



COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

2026 - 2027

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.

The College of Health Professions' 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.

97%

OF UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS ARE
EMPLOYED OR
CONTINUING THEIR
EDUCATION
WITHIN 6 MONTHS
OF GRADUATION



20+

DEGREE
PROGRAMS



120+

FACULTY
& STAFF



1,500+

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS



800+

GRADUATE
STUDENTS



STUDENT SERVICES

The [College of Health Professions \(CHP\) Student Services Office](#) provides academic advising, admissions, and other 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 for 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 nutrition 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 laboratory.

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 studies 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 radiation therapist. Courses cover anatomy, radiation biology, radiation therapy physics, medical dosimetry, and image guidance, all paired with hands-on hospital placements. At GVSU, you will 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, you will be 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, you can major in [Diagnostic Medical](#) or [Cardiovascular Sonography](#), gaining clinical experience at the forefront of patient care.

** Secondary application and admission required*

WHY CHOOSE GVSU?



Marlena Pinelli

(she/her)

Class of 2025

Medical
Laboratory Scientist,
Michigan Medicine



Sage Rogers

(she/her)

Class of 2024

Radiation Therapist
University of Michigan
Health, Sparrow

Why did you choose this program?

I was drawn to the Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) field because of our ability to help the physicians identify the cause of a disease, but also contribute to the diagnosis and treatments for patients. Grand Valley was my school of choice because of the many resources available within the program. The MLS professors are committed to the student success and prepare you well.

What experience in your program has been most meaningful to you, and why?

Of all of the memories in the MLS program, my most meaningful was what I learned and experienced during my internship. Being able to take what I learned in my classes and apply it to real world scenarios was rewarding.

What advice would you give to a student who is considering or just starting this program?

For anyone interested in the Medical Laboratory Science career, my advice would be to connect to current MLS students. We have a club called Laker Lab Science, where you will be able to learn more about the program, have opportunities to shadow a laboratory, and make friends along the way.

Why did you choose this program?

I was drawn to the healthcare field because I have always wanted to make a meaningful impact in people's lives, though I wasn't initially sure which career path was right for me. I researched careers that would offer both a fulfilling professional experience and a healthy work-life balance. During a meeting with an academic advisor at Grand Valley State University, I learned about Radiation Therapy. Once I understood the role and responsibilities, I knew it would be an excellent fit for me. It was only after beginning the program that I discovered GVSU offers one of the top Radiation Therapy programs in the country.

What experience in your program has been most meaningful to you, and why?

Throughout the program, my clinical experiences—shadowing therapists at various clinics across Michigan—provided invaluable hands-on training. By the time I graduated and passed my board exam, I felt confident and fully prepared to enter the field.

What are you doing now, and how did your program prepare you for this role?

I am currently a Radiation Therapist at the University of Michigan Health—Sparrow. My time in the program prepared me for this role, as I completed a clinical rotation at Sparrow and built strong professional relationships with the team, which ultimately helped me secure my position immediately after graduation.



Opening New Doors

Victoria Williams, Allied Health Sciences '26

College is more than a degree. For many students, their major and personal interests can seem very different, but can compliment one another. Allied Health Sciences is an undergraduate degree that can be tailored for a variety of careers in the health care field with specific academic emphases, whether you aim to enter the workforce directly or pursue further education in graduate and clinical programs. The flexibility of the degree can leave space for a variety of interesting pursuits, even local history.

Victoria Williams, an allied health science major, received support from the Kutsche Office Of Local History at GVSU to immerse herself in local, West Michigan history. Thanks to this support, Victoria was able to both focus on her studies and complete an internship with Grand Rapids Media Initiative and Film Incubator. There, she applied and built on the knowledge she was already gaining in the classroom: gathering and organizing data, conducting interviews, and improving critical thinking skills.

Victoria reflected on her experience, sharing her pride in her work and its impact on residents:

"I'm most proud of the positive impact we have had on the community by providing a platform for them to share their stories," she said. "Many people have offered their insights into the city's history, especially on the West Side. By sharing their stories, we aim to foster greater pride and identity among the residents."



Original story by Michele Coffill

FINISH FASTER WITH A COMBINED DEGREE

Grand Valley State University's combined degree programs offer you the opportunity to complete an undergraduate and graduate degree concurrently, meeting their unique personal, academic, and career goals faster.

Pursuing a combined degree can reduce the cost and total time required to complete both.

Ask about Student-Initiated Combined Degrees to build a custom pathway

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

**Allied Health Science (B.S.) +
Athletic Training (M.A.T.)**

**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

Ale, an allied health sciences major, and Sawyer, 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. You will engage in coursework covering a range of topics, including prehospital care, general medical conditions, injury assessment, and therapeutic interventions. With exceptional Board of Certification pass rates and extensive real-world preparation, you will graduate 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 you for the national registration exam and a successful career.

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. You 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 for applied fieldwork across Michigan.

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

Advance your clinical and leadership skills as an occupational therapist, and prepare for teaching roles in higher education with a post-professional doctorate. You will study occupational science, policy, advocacy, leadership, and education, and engage in individualized learning experiences. With a flexible structure and dedicated faculty support, graduates are prepared to lead in their field.

PHYSICAL THERAPY (D.P.T.)

Help people move better, recover faster, and live healthier lives. You will learn about neuroscience, pediatric and geriatric populations, as well as cardiopulmonary, musculoskeletal, and neuromuscular physical therapy. GVSU's program offers collaborative research, expert faculty mentorship, high licensure pass rates, and a 100% employment rate for graduates.

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

Deliver high-quality, patient-centered care through advanced medical training in Grand Rapids or Traverse City. You will study clinical problem solving, pathophysiology, pharmacotherapeutics, and evidence-based medicine alongside interprofessional education. Lecture courses are taught live and streamed, allowing for two-way interaction between students and faculty on both campuses.

PUBLIC HEALTH (M.P.H.) *

Tackle pressing health challenges and create healthier communities. You will study policy, environmental health, epidemiology, and health disparities in hybrid courses and gain practical skills through community-based experiences in Grand Rapids or Traverse City. You 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, for Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists. As Michigan's only recreational therapy master's program, GVSU prepares you to lead in your 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 a consistent hands-on experience.

GRADUATE TESTIMONIALS



Madison Adair
OTR/L (*she/her*)

Class of 2025
Occupational Therapist
Neurological and Physical
Abilitation Center Denver



Justen Knappe
Au.D. Candidate
(*he/him*)

Class of 2026
Future Audiologist

What skills or knowledge did you gain at GVSU?

I was drawn to the field of occupational therapy because of my passion for helping others and I found exactly what I was looking for. GVSU's OT Program stood out to me for its strong reputation, supportive faculty, and emphasis on hands-on, experiential learning.

Throughout the program, I gained a strong clinical foundation while also developing critical skills in collaboration, problem-solving, and therapeutic reasoning.

The most meaningful part of my experience was learning from faculty and engaging in fieldwork opportunities that consistently challenged me to grow both professionally and personally. The faculty are not only highly skilled professionals, but also exceptional mentors and people who are genuinely invested in their students' success.

How are you applying your degree today?

I am now working as a pediatric occupational therapist in Denver, Colorado where I apply the skills and knowledge I developed at GVSU every day.

Why did you choose this program?

My path to GVSU's Au.D. program started with a search for programs in reasonable proximity to my hometown in Northwest Ohio. Having lived on both coasts, I was seeking a place close to home. After visiting the program for the first time, I was struck by how much the audiology program felt like a supportive small community.

Coming from a small town and having grown up in tight-knit communities within the military, I immediately felt at home among this community of faculty and students. As a non-traditional student in my 30s with a small family, the 3-year Au.D. program was also highly appealing to me to gain the requisite experience in a shorter time, getting me to a career one year sooner.

How has the program prepared you for your current role?

As I near the end of my education, I feel fully prepared and ready to practice in the field of audiology because of the thoroughness of my training and education at GVSU and the opportunities it has afforded me. The program's quicker pace and the broad clinical experiences available have been ideal for my life and I feel ready to jump into my career as an audiologist.



Leading the Way in Traverse City

Kristin LaPan - Class of 2026

Traverse City native Kristin LaPan knows what it means to be rooted in community. She is turning her passion for serving others into a career through Grand Valley's Physician Assistant Studies program in Traverse City. She is also the vice president of the Richard Paul Clodfelder Student Society, where she helps lead volunteer efforts alongside local organizations like the Father Fred Foundation and the Goodwill Inn.

These nonprofits served Kristin and her family when they were experiencing periods of poverty and homelessness when she was younger.

"There were times when we stayed at the Goodwill Inn and relied on food pantries and community clinics," LaPan said. "Those local resources made a huge difference for my family and they inspired my goal of becoming a PA who serves this same community."

Kristin began her college journey at Northwestern Michigan College and was able to transfer to GVSU to complete her bachelors degree in Allied Health Science, taking classes as she could afford them. Upon earning her degree, she was able to secure a role as an emergency department technician at Munson Healthcare. Like many students, she is balancing this role with her graduate studies and other commitments.

Kristin credits GVSU's partnerships with other academic institutions in northern Michigan, and the help of her advisors, for keeping her on track for her goals.

"When I decided on physician assistant studies at Grand Valley, my NMC advisor knew exactly what classes I would need," she said.

As she completes her studies at GVSU's Traverse City campus, like many of her classmates, she affirms her commitment to staying in northern Michigan after graduation to continue meeting her community's needs.



Original story by Michele Coffill



COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®



*View of the Grand Rapids Medical
Mile from GVSU's Health Campus*



APPLY NOW

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gvsu.edu/chp



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company/ gvsu-chp](https://www.linkedin.com/company/gvsu-chp)

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.