional Center has been the perfect place to balance my responsibilities while still pursuing my goals. Some moments along the way have also shaped me deeply. One of my favorite classes was team building with Prof. Christine Allen, where I learned about different personality types, leadership, adaptability and conflict resolution. Those lessons were not mere academic but real-world skills that I will carry into patient care. That class also included a project supporting newly homed, once homeless individuals through the Goodwill Inn with welcome home baskets, which opened my eyes to the struggles many people face and reminded me why service matters.



COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®



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Grand Valley State University is committed to inclusion and equity, and strives to establish a climate that welcomes and affirms the contributions of all students and employees.

The University is guided by values for inclusiveness and community which are integral to our mission to educate students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies, and to enrich the community through excellent teaching, active scholarship, and public service.