

# Graduate Program Podcast - Masters of Athletic Training

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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 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, students may pursue the Master of Athletic Training through a student initiated combined degree program. This combined degree program is designed for undergraduate students at GVSU majoring in Exercise Science. Students can earn both the Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science and the Master of Athletic Training within a total of five years. For more information on the combined degree program, please visit [www.gvsu.edu/sicd](http://www.gvsu.edu/sicd).

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics employment in the profession of Athletic Training is expected to grow by 23% by the year 2026, which is considered much faster than average.

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 Grand Valley previously or are currently attending Grand Valley.

Grand Valley State University's 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](http://www.atcas.liaisoncas.com) to get general information about the ATCAS process. GVSU specific information is posted on the ATCAS website. Students may begin applying when the application portal opens.

Applications and all supporting documents for ATCAS and GVSU have a receipt **deadline of October 15**. It is strongly recommended that applicants submit application materials 4-6 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. For each course, a grade of C or higher is required with an average of a 3.0 in all required pre-requisite coursework. The prerequisites and undergraduate degree must be completed by the first day of classes of the professional program.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Athletic Training website, [www.gvsu.edu/athletictraining](http://www.gvsu.edu/athletictraining).

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](http://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid) or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu).

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 [www.gvsu.edu/athletictraining](http://www.gvsu.edu/athletictraining).

The Athletic Training program at GVSU was established in 1978 and has demonstrated outcomes of success. GVSU students have a 100% first-time pass rate on the national Board of Certification exam for 5 out of the last 7 years with a current 3-year aggregate first-time pass rate of 96%.

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](mailto:bartzs@gvsu.edu) or to The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu). Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.