

Graduate Program Podcast - Masters of Athletic Training

Hello, my name is Amanda 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 Athletic Training program. 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 Athletic Training program will prepare students to become Athletic Trainers in practical settings through lecture and laboratory courses. This is a 58-credit hour program and can be completed in 2 years. This program is designed for students who have earned a Bachelor's degree and meet the pre-admissions requirements.

Additionally, GVSU undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science may pursue a Master of Athletic Training at Grand Valley through the combined degree program. While a traditional student would require 6 or more years to complete both a Bachelor's and Master's degree, students in Grand Valley's Exercise Science and Athletic Training (B.S., M.A.T.) combined degree program are able to complete both degrees in as few as 5 years. For more information on the combined degree program, please visit gvsu.edu/grad/at/.

Opportunities for certified athletic trainers are expected to grow 12% in West Michigan, 8% in Michigan, and 12% in the U.S. by 2024. The Athletic Training program at GVSU was established in 1978 and has demonstrated outcomes of success. The program maintains a high pass rate on the national certification exam. Exact pass rates can be found by visiting gvsu.edu/athletictraining.

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. Additionally, the MAT program requires two letters of recommendation, one of which must be from a licensed Athletic Trainer. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended Grand Valley previously or are currently attending Grand Valley.

The Masters of Athletic Training program utilizes the Athletic Trainers Centralized Application System, or ATCAS, for the application process. Please refer to www.atcas.liaisoncas.com to get general information about the ATCAS process. GVSU specific information is posted on the ATCAS website. There is an additional ATCAS application fee of \$85.00 for the first school application. Students may begin applying when the application portal opens. GVSU students interested in the combined degree program should apply during the fall semester of their third academic year.

Applications and all supporting documents for ATCAS and GVSU have a receipt **deadline of October 15th**. It is strongly recommended that applicants submit application materials 4 to 6 weeks prior to October 15 to allow for ATCAS processing time.

In addition, all applicants must complete prerequisite courses and all prerequisites must be taken for letter grades. Prerequisites can be in progress at the time of application, but must be completed prior to starting your graduate classes. For each course, a grade of C or higher is required with an average of a 3.0 in all required pre-requisite coursework. More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Athletic Training website, gvsu.edu/grad/at/.

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 gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

As I mentioned, the Master of Athletic Training program at Grand Valley is a 58-credit hour program. Twenty-eight credit hours will cover courses within the first academic year. This includes coursework in Assessment, Methods of Evidence Based Practice, Therapeutic Interventions, Pre-Hospital Care, and General Medical Conditions. An additional 6 credit hours will be dedicated to clinical rotations, which occur in a variety of professional settings including high school, collegiate, professional, clinical, and performing arts environments. During the second academic year 16 credit hours will go towards additional coursework in Therapeutic Interventions, Pharmacology, Advanced Techniques, Professional Topics, and Project work. Eight additional credit hours will go toward immersive clinical experiences in a variety of professional work settings. For a complete listing of all courses and sample clinical sites please visit gvsu.edu/grad/at/.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Athletic Training 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 Graduate Program Director, Dr. Shari Bartz-Smith, at bartzs@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.