

## Combined Statistics and Biostatistics 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 Grand Valley's Statistics and Biostatistics 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 Statistics may pursue a Master of Science in Biostatistics 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.

The job outlook is strong for biostatisticians as employment is expected to grow 34 percent by 2024 and most graduates are employed within the first few months following graduation.

Standard Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application. 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.

More details as well as the online application can be found on the combined degree website at [www.gvsu.edu/gs/combineddegreeprograms](http://www.gvsu.edu/gs/combineddegreeprograms).

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).

All university requirements, including general education courses, must be completed before the final graduate year of the Statistics and Biostatistics 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 [www.gvsu.edu/acad/combined-degree-statistics-bs-and-biostatistics-ms.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/acad/combined-degree-statistics-bs-and-biostatistics-ms.htm).

That is just a snapshot of the Statistics and Biostatistics 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. Robert Downer, at [downerr@gvsu.edu](mailto:downerr@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.