

Combined Engineering Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Maggie 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 Engineering 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. Grand Valley's Engineering combined degree program prepares GVSU students to become technical leaders in their profession as well as strong candidates for doctoral programs. The accelerated format of the combined degree program allows GVSU engineering students to complete both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in as few as 5 years. On the other hand, a traditional student would require 6 or more years to complete both degrees.

But why should you consider the combined program for engineering? The US job market currently employs 1.6 million engineers. On average, engineering jobs have been growing at a 7% rate in recent years. The median salary for engineers with master's degrees is 9 to 13% higher than engineers with bachelor's degrees alone. Besides the dramatic increase in earning potential over a career, engineers with master's degrees have greater opportunities for career advancement.

Admission to the engineering combined degree program is competitive and requires a secondary application. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.3 or above. Additionally, admission to the graduate portion of the Engineering combined degree program requires students to complete a graduate school application package that includes a resume, a personal statement outlining the student's educational goals, and three letters of recommendation. Transfer students must complete at least junior level undergraduate curriculum in their discipline at GVSU before they can be admitted to the program. There is a \$30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Engineering program website, www.gvsu.edu/gs/combineddegreeprograms.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates do not change based on residency status. 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 or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

Students admitted to a combined degree program can apply up to 12 credit hours of graduate work towards completing the requirements for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. Students must complete a minimum of 163 credit hours in total including courses in general education and basic skills, engineering foundations, cooperative engineering education, the engineering design capstone, and an engineering emphasis. The Master of Science in Engineering program allows students to choose from one of the following five emphasis areas: Biomedical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Manufacturing Operations, Mechanical Engineering, and

Product Design and Manufacturing Engineering. In addition, a minimum of 45 credit hours in engineering courses at the 300 level or above must be completed at GVSU. All other master's degree requirements must also be met. For a complete listing of all courses please visit www.gvsu.edu/grad/mse.

GVSU's School of Engineering is located in the heart of West Michigan's industrial zone. The School of Engineering is highly integrated with the surrounding industries offering opportunities for real world experience through internships, graduate practicums, and Industry Sponsored Graduate Fellowships. The curriculum in these programs emphasize project-based learning in collaboration with the partnering industries. Here, students learn in small classes and receive individual attention from the highly qualified, passionate faculty members.

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