

# Combined Exercise Science and Athletic Training Program Podcast

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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 GVSU's Exercise Science and Athletic Training 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 Exercise Science may pursue a Master in Athletic Training 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 combined degree programs are able to complete both degrees in as few as 5 years, while a traditional pathway would require 6 or more years to complete both a Bachelor's and Master's degree.

Job opportunities in athletic training are expected to grow 10% in the U.S. by 2025.

Admission requirements specific to the Master of Athletic Training program include two recommendations, academic transcripts, resume, writing samples, a minimum of 35 hours of documented observation, and health care provider CPR/AED and first aid certifications.

The Masters of Athletic Training program utilizes the Athletic Training 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. There is no cost to create a login to ATCAS, but there is an application fee of \$85.00 for the first school application you submit and an additional fee for each school beyond the first. Students may begin applying for the fall application deadline when the application portal opens in early July. GVSU students interested in the combined degree program should apply during the fall semester of their third academic year.

Applications and all supporting documents for ATCAS and GVSU have a receipt **deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>**, with a planned start date in the program for the following fall. It is strongly recommended that applicants submit application materials 4 to 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. Prerequisites can be in progress at the time of application, but must be completed prior to starting your graduate classes. For each course, a grade of C or higher is required with an average overall GPA of a 3.0. More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Athletic Training website, [www.gvsu.edu/grad/at/](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/at/).

The Master of Athletic Training program at Grand Valley is a 59-credit hour program and the first 12 credit hours count toward both the undergraduate and the graduate degree in the combined degree. Also, the first semester of the graduate program in the combined degree is charged at the undergraduate tuition rate: twelve less credits and undergraduate tuition for graduate classes is a financial benefit for the student pursuing this route!

First year coursework in the graduate program includes courses 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. In the summer between years 1 and 2 students will complete coursework in Interprofessional Education, Therapeutic Interventions, Statistics and Project work. During the second academic year coursework includes: Therapeutic Interventions, Pharmacology, Advanced Techniques, Professional Topics, and Project work. Seven to 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/grad/at/](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/at/).

More program details, as well as the online application can be found on the Exercise Science and Master of Athletic Training website, [www.gvsu.edu/grad/combineddegrees](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/combineddegrees).

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](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).

This is just a snapshot of the Exercise Science and Master of Athletic Training combined degree 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.