

Combined Data Science and Analytics Degree Podcast

Hello, my name is Cori 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 Data Science and Analytics (DSA) combined degree program. A combined degree program allows students to complete their bachelor's and master's degree in as few as 5 years, thus saving both time and money compared to completing both degrees separately. 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. GVSU undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science may pursue a Master of Science in Data Science and Analytics at Grand Valley through this combined degree program. In the program, students will have the opportunity to enhance their skillset and refine their career goals. As I mentioned, students in Grand Valley's DSA combined degree program are able to complete both degrees in as few as 5 years, while a traditional student would require 6 or more years to complete both a Bachelor's and Master's degree.

Interested GVSU students may apply directly to the School of Computing and Information Systems for the combined degree program during their second academic year. Application requirements for the DSA combined degree program include an undergraduate GPA of 3.25 or greater, admission to the computer science undergraduate program, 60 hours of academic credit that are completed or in progress, two letters of recommendation, academic transcripts, and a letter of intent. 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.

More details as well as the online application can be found on the combined degree website at gvsu.edu/gs/combineddegreeprograms.

Some great news about GVSU'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 graduate 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.

All university requirements, including general education courses, must be completed before the final graduate year of the Data Science and Analytics combined degree program. In the final undergraduate year at GVSU, students will typically take 12 credit hours of graduate-level courses. If any courses are dual-listed, students in the combined degree program must complete all assignments expected of graduate students and will be evaluated as graduate students. For a complete listing of all courses, please visit gvsu.edu/grad/dsa/.

Jobs in the Data Science and Analytics profession are expected to increase 19% by 2026 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Some of the job opportunities available to DSA graduates, are in fields such as finance and insurance, knowledge storage and retrieval, and public transportation and safety.

This combined degree program is an opportunity for Grand Valley students to respond to emerging job markets and increase their marketability by combining two degrees that meet their personal, academic, and career goals. The School of Computing and Information Systems have outstanding faculty who integrate their teaching and research, and regularly publish both nationally and internationally. The programs utilize state-of-the-art facilities including a nationally recognized networking and data communication teaching laboratory, a Linux laboratory, an architecture laboratory, and student research project rooms.

That is just a snapshot of the Data Science and Analytics combined degree program at Grand Valley State University. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Jerry Scripps, at scripps@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.