

## Cell and Molecular Biology Program Podcast

---

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 Cell and Molecular Biology. 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 Cell and Molecular Biology will prepare students for careers in the life sciences including: basic research; applied research in areas ranging from biomedicine to agriculture; and the biotechnology industry and intellectual property. In addition, this program can prepare students for further advanced education such as PhD. and/or medical school. Our 36 credit hour program consists of a combination of theoretical and applied courses where students receive hands-on experience with current laboratory practice. Students will also complete a culminating experience in the form of an internship or thesis. This degree is generally completed in two years as a full-time student and can be completed in 2-4 years as a part-time student.

Employment in the life sciences is expected to grow by about 10% in the next 10 years. The average annual wage for a U.S. bioscience worker reached \$94,543 in 2014. These earnings are \$43,000 greater, on average, than the overall U.S. private sector wage of \$51,148.

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.

In addition, application to the Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology requires a satisfactory GRE score, a personal statement of the student's career goals and two letters of recommendation.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Cell and Molecular Biology website, [www.gvsu.edu/cmb](http://www.gvsu.edu/cmb).

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 Science in Cell and Molecular Biology at GVSU is a 36 credit hour program. Approximately 10 credit hours are courses covering laboratory techniques such as cell and tissue culture and DNA and RNA manipulation. In addition, about 10 credit hours will cover topics such as cell biology, molecular biology and bioinformatics and genomics. All students will complete a culminating experience which can be either an internship in a research lab or industry setting, or a thesis. This program strives to tailor the degree to student's career goals and commitments and is extremely flexible regarding the subject, site and timing of the culminating experience.

Finally, all of our students take courses in scientific communication, ethics and professionalism in science, and responsible conduct of research. For a complete listing of all courses please visit [www.gvsu.edu/cmb](http://www.gvsu.edu/cmb).

Courses for this program are offered both in Grand Rapids in our excellent lab facilities in the Cook Center for Health Sciences and in Allendale in the new Kindschi Hall of Science. Recent students have participated in internships at the Van Andel Institute, the Michigan State College of Human Medicine, Spectrum Health, and area biotechnology companies.

Undergraduate students at GVSU can take advantage of our combined degree program in which students can receive both a Bachelor of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology as well as the Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology in 5 years, rather than the normal 6 years. For more details on this combined degree program please visit [www.gvsu.edu/cmb](http://www.gvsu.edu/cmb).

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology 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, Mark Staves, at [stavesm@gvsu.edu](mailto:stavesm@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.