

# Biology Podcast

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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 Science in Biology graduate 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 Science in Biology degree will prepare students to obtain jobs in natural resources management, the aquatic sciences, State and Federal agencies, and private consulting. Many of our students also continue on to pursue doctoral degrees. All of this is accomplished in practical settings through lecture, lab and field courses as well as the completion of a two-year research project or internship. This is a 33 credit hour program and can be completed in two years as a full-time student or three or more years as a part-time student.

According to the US Department of Labor's occupational outlook handbook careers in wildlife biology, ecology and environmental science are expected to grow between 4 and 11% from now through 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.

For admission to the Master of Science in Biology program we also require three letters of recommendation, satisfactory GRE scores, a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.0, and a 500-word essay detailing your educational and professional goals. In addition, in order to be admitted into the program, we require that a faculty member agree to serve as a student's Graduate Committee Chair. We strongly encourage you to contact individual faculty members and/or the Biology Graduate Program Director as early as possible to begin this process. In addition, if your application is complete by mid-January for enrollment the following fall semester, we offer a limited number of competitive graduate assistantships that provide a stipend and full tuition waiver for two years.

More details as well as the online application can be found on the Master of Science in Biology website, [www.gvsu.edu/grad/biology](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/biology).

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).

In the Master of Science in Biology graduate program you can elect two optional areas of emphasis in aquatic science or natural resources. Two required courses bookend our program and provide a springboard to both initiate your research or internship project, as well as write up and disseminate

your contributions to the discipline through the peer-review process at the end of your program. We also require at least one graduate-level course in statistics, although many of our students take more. Six to nine credit hours of a thesis, project or internship experience are required and you can then select from numerous elective courses based on input from your graduate committee and according to your area of interest. For a complete listing of all courses, please visit [www.gvsu.edu/grad/biology](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/biology).

The Master of Science in Biology program will serve you well for a number of reasons. Many of our courses include hands-on, field-based laboratories. You have access to cutting-edge equipment such as the DNA sequencing facility at the Annis Water Resources Institute, and laboratory space in our new P. Douglas Kindschi Hall of Science. Most importantly, our faculty are devoted to maximizing your potential by holding you to a high standard and providing the necessary support to help you achieve your goals and dreams.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Science in Biology 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. Eric Snyder, at [snydeeri@gvsu.edu](mailto:snydeeri@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.