Annual Report • 2020–21

The Graduate School
Grand Valley State University
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Executive Summary 2020-21

The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University is highly engaged in the education of our students. We provide meaningful support to students, staff, and faculty, encouraging their educational, professional, and personal development. We continually strive to give our graduate students the best educational experience possible so they may be lifelong learners who are actively engaged in their professions and their communities. Our rigorous master’s, specialist, and doctoral programs are taught by highly qualified faculty and staff who use innovative strategies and techniques for engaging students. All of GVSU’s graduate programs are grounded in rigorous academic plans of study and supported by a university that adheres to policies and procedures that guide the academic process yet provide the flexibility to address unique situations and create individual learning experiences.

The Graduate School actively oversees all areas of graduate education at GVSU. We are responsible for the administration of the graduate assistantship program, collaborating with the Graduate Student Association to support graduate students and offer professional development, leading the Graduate Showcase, hosting the New Graduate Student Orientations and the Graduate Student Celebrations, supporting the work of faculty governance through Graduate Council, supporting the Graduate Student Association, producing the Graduate Director’s Handbook, the Graduate Student Guidebook, and the Graduate Advising manuals, administering the Presidential Research Grants and Academic Conference Fund programs, reviewing graduate faculty applications and maintaining a graduate faculty database, and enforcing graduate education policies. Major initiatives for 2020-21 included: assisting students, staff, and faculty in addressing the unique challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic, supporting academic units seeking to create combined degree programs, and the formation of the Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force. The Graduate School plays an important role in supporting our students and the faculty engaged in graduate education. Each of the major initiatives, as well as the annual work of the Graduate School, is described in detail in this report.
Our Mission
To define, support, and advance excellence in graduate education and the scholarly and research activities associated with it. To articulate a vision of excellence in our actions and policies that affect students, faculty, and curriculum. To advocate for graduate education and graduate students, faculty, and staff within the university in terms of resources, services, and other activities that support graduate student endeavors and goals; and encourage a diverse, inclusive, and connected graduate community.

Our Vision
GVSU will become the university of choice for students seeking a strong graduate education in a Carnegie classification Master's Colleges and Universities – Larger programs institution of higher education that is grounded in a liberal arts tradition by focusing on the promotion of distinctive and exemplary graduate education programs, comprehensive educational settings, service, and scholarly experiences. The Graduate School will provide exemplary leadership and continuous support for the development and provision of distinctive and exceptional graduate programs that prepare GVSU graduates to be effective leaders in their field, to be engaged lifelong learners, to succeed in attaining a professional career or admission to further graduate or professional study, and to excel in a global environment.

Our Values
• Critical Thought - our students actively and skillfully engage in conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information as it applies to their area of study as well as their community as a whole.
• Personal Capacity - our graduate community develops and sustains personal initiative and maintains a culture of professionalism and integrity.
• High Impact Challenges - we offer meaningful opportunities to learn in a holistic environment and those involved are challenged and transformed by the environment and those opportunities.
• Inclusion - we provide an environment and climate of collegiality, collaboration, and inclusiveness for all.

The Graduate School Staff at Grand Valley State University for 2020-21 included:
Dean Jeffrey A. Potteiger
Associate Dean Mark Luttenton
Administrative Assistant Irene Fountain
Assistant to the Graduate School Jennifer Palm
Graduate Assistants Amanda Filkins and Maggie Scannell
Undergraduate Student Assistants Long Ho and Sarah Spencer
Graduate Program Profile: 2020-21 Academic Year

The 2020-21 academic year includes the Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring/Summer 2021 semesters. For many graduate programs, students may have applied, been admitted, and/or matriculated in any of those semesters.

The Applied and Admitted columns in Table 1 represent all graduate applications received by each program combined from Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring/Summer 2021 semesters (through July 6, 2021).

The New Enrollees and Total Enrollees columns represent the combined unduplicated headcounts for Fall 2019, Winter 2020, and Spring/Summer 2020 based on official census numbers.

Due to the timing of this report, the Degrees Awarded column represents Spring/Summer 2020, Fall 2021, and Winter 2021.

Table 1: Profile of Graduate Students for the 2019-20 Academic Year

<table>
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<th>College</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Applied</th>
<th>Admitted</th>
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The total graduate enrollment headcount information in both Figure 1 and Table 2 is based on the Fall census data of the corresponding academic year.

**Figure 1: Total Graduate Degree-Seeking Headcount 2011-20**

![Total Graduate Enrollment 2011-20](image)

**Table 2: Total Graduate Enrollment Headcount of Degree Programs by College 2011-20**

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<thead>
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<td><strong>3242</strong></td>
<td><strong>3458</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2997</strong></td>
<td><strong>2921</strong></td>
<td><strong>2945</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Major Initiatives

New Graduate Programs 2020-21
During the 2020-21 academic year, three new graduate programs were approved through the University Curriculum Review Process, bringing the total number of graduate programs at GVSU to 46:

Master of Science in Applied Statistics (M.S., PSM)
Master of Science in Recreational Therapy (M.S.)
Master of Science in Water Resource Policy (M.S.)

The Graduate School supported the programs by assisting with the curricular development and approval process, creating program websites, and assisting with admissions criteria and information development. The programs and all applicable admissions and recruitment materials were added to the Graduate Education Policies & Procedures Manual. The Graduate School continues to support newly-appointed Graduate Program Directors and assist with issues related to recruitment, admission, and enrollment in all graduate programs.

New Combined Degree Programs
During the 2020-21 academic year, nine new combined degree programs were approved through the University Curriculum Review Process, bringing the total number of combined degree programs at GVSU to 24:

Accounting (B.B.A/ M.S)
Advertising and Public Relations and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)
Allied Health Sciences and Public Health (B.S./M.P.H.)
Biomedical Sciences (B.S./M.H.S.)
Cell and Molecular Biology (B.S./M.S.)
Communication Studies and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)
Computer Engineering and Applied Computer Science (B.S.E./M.S.)
Computer Science and Applied Computer Science (B.S./M.S.)
Computer Science and Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)
Computer Science and Data Science and Analytics (B.S./M.S.)
Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)
Engineering (B.S.E./M.S.E.)
Exercise Science and Athletic Training (B.S./M.A.T.)
Health Communications and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)
Information Systems and Applied Computer Science (B.S./M.S.)
Information Systems and Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)
Information Technology and Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)
Multimedia Journalism and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)
Occupational Therapy (M.S.O.T./Dr.O.T.)
Public and Nonprofit Administration (B.A., B.S./M.P.A.)
Recreational Therapy (B.S./M.S.)
Statistics and Applied Statistics (B.S./M.S.)
Statistics and Biostatistics (B.S./M.S.)
Student Initiated Combined Degree Program
Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force

In Winter 2021, Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger formed the Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force to address the increasing need for mental health resources and services among graduate students. Nationally, the Council of Graduate Schools has called for additional attention to the mental health of graduate students, particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. While the COVID-19 Pandemic has become a motivating factor in providing graduate students with more robust mental health support, those in graduate education have been concerned regarding needs in this area for the past several years.

Dr. Raymond Higbea, School of Public, Nonprofit, Health, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Dr. Megan Fox, Department of Movement Science, serve as co-chairs for the GVSU Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force. Other members of the task force include representatives from the University Counseling Center, the Graduate School, several academic units (Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Social Work), and graduate students from programs such as Clinical Dietetics, Data Science and Analytics, Education, Health Administration, Medical Dosimetry, and Occupational Therapy.

The task force met as a group during the Winter 2021 semester to review and address the charges set forth by Dr. Potteiger. During off weeks, members of the task force met in subcommittees. In total, there are seven charges for the task to address. Of those charges, three are currently assigned to subcommittees. Additional charges will be addressed in the 2021-22 academic year. Based on the information provided thus far, the Graduate School is building a website to provide graduate student mental health information and resources.

Professional Learning Credit

In 2019-20, the Graduate Council approved a new policy allowing students to convert professional learning into graduate credit. Graduate students may now earn a maximum of 20% of the graduate credits required for the graduate degree for professional learning acquired through non-credit courses, structured, non-credit professional development program, and professional work experiences to fulfill required or elective courses. Students must demonstrate competency in the professional learning topic through either a challenge exam or an individualized assessment, both through the respective Graduate Program Director.

The Graduate School received and approved eight requests for Professional Learning Credit during the Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring/Summer 2021 semesters. A summary of the number of student petitions by program is provided below:

Accounting: 1
Applied Linguistics: 2
Health Administration: 1
Public Administration: 1
Occupational Therapy: 1
School Counseling: 2
Ongoing Activities

The Graduate School Strategic Plan: 2016-21

The Graduate School completed the strategic planning process during Spring/Summer 2016 and received approval to implement the plan from the GVSU administration. The strategic plan includes objectives that will enhance graduate education and support graduate students and faculty alike. During 2020-21, the Graduate School gathered data for each objective, allowing staff to measure progress toward our goals. The objectives for the Graduate School can be found at GVAdvance.

Graduate Exit Survey

In an effort to evaluate and continually improve graduate education, the Graduate School administers the graduate exit survey. At the end of each academic semester, graduate students who are nearing the end of their degree program are invited to complete the survey and assess their graduate experience at GVSU. Of the 893 invitations sent to graduate students during the 2020-21 academic year, 241 (27%) completed the survey.

Students who received their undergraduate degrees from GVSU accounted for 38% of the respondents. Overall program quality was rated as very good or excellent by 79.5% of respondents (Figure 2) and was higher than program quality ratings for previous years. When asked if they would choose GVSU again if they were to start graduate school over, 83% answered yes.

A majority of the respondents (91%) indicated that the intellectual quality of the faculty was very good or excellent, and 84% noted that departmental/program staff had been very helpful. Many respondents noted that the interaction with faculty, their cohort members, and the educational opportunities offered by their program, in general, were the highlights of their graduate experience.
Outstanding Graduate Student Accomplishments

Richard Gross, Master of Science in Engineering

The Graduate School is pleased to announce Richard Gross, an alum of the Master of Science in Engineering program, is the 2021 Outstanding Thesis Winner from the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS). Gross’s thesis, titled “Algorithm for Geodetic Positioning Based on Angle-Of-Arrival of Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcasts” was selected in the category of Mathematical, Physical Sciences, and Engineering.

Grand Valley State University has submitted nominations to the MAGS Thesis Competition since 2011. Gross’s thesis is the first GVSU student to win the top prize, which includes a $750 honorarium. He graduated in April 2019 with an emphasis in Electrical/Computer Engineering.

His advisor, Dr. Nicholas Baine, commented, “Richard was a fantastic student and worthy recipient. I could not be more proud of what we were able to accomplish together.

Many of Richard’s findings have already been well received by the engineering community as they were presented and published at two conferences. The rest of his work is soon to be published in a leading journal in this field. I would argue that his master’s thesis rises to the level of a Ph.D. dissertation. It is superbly written, the work is relevant to the current state of the art, and his design provides an extra layer of safety to a system all air traffic depends on.”

Randi Lesagonicz, Master of Science in Biology

Grand Valley State University is one of 11 academic affiliate Michigan Space Grants Consortium (MSGC) institutions in Michigan. MSGC provides funding for research and educational opportunities for students, faculty, and staff in the form of seed grants, program grants, and fellowships.

Randi Lesagonicz, a Grand Valley Graduate Teaching Assistant, was recently awarded an MSGC grant to continue her research on detecting bugs in bats’ diet.

Randi’s research mentor, Dr. Amy Russell, shares what she believes is the most relevant part of this research project: “This project has the potential to be of real economic and environmental impact on local agriculture. Michigan is one of the largest producers of apples in the U.S., and the contribution of bats to the control of apple pest insects is not well understood. The extent to which bats help control these pest insects and the importance of management practices to bat activity may justify farmers’ investments in ecological management practices which would benefit both the bat populations and the farmers’ economic bottom line.”

We asked Randi what she is most proud of throughout her whole research experience, and she said: “I am most proud that I have been given the opportunity to study the bats’ role in a niche that isn’t fully studied (bat diet in apple orchards, specifically in southern Michigan) and to have been able to educate the public about the importance of
bats in agriculture and elsewhere through my research."

Finally, we asked Dr. Russell what she is most proud of when she gets to work with students like Randi:

“Randi is doing an excellent job on this project, and has really had to deal with some unexpected changes along the way. Getting significant external funding allowed her to pursue more advanced lab techniques than she initially intended, which was definitely a change for the better! But then the COVID pandemic really put a damper on the amount and type of fieldwork she was able to do. I’m so proud of the way she’s rolled with the punches, and always tried to get the most meaningful data given these changing constraints.”

Alyssa McCord, Master of Science in Criminal Justice

Alyssa McCord graduated in the Winter of 2021 with a Master’s in Criminal Justice. As a part of the completion of her degree, Alyssa co-authored not one but two scholarly articles with Criminal Justice faculty member Dr. Joshua Sheffer. What was meant to be one project-turned-article transformed into two articles during the course of Alyssa’s assistantship with Dr. Sheffer. He notes that “This project involved significant research and writing of both an academic and legal nature. Alyssa’s research and writing skills, her incredible analysis, and her editing skills were crucial to the project.” Both articles focused on how Title IX serves students with LGBTQ identities and whether or not these students are protected under Title IX at all. Dr. Sheffer states that “Although her title may have been ‘Graduate Assistant,’ ‘Research and Writing Partner’ much more accurately describes what she was... It is not an exaggeration to say that these articles would not exist without Alyssa’s integral contribution and immense effort.” Alyssa not only contributed a significant amount of the research to both articles, but she also drafted large portions of the articles as well.

Both articles, titled Taking the Field: The Deleterious Effects of Anti-LGBTQ Discrimination on Students: A Backdrop for a Discussion of Title IX’s Application to Individuals with LGBTQ Identities and Rounding the Basis: Analyzing and Applying Title IX’s Prohibition on Sex-Based Discrimination to Discrimination Against Individuals with LGBTQ Identities were published in The Legal Educator in the 2020-2021 academic year. The Legal Educator is a double-blind peer-reviewed journal, and these publications speak to Alyssa’s research and writing skills. In addition to her publications, Alyssa also received the Graduate Dean’s Citation Award of Academic Excellence in the Outstanding Publication category. She was one of two students to receive this award for the Winter 2021 semester. The Graduate Program Director of the Criminal Justice, Jacquelynn Doyon-Martin, stated: “The MCJ Program and School of Criminal Justice as a whole is especially proud of her accomplishments.”

Since graduating in April, Alyssa has accepted a job offer with the Thornton Police Department in Colorado. She is currently in training to become a patrol officer with the department. Well done, Alyssa!
Naomi Silas, Master of Arts in Social Innovation

Naomi Silas is a first-generation college graduate. In April 2021, she became a member of the first graduating class to earn a Professional Master of Arts in Social Innovation from the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies at GVSU.

Her background is in art and design, and she worked in that field for a few years until she realized her passion for community and social justice was growing quickly. She started volunteering at different organizations that focus on equity and inclusion and found the work so fulfilling she wanted to do it for her job. That is how she ended up earning a master’s degree from GVSU.

During her time as a Laker, she was a Graduate Assistant for the Social Innovation program and worked to develop community partnerships for Community Based Learning opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students.

She also served as the Community and Connection Director at AIGA West Michigan, a local chapter of the Professional Association of Design that aims to “create a place where design can be discovered, discussed, understood, and appreciated.” Naomi has over five years of dedication to being involved with AIGA West Michigan.

Naomi wrote an article, “Community Activism in Response to Dehumanization & Policing Methods,” based on research conducted in a Fall 2019 Social Innovation course. The article, which was published on Medium, includes a narrative of Silas’ personal experience with race and racism.

To finish the program, all students are required to complete an internship. Before becoming a graduate student, Naomi already established a relationship with Urban Core Collective (UCC), a Grand Rapids nonprofit with a mission of “Uplifting historically marginalized communities to a place of greater self-sufficiency by unifying communities of color in order to reduce the effects of systemic racism,” since she previously completed UCC’s Transformational Leadership Program. The internship experience with UCC, having the space to directly apply what she learned inside the classroom, had a significant impact on Naomi.

Kate Skocelas, Master of Science in Applied Computer Science

Kate Skocelas, ’19, is an alumna of Grand Valley’s Applied Computer Science graduate program. She was awarded the National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship from the Department of Defense. Kate received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Grand Valley and is currently a Ph.D. student at Michigan State University.

Kate had never considered working for a doctoral degree, but her experience at GVSU, most notably her professors, encouraged her to continue her education and pursue a career in academia. She worked closely with Dr. Robert Adams and Dr. Byron DeVries to prepare her application for
Ph.D. programs and lab interviews. She also got assistance from GVSU’s Career Center with preparing for interviews and finalizing her applications.

During her time at Grand Valley, Kate received the NASA Michigan Space Grant Consortium Graduate Fellowship in the summer of 2019. She worked with Dr. Byron DeVries to study improved robotic software in unexpected environmental scenarios using A.I. “This provided me with experience presenting at conferences and writing a scientific paper for publication,” Kate says about the research. The paper “Test Data Generation for Recurrent Neural Network Implementations” was published this year during the 20th Annual IEEE International Conference on Elector Information Technology.

The Fellowship was awarded for her work in her doctorate program at MSU, where she works in the Digital Evolution Lab to study biologically-inspired artificial immune system algorithms. “My goal is to advance the understanding of evolution as applied to coordinated networks... paving the way for a new generation of robust and effective distributed algorithms. I hope to gain new insights into host-parasite coevolution and the ways in which immune systems can evolve.”

Thomas M. Goralski, Gayatri Mandar Pingle, Niranjan Pokhrel, Sarah Rahmann, and Farrukh Ahmed Siddiqui, Master of Science in Cell and Molecular Biology

Thomas, Gayatri, Niranjan, Sarah, and Farrukh were members of a team of interns hired in late October 2020 to undertake the challenging feat of establishing a functional biosafety level-2 laboratory at GVSU, complete with technically trained personnel, for SARS-CoV-2 virus monitoring within a couple of weeks. The work requires an in-depth conceptual understanding of and ample imagination for mentally rehearsing and questioning, protocols, attention to the detail of carrying out the procedures, and the ability to work well in teams. Our team not only consisted of our local interns, faculty, and Kent County Health Department staff but also extended across the city and state.

The SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Testing Pilot Study was first funded by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (MDEGLE) and the CARES act, and the work has continued at GVSU to monitor the status of the virus at several locations on the Allendale and Grand Rapids campuses. This work continues to provide early warning of the increase of the virus on campus and is leading to improved methods of virus detection.

The students were recognized at the Winter 2021 Graduate Dean’s Citation Awards for Excellence for their outstanding leadership and service to the GVSU community.
Outstanding Thesis Nominees

The Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) calls for nominations for the annual Distinguished Thesis Award. Each school is allowed to nominate one student thesis for the award competition in each discipline category. The award categories rotate each year to allow for greater student representation across the disciplines.

The theses representing GVSU are selected by a committee of faculty members from multiple disciplines and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2020 MAGS selection committee included:

- Dr. Lindsay Corneal, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing
- Dr. Sanjivan Manoharan, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing

2020: Math, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

- Richard Gross, Master of Science in Engineering, Thesis Title: Algorithm for Geodetic Positioning Based on Angle-Of-Arrival of Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcasts – Advised by Dr. Nicholas Baine, School of Engineering.

The Graduate School is pleased to announce Richard Gross won the MAGS Outstanding Thesis Award for 2021 in the category of Math, Physical Sciences, and Engineering. As part of his award, he will receive a $750 honorarium. Richard is the first GVSU Graduate Student to win the MAGS Outstanding Thesis Award.

GVSU did not have an entry for the category of Social Sciences. The 2021 categories will be Biological/Life Sciences and the Humanities.

Dissertation and Thesis Approvals

In the 2017-18 academic year, the Graduate Council passed an update to the policy on Preparation of a Thesis or Dissertation at GVSU to include a mandatory Thesis and Dissertation Workshop for students beginning a thesis or dissertation. Students are required to attend a workshop the first semester they are enrolled in thesis or dissertation credit hours.

The Graduate School hosted six workshops in 2020-21, led by Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger. In total, 110 students attended these workshops. The workshop includes an overview of the thesis and dissertation-related policies, how to select a chair and build a committee, resources for writing and editing, and helpful suggestions on time lines, getting started, and finishing the project. Due to ongoing restrictions regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, all workshops were held virtually via Zoom.

The Graduate School also continued to update the Guidelines for Preparation of Theses and Dissertations to assist students in the timely submission of their final work. Communication is sent to students regarding submitting thesis/dissertation committee membership, reminders on defense and submission dates, and follow-up on continuous enrollment. When students form a thesis or dissertation committee, the Graduate School provides a Thesis and Dissertation Flowchart outlining the steps students must take to comply with the current guidelines. The Graduate School maintains this and other documents on two “quick links” created for students and faculty to reference all thesis or dissertation related documents:

Dissertations: www.gvsu.edu/gs/dissertation
Theses: www.gvsu.edu/gs/thesis

The Graduate School continued to review and approve all final theses and dissertations. After each document is approved, the Graduate School notifies the Registrar’s Office that a student’s diploma can be released and assists the students with submitting the final documents to ScholarWorks. In 2020-21, dissertations and theses were approved from the following academic Colleges:

- College of Community and Public Service: 5
- College of Education: 2
- Padnos College of Engineering and Computing: 7
- College of Health Professions: 2
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: 26
- Kirkhof College of Nursing: 0

Note: there are no graduate programs with a thesis option in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies or the Seidman College of Business. In July 2021, the College of Community and Public Service and the College of Education merged to form the College of Education and Community Innovation.
Requests for Exception to University Policy

These numbers represent all completed petitions submitted to the Graduate School during the Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring/Summer 2021 semesters.

8-Year Time Limit Requests: The Graduate School reviewed 44 petitions to extend the 8-Year Time Limit. Of those petitions, 43 were approved, and one request was denied. A summary of the number of student petitions by program is provided below:

8-Year Petitions by Program:
Applied Computer Science: 2
Biology: 4
Business: 1
Communications: 1
Criminal Justice: 3
Education: 30
Health Administration: 1
Social Work: 1

12-Credit Limit Requests: The Graduate School did not receive any requests from students who had exceeded the limit of completing 12 credits as a non-degree seeking student.

Requests for Graduate Course Withdrawal, Graduate Program Withdrawal, and Graduate Program Leave of Absence: The Graduate School received a total of 51 requests, and all were approved. The approvals were from the following programs:

Course Late Withdrawal: 17
Communications: 1
Education: 8
English: 2
Physical Therapy: 1
Nursing: 1
School Counseling: 2
Social Work: 2

Leave of Absence: 26
Applied Computer Science: 1
Biology: 1
Education: 1
Engineering: 2
English: 5
Health Administration: 1
Occupational Therapy: 1
Physician Assistant Studies: 2
Public Health: 3
School Psychology: 1
Social Innovation: 1
Social Work: 7

Program Withdrawal: 8
Biomedical Sciences: 2
Engineering: 3
Physical Therapy: 3

Exception to the Policy for Continuous Enrollment in Project, Thesis, or Dissertation Stage of a Program: The Graduate School received 10 requests for an exception to the Continuous Enrollment Policy, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Biology: 7
English: 1
Education: 2

Extension of the Thesis Final Submission Deadline: The Graduate School received 3 requests for an extension to the Thesis Final Submission Deadline, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Cell and Molecular Biology: 1
Engineering: 2

Academic Review and Renewal: The Graduate School received 5 requests regarding the Academic Review policy and all were approved. A summary of the student requests is provided below:
Request for Exception to the Academic Review Process:
Applied Computer Science: 1
Business: 1
Criminal Justice: 1
Health Informatics and Bioinformatics: 1
Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership: 1

Exception to Graduate Policies: The Graduate School received 4 requests for Exception to an Academic Graduate Policy. All 4 requests were approved. A summary of the student requests is provided below:

Transfer of Credit to a Graduate Program:
Business: 2
Communications: 1

Exception to when a student in a combined degree program will be counted as a graduate student:
Cybersecurity: 1

Total Requests for Exception to University Policy reviewed by The Graduate School in 2020-21: 116
Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education

The Graduate School continues to work with the Academic Unit Heads and Deans to ensure that qualified faculty members are engaged with our graduate students at GVSU. All graduate faculty applications are submitted electronically to the Graduate School.

Non-tenure Track Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education as of July 1, 2021
Approved Adjunct Faculty: 215

Tenured and Tenure Track Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education as of July 1, 2021
Faculty approved with Full Graduate Faculty Status: 359
Faculty approved with Associate Graduate Faculty Status: 73

These numbers do not include faculty members whose initial status has expired without renewal (or those applications approved for faculty no longer with the university).

A complete listing of approved faculty is available on the Graduate School website at www.gvsu.edu/gs/gradfaculty. Access to the policies and the electronic application forms can also be found on this page.

Graduate Assistantships 2020-21

The Graduate School oversees the graduate assistantship program at GVSU. Our primary role is to ensure that hiring departments adhere to the Graduate Assistantship (GA) Policy, to verify student eligibility for holding a GA position, and to ensure that funds allocated for graduate assistantships are appropriately utilized. We serve as a liaison between the appointing departments, Financial Aid, and Student Employment to address: a) budget, payroll, and tuition issues, b) offer advice and guidance to faculty and staff who administer GA appointments for their units, and c) work with units and students to resolve problems relating to any aspect of their GA.

Typically, GA appointments are made for the academic year, corresponding with the first day of the Fall semester and ending the last day of finals week at the end of the Winter Semester. Some units maintain a number of extended positions (10-month and 12-month). Extended positions are mostly utilized by units that need assistance beyond the regular academic year, such as the Office of Financial Aid and Housing. Some appointments are made semester-by-semester. Spring/Summer appointments are considered to be separate positions from the academic year.

In 2020-21, TGS reviewed and approved the following full-time (1.0 FTE, 20 hrs. per week) and half time (.5 FTE, 10 hrs. per week) graduate assistant appointments:

- **Academic Year:**
  - 105 full-time
  - 101 half-time

- **10-Month Extended:**
  - 28 full-time
  - 0 half-time

- **12-Month:**
  - 2 full-time
  - 13 half-time

- **Semester-by-Semester:**
  - **Fall 2019**
    - 12 full-time
    - 45 half-time
  - **Winter 2020**
    - 20 full-time
    - 60 half-time
  - **SS 2020**
    - 9 full-time
    - 7 half-time
Special Projects Graduate Assistantship Positions 2021-22

TGS provides funding for special project GAs to departments, units, and faculty that demonstrate a specific need. Criteria used for awarding special project GAs are: the impact of the project on the academic mission of the university, the project’s congruence with the university’s mission and vision and the objectives of the Strategic Plan, the roles and responsibilities for the requested GA were appropriate for a graduate student and congruent with a degree program or a set of skills required in an academic discipline, and evidence that the need could not be met through other budget processes.

Forty-two faculty/staff members submitted proposals for special projects GAs for the 2021-22 academic year. Of those, 19 full-time (1.0) positions for one academic year were awarded, and 10 half-time (.5) positions for one academic year were awarded.

Table 3 on the following page offers a full report of Special Project GAs awarded for the 2021-212 academic year.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/Department</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>Civil Discourse Support (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office of Civil Discourse</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Community and Public Service</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Climate Survey on Sexual Violence (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Higher Education of Incarcerated &amp; Returning Citizens (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Constitutional and Legal Rights of Older Inmates (.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Foundations</td>
<td>Impact of COVID on Student Retention (.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Health Professions</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Dietetics</td>
<td>Accreditation Preparation and Program Marketing (.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>LoWellness Health Education Project (.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication Sciences and Disorders</td>
<td>Stuttering Research and Outreach (.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>College of Liberal Arts and Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>AWRI</td>
<td>Ecological Condition of Boardman River (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Ecology of Burbot (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Restore the Rapids (.5)</td>
</tr>
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<td>Biology</td>
<td>Blanding’s Turtle Habitat Selection and Connectivity Research (1.0)</td>
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<td>Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>CMB 156 Lab (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>English Dept.</td>
<td>Holocaust Memorial Website (.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Psychology Dept.</td>
<td>Peer to Peer Mentoring and Tutoring (1.0)</td>
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<td>Psychology Dept.</td>
<td>Quantum Effects in Perception and Decision Making (.5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Statistical Consulting Center (1.0)</td>
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<td>Statistics</td>
<td>Open Educational Resource Development for Data Literacy in Social Studies (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Padnos College of Engineering and Computing</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Computing</td>
<td>Cyberbullying in Online Twitter Communities Research (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Engineering</td>
<td>Finite Element Module Development (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Engineering</td>
<td>National Science Foundation Project Support GA (1.0)</td>
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<td>School of Engineering</td>
<td>3D Human Movement Framework (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>School of Engineering</td>
<td>Improving Engineering Design Education (.5)</td>
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<td>Provost Office</td>
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<td>Faculty Initiatives for Student Success (1.0)</td>
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<td>Student Academic Success Center</td>
<td>Student Academic Success Coach (1.0)</td>
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<td>Seidman College of Business</td>
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<td>Seidman Marketing Dept.</td>
<td>Marketing Research Projects (1.0)</td>
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<td>Student Affairs Division</td>
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<td>University Counseling Center</td>
<td>AOD Services Prevention and Recovery (1.0)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campus Recreation and Wellness</td>
<td>Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation and Wellness (1.0)</td>
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</table>
Graduate Student Events and Programs

Academic Conference Fund
The Graduate School administers the Academic Conference Fund for graduate students to provide grants ($600 for domestic travel and $800 for international travel) for presentations at academic conferences. Students must be the primary presenter of research at a professional conference, or whose creative work is accepted for an exhibition or performance at a recognized event.

The application is submitted along with a brief budget, evidence of acceptance to the conference, and a letter of reference from a faculty member who can attest to the quality of the student’s work or the academic benefit of attending the conference/meeting. Students must be in good standing with the university and should be either current graduate students or recent graduates whose research was accepted for presentation before graduation.

Table 4: 2020-21 Academic Conference Fund Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications Received</th>
<th>7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applications Approved</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dollars Approved</td>
<td>$1,714.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Awards by College/Department:
College of Health Professions
- Public Health: 2
- Occupational Therapy: 2
Kirkhof College of Nursing
- Doctor of Nursing Practice: 3

Graduate Presidential Research Grants
The Graduate School administers the Graduate Presidential Research Grant program. Grant awards of up to $1,500 are provided to graduate students to support their research endeavors. Students must be degree-seeking, and the research must be tied to the completion of some aspect of their graduate degree. Usually, these grants will be in support of research undertaken for purposes of the completion of a dissertation, thesis, or final scholarly project.

Students submit an application with a detailed budget, description of their research, and a letter of support from their major advisor or research advisor. Applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of the Dean of the Graduate School and faculty members representing a cross-section of disciplines. Grants are competitive; therefore, not all applicants will receive an award. Faculty reviewers for 2020-21 included:

- Dr. Shannon Biros, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
- Dr. Shaunna Kelder, Assistant Professor of Occupational Science and Therapy
- Dr. Alexandra Locher, Associate Professor of Biology
- Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger, Dean of the Graduate School
- Dr. Robert Smart, Professor of Chemistry and Vice Provost for Research Administration
- Dr. Mark Staves, Professor of Cell Molecular and Biology
- Dr. Laurie Stickler, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Grants Awarded</th>
<th>Awards in Dollars:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11 awards at $1,500 each</td>
<td>$16,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $1,479.00</td>
<td>$1,479.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $1,475.00</td>
<td>$1,475.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $1,359.00</td>
<td>$1,359.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $1,293.43</td>
<td>$1,293.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $1,284.00</td>
<td>$1,284.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 awards at $1,000.00</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $875.00</td>
<td>$875.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $750.00</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $538.00</td>
<td>$538.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 awards at $500.00</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 award at $150.00</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Awards:
24 Awards ........................ $28,703.43

Number of Awards by College/Department:

- **College of Liberal Arts & Sciences**
  - Biology .................................................. 9
  - AWRI/Biology ............................................. 2
  - Biomedical Sciences ................................. 3
  - Cell and Molecular Biology ....................... 1

- **Kirkhof College of Nursing**
  - Doctor of Nursing Practice .................... 2

- **College of Health Professions**
  - Occupational Therapy .............................. 4
  - Public Health ........................................ 1
  - Speech-Language Pathology ...................... 1

- **Padnos College of Engineering and Computing**
  - Biomedical Engineering .......................... 1
Campus-Wide Events

3-Minute Thesis Competition
The Graduate School hosted GVSU’s sixth annual 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 10, 2021. Students presented their independent research in exactly three minutes with the aid of one static PowerPoint slide. A panel of faculty judges from a variety of disciplines at GVSU evaluated the competitors and determined the winner.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2021 3MT judging panel included:

- Dr. Andrew Booth, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Neal Buckwalter, College of Community and Public Service
- Dr. James Dunn, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Brian Hatzel, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Tonisha Jones, College of Community and Public Service
- Dr. Libby MacQuillan, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Wendy Reffoor, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing
- Dr. Janet Winter, Kirkhof College of Nursing

Dr. Len O’Kelly from the School of Communications served as the competition’s MC.

Ten students participated in the competition, and the top three students were announced at the end of the event. Due to ongoing restrictions regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, the event was held virtually via Zoom. The students recognized at the event were:

**Third Place-tie ($100 winner):**
Hana Christoffersen, Biology (M.S.)

**Third Place-tie ($100 winner):**
Megan Sanders, Biology (M.S.)

**Second Place ($250 winner):**
Mary Chenge, Nursing (DNP)

**First Place ($500 winner):**
Darby Disselkoen, Nursing (DNP)

The first-place winner submitted a video of her presentation to MAGS for their Annual Conference, which was held virtually in April 2021.

Graduate Showcase 2021: Tomorrow’s Innovators Today
The Graduate Showcase is an event co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. Due to the ongoing restrictions regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, the event was held virtually at www.gvsu.edu/gradshowcase. Student scholars from a variety of programs submitted abstracts and recorded videos of their poster presentations. Students received a certificate of participation.

Video presentations are available at: https://www.gvsu.edu/gradshowcase/view-presentations-10.htm. Since the official launch of the videos on April 13, 2021, the website has received over 700 views.

The University Library assisted in updating the event page on ScholarWorks to house current and previous years’ programs and student abstracts. All abstracts from 2011–21 are available online at http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gradshowcase/.
## Table 6: Graduate Showcase Participants and Posters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Student(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>Hana Christoffersen</td>
<td>Estimating tundra vegetation cover using near-surface repeat field photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology (Annis Water Resources Institute)</td>
<td>Megan Mader</td>
<td>Water quality and land cover in Lake Michigan drowned river mouths</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>Emily Dorn</td>
<td>Montcalm Care Network Biostatistics Internship: Health Status Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>Natale Johnson</td>
<td>Data Science Internship: Spectrum Health Healthier Communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biostatistics</td>
<td>Rachel Thompson</td>
<td>Heavy Metal Exposures, C-Reactive Protein, and Dietary Inflammatory Index: NHANES 2007-2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Alexandria Thompson and Niranjan Pokhrel</td>
<td>Biotechnology Internship with Empirical Bioscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Sarah Rahman, Gayatri Mandar Pingle, and Alisha Yogesh Babu</td>
<td>Wastewater Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Outbreaks Via Digital Droplet Pcr In Campus Dormitories</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Dietetics</td>
<td>Connor Patrick</td>
<td>Eating Pattern Disparities Among Sexual and Gender Minorities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>Patrick Anderson</td>
<td>&quot;It's Not Easy to Do a WikiLeaks&quot;: A Cypherpunk Approach to Global Media Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Alyssa McCord</td>
<td>Gaining a Victim-Centered Approach to Policing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal Justice</td>
<td>Cassie Merritt</td>
<td>Gendered Pronouns and Rape Myth Acceptance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-Literary Studies: Reading</td>
<td>Alyssa Ginzel</td>
<td>Metacognition, and Formative Assessment in the Middle School ELA Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-Literary Studies: Reading</td>
<td>Gayle Lotterman</td>
<td>Reading Enjoyment and Motivation in Grades 3-5: Encouraging an Increase in Reading for Pleasure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-Literary Studies: Reading</td>
<td>Lindsey Tuinstra</td>
<td>Understanding the Need for RTI at the Secondary Level, and Providing Research-Based Literacy Instruction for Adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-Literary Studies: TESOL</td>
<td>Nicole Durso</td>
<td>Leading the Way Toward Culturally Responsive Ngss Instruction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education-Literary Studies: TESOL</td>
<td>Rahnda Kaye Bordeaux</td>
<td>Effective Strategies for Working with Refugee Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Administration and Health Informatics and Bioinformatics</td>
<td>Emily Gallaway and Sierra Strutz</td>
<td>Physician Office EHR Useability and Patient Safety Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing-DNP</td>
<td>Desiree Palmer</td>
<td>Enhancing Medications Adherence Behaviors Among Ambulatory Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing-DNP</td>
<td>Meg Owens</td>
<td>Michigan Physician Orders for Scope of Treatment (MI-POST): Development of a Nationally Recognized Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Erin Attard, Andraya Musallam, Kirsten Vaas, and Taylar Chaney</td>
<td>Health Literacy in Occupational Therapy Research: A Scoping Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Melissa Tonkavich, Jamie Sheaffer, Josh Oliver, Veronica Pabich, and Julia Gomez</td>
<td>Immersive Virtual Reality in Healthcare: A Systematic Mapping Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapy</td>
<td>Sarah Rustmann</td>
<td>Dynamic Factor Analysis of Seasonal Variation In Daily Physical Activity in Individuals with Heart Failure and Implanted Cardiac Devices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Alexis Porter</td>
<td>SARS-CoV-2 Wastewater Surveillance: Evaluation of Pilot Method in West Michigan Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Amanda Filkins</td>
<td>The Effectiveness of Wellness Programs within Police Departments at Addressing Police Officer Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Danielle Uribe</td>
<td>Female Infertility Treatment, Maternal Characteristics, and Adverse Birth Outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Erika Doran</td>
<td>ABO Blood Group and Impacts on SARS-CoV-2 Infection and Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Mariekie Barone</td>
<td>The Association Between Religiosity and Psychological Well-Being in Master of Social Work Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>Marigold Cobbina</td>
<td>Perceptions of Professionals on School-Based Interventions for Students with Mental Health Problems in Ghana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate Student Celebration

The Graduate Student Celebration and Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence event is held at the end of the Fall and Winter semesters of each academic year to recognize the academic excellence of graduate students at GVSU.

Due to the ongoing restrictions regarding COVID-19 Pandemic, the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 events were held virtually via Zoom. A link to each event was sent to graduate students and faculty to be shared with family, friends, and additional faculty and staff. GVSU President Philomena V. Mantella and Provost Maria Cimitile both provided live congratulations to the students. Awardee names and photos were displayed as Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger announced each award and provided a brief description of each graduate student's accomplishments.

Graduate student award recipients were invited to have free professional headshots taken at the Graduate School prior to the events (with appropriate social distancing). These photos were used during the live presentation of awards and students received digital files for future use.

Table 7: Graduate Student Celebration Facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
<th>Winter 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date Held</td>
<td>December 17, 2020</td>
<td>April 16, 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location of Event</td>
<td>Online Via Zoom</td>
<td>Online Via Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closed Captioning</td>
<td>$52.50</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photographer</td>
<td>$455.00</td>
<td>$555.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program Printing</td>
<td>$778.51</td>
<td>$779.16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost of Event</td>
<td>$1,286.01</td>
<td>$1,439.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate Dean’s Citations for Academic Excellence

The Graduate Dean's Citations for Academic Excellence include awards for Excellence in a Degree Program, Outstanding Dissertation, Outstanding Master’s Thesis, Outstanding Final Project, Outstanding Publication, Service to the Community or Profession, Leadership and Service to GVSU, Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU, and Excellence in Sustainability.

Faculty members and Graduate Program Directors nominate graduate students in their disciplines that are at or near degree completion. Students are nominated for excellence in the program based on grade point average, outstanding performance in coursework, academic skills that exceed the average for written assignments, projects, service, and exceptional leadership.

Students receiving awards for Service to the Community or Profession, Leadership and Service to GVSU, Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU, and Excellence in Sustainability have demonstrated active leadership, outstanding service, innovative thinking, and represented GVSU's core values in a way that has made a positive impact on the community or university.

Awards for Outstanding Dissertation, Master's Thesis, Final Project, and Publication are given to students whose work is of publishable quality, or whose research is on a topic of exceptional significance to the profession or discipline. Excellence in design, analysis, discussion, and presentation are evident. Winners of awards for 2020-21 can be found online at http://www.gvsu.edu/gs/graduate-deans-citations-for-academic-excellence-32.htm.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) co-hosts this event. Graduate students at or near degree completion are encouraged to submit nominations for outstanding faculty members. The GSA Executive Board selects the recipients of the Faculty Mentor, Kimboko Inclusion, and Teaching awards. Those faculty members are invited to the ceremony and receive a certificate from the current GSA president.
Table 8: Dean’s Citations Awards 2020-21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dean’s Citation Award Category</th>
<th>Fall 2020</th>
<th>Winter 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Excellence in a Degree Program</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Master’s Thesis</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Final Project</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Publication</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence in Service to Community or Profession</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence in Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excellence in Sustainability</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGS Thesis Nominees</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Minute Thesis Winner</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSA Faculty Mentor*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSA Kimboko Inclusion*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSA Outstanding Teaching*</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Awards presented by the Graduate Student Association

New Graduate Student Orientation

The New Graduate Student Orientation is a joint endeavor between the Graduate School and Office of Admissions. Jennifer Palm, Assistant to the Graduate School, and Tracey James-Heer, Associate Director of Admissions, provide leadership in planning and coordinating the event and working with all constituents to ensure the event runs smoothly and that graduate students’ needs are met.

Due to the ongoing restrictions regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, the event was held virtually in the Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring/Summer 2021 semesters. Fall orientation sessions were held on Thursday, August 20, and Friday, August 28. Two general information sessions were held on each date to accommodate a large number of attendees. The Winter 2021 orientation was held on Tuesday, January 12, and the Spring/Summer 2021 orientation was held on Wednesday, May 5.

Attendance:
Fall 2020: .................................................. 291
Winter 2021: .................................................. 43
Spring/Summer 2021: .......................................... 23
Graduate Assistant Orientation

The Graduate Assistantship Policy, Section 1.09.B in the Faculty Handbook, requires that all graduate students assigned a Graduate Assistantship must complete an orientation that explains Graduate Assistant rights and responsibilities.

The Graduate School held three New Graduate Assistant Orientation sessions before the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester. Two orientation sessions were held virtually and one was held in-person in the Loosemore Auditorium. In the Winter 2021 semester, three virtual orientations were held for new graduate assistants starting their appointments during that term. Students who were unable to attend any of the orientation sessions were required to meet with TGS staff individually.

Attendance:

Fall 2020: .................................................. 179
Winter 2021: .............................................. 33
Graduate Communications

Graduate Education Publications

- Advising Handbooks
  The Graduate School publishes both a faculty/staff and a student advising handbook. Each handbook contains advising best practices, expectations of quality advising, and resources for students and faculty. Both versions are available for download at www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual.

- Graduate Faculty & Graduate Program Director Handbooks
  The Graduate School creates two separate handbooks, one for general graduate faculty and one specifically for Graduate Program Directors. Both handbooks are designed to assist faculty members with a variety of duties, including recruitment, enrollment management, application review and admission, academic processes, and graduation audits. These handbooks are available for download at www.gvsu.edu/gs/resources-for-faculty-staff-59.htm.

- Graduate Student Guidebook
  The Graduate School annually reaches out to individuals and departments to gather policies, resources, and helpful suggestions to enhance the quality of graduate students’ experience at GVSU. Included in the guidebook are facts about the campus, department contacts, advice for guidance and resources, and program options. The guidebook supplements the standard university resources by providing graduate-specific information and resources. The Graduate Student Guidebook is available for download at: www.gvsu.edu/gs/guidebook.

- Guides for Graduate Students
  Along with the listed resources here, the Graduate School maintains several documents and guides for graduate students. Some of these include the New Graduate Student Checklist, Graduate Student Blueprint, Online Learning Guide, and the new Health Resources document. These guides are available for download at: https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/guides-for-graduate-students-70.htm.

- Policies and Procedures Manual
  The Graduate School publishes the Graduate Education Policies and Procedures Manual annually to provide support to graduate education at Grand Valley State University and to serve as a comprehensive guide to graduate education policies and procedures for faculty, staff, and students at GVSU. The Policies and Procedures Manual is available for download at www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual.

- Culminating Project Guidelines
  The Graduate School annually publishes guidelines that define the procedures for creating and submitting a final graduate project at Grand Valley State University. These guidelines, along with document templates and resources, are available for download at: https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/project-guidelines-104.htm.

- Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines
  The Graduate School annually publishes a manual that defines the procedures for creating and submitting a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation at Grand Valley State University. This manual, along with document templates and resources, are available for download at: https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/thesis-and-dissertation-information-35.htm.

The Graduate School Podcast Series

To provide prospective and current graduate students with more efficient ways to learn about GVSU’s graduate programs, TGS decided during the 2016-17 academic year to create a series of podcasts. These podcasts intend to cater to prospective students who are often commuting, as they can listen to them “on the go.”

These three to seven minutes podcasts individually outline all graduate programs and graduate certificates at GVSU. The Graduate School now has podcasts for master’s, doctoral, certificate, and combined degree programs which provide an overview of the admissions processes, degree requirements, curriculum structures, and distinguishing qualities of each program. The podcasts are recorded by a graduate assistant in the Graduate School office, edited, and uploaded to the TGS website.

As of Spring/Summer 2021, podcasts have been created for all master’s and doctoral programs, combined degree programs, and graduate certificate programs. TGS has also begun a new podcast initiative to create individual podcasts for the different emphases within programs to provide more details to prospective students that are targeted to their interests. The Graduate School is continually recording and updating podcasts as new programs, and program changes arise.
6 in 60: The Graduate School Newsletter

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the Graduate School continued to use the cost-free EMMA software system supported by Institutional Marketing for the 6 in 60 newsletter. The newsletter content regularly highlights graduate education activities at GVSU, including important dates and deadlines, opportunities for graduate students, news and events from the Graduate Student Association, and graduate student success stories. The newsletter is distributed via email to over 1,000 faculty and staff, as well as to all enrolled graduate students. Recent newsletters are available online at www.gvsu.edu/gs.

“Grad News: Headlines from Across the Nation” Newsletter

The Graduate School has continued this newsletter to highlight graduate education-related news from across the country. The Graduate School uses the cost-free EMMA software system supported by Institutional Marketing to distribute this newsletter. Stories include the addition of programs, program changes, and program recognition. This newsletter is sent to approximately 130 recipients, including members of the Provost Cabinet, Graduate Program Directors, Graduate Department Chairpersons, Academic Deans, and members of the Graduate Council.

The Graduate School Website

The Graduate School website serves as the central location for information on all issues related to graduate education for future and current students, as well as faculty and staff. The Graduate School also supports the Virtual New Graduate Student Orientation and PACES Professional Development Program websites.

Website Facts July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

Selected Graduate School website data are provided below:

- Total page views: 210,563
- Total unique users who visited the Graduate School website: 63,676
- Total number of new users on the Graduate School website: 26,788

Top 10 Pages Visited:
1. The Graduate School Homepage
2. Master and Doctoral Degree Programs
3. Graduate Degrees, Certificates, and Combined Degrees
4. Graduate Assistantships – Job Openings
5. Graduate Assistantships – Student Information and Resources
6. Graduate Assistantships – What is a Graduate Assistantship?
7. Online/Hybrid and Certificate Programs
8. Graduate Student Resources
9. Combined Degree Programs
10. The Graduate School Podcast Series

The Graduate School Social Media

In Fall 2020, the Graduate School at GVSU Facebook page had over 850 Followers. Due to issues with Facebook, the page was unpublished, and a new page was created: https://www.facebook.com/GVSUGradSchool/. The Graduate School will continue to rebuild its social media presence in 2021-22.

Posts to the page are used to actively promote events such as New Graduate Student Orientation, Thesis and Dissertation Workshops, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition. Other posts include links to articles related to professional development, career guidance, financial advice and support, and news about the GVSU or Grand Rapids communities. Campus and event photos are also featured regularly.
Graduate Leadership

Graduate Council

Full Graduate Council
Total number of meetings: 8 regular meetings, 7 executive committee meetings
Average number of attendees per regular meeting: 19 elected members, 9 ex-officio members

Topics/Decisions: The Graduate Council voted on a number of new or revised graduate policies and program changes as reflected in the Graduate Council chair's annual report to the University Academic Senate (following this section). Other items included addressing COVID-19 concerns of faculty and students, discussing the introduction of hyflex classes for students that wish to remain online and addressing the technology that would be required, offering suggestions for the mission statement of the Reach Higher Together Strategic Planning Committee, restarting the recruitment of international students as travel restrictions eased, submitting a memo to Executive Committee of the Senate with recommendations for the Graduate and Lifetime Learning Unit, and meeting with Vice-Provost for Graduate and Lifetime Learning Unit Kara Van Dam to discuss the role of the new unit.

The Graduate Council suspended graduate program review for the 2020-21 academic year, and will restart the process during the 2021-2022 academic year. Reviews will be done in-person if possible but can be conducted virtually if necessary.

Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review (GC-CPR) Subcommittee
Total number of meetings: 10
Average number of attendees per meeting: 8 elected members, 4 ex-officio members

Topics/Decisions: Curriculum logs reviewed included 16 program change proposals, one new program proposal, and one new certificate proposal. The GC-CPR created a system to streamline the process that reviews admissions requirements changes for curriculum reviews. The subcommittee also updated the graduate program review procedures.

Graduate Council Policy (GC-PC) Subcommittee
Total number of meetings: 8
Average number of attendees per meeting: 8 elected members, 4 ex-officio members

Topics/Decisions: Proposed or revised six policies and reviewed university terminology related to tracks/concentrations/emphasis/areas of study in the university’s graduate programs. The GC-PC also discussed graduate faculty workload and created survey drafts that will be piloted over the summer and looked at further in the Fall 2021 semester.

Graduate Council 2020–21 Annual Report
Prepared by: Andrea Bostrom, Chair

Graduate Council Faculty, Student, Administrative Members, and Ex-officio members:
- D. Balfour (CCPS, Vice-Chair of Graduate Council, fall semester), A. Bostrom (KCON, Chair of Graduate Council), W. Burns-Ardolino (BCOIS, Vice-Chair of Graduate Council, winter semester), A. Campbell (CLAS), X. Cao (PCEC), S. Choudhuri (PCEC, Chair of Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee), D. Conrad (KCON), I. Fountain (administrative), B. Harvey (U.L.), M. Harris (COE), T. James-Heer (ex-officio), J. Jeffryes (U.L.), R. Jelener (CCPS), C. Karasinski (CHP), S. Lipnicki (ex-officio, fall semester), M. Luttenton (ex-officio), K. Ozga (CHP), E. Nichols (CCPS, replaced early in fall semester), R. Niu-Cooper (COE), J. Palm (administrative), J. Pope (SCB) J. Potteiger (ex-officio), P. Ratliff-Miller (SCB), E. Schendel (ex-officio), M. Staves (CLAS, Chair of Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee), D. Vainner (ex-officio), P. Wells (ex-officio), J. Wendland-Liu (BCOIS), M. Wooddell (CCPS, winter semester).

Graduate Council Student Members:
- J. T. Jones (President, GSA; member of GC-CPR), J. Brown, G.E. Lehmberg, P. Todd

Ex-Officio Students Attending:
- A. Filkins, M. Scannell
The Graduate Council (G.C.) convened on September 4, 2020 and met a total of eight times through April 16, 2021. Because the G.C. addresses policy issues, reviews graduate curriculum proposals, and implements program reviews, members of the G.C. serve on either the Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee (GC-CPR, Mark Staves, Chairperson) or the Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee (GC-PC, Shabbir Choudhuri, Chairperson). With each college sending two faculty members to G.C., each college is represented on both subcommittees. The GC-CPR and GC-PC generally meet twice each month in addition to regular G.C. meetings; however, this year we followed the guidance of the university to minimize non-essential meetings.

The GC-PC met six times this academic year. Primarily, they addressed one of this year’s charges related to graduate faculty workload. They are in the process of developing, piloting, and preparing a survey to assess graduate faculty members’ distribution of academic activities. They have also examined the terminology used in graduate programs across the university related to tracks/concentrations/emphases/areas of study in order to recommend clarifying definitions. The subcommittee is working on clarifying the Dual Level Enrollment Policy. Finally, they have revised the Transfer of Credit to a Graduate Program Policy, which will be forwarded to ECS for approval in the fall semester 2021.

The GC-CPR subcommittee needed to meet more frequently (a total of 10 virtual meetings) to approve curriculum items. These meetings included review and a recommendation to G.C. to approve one new program (M.S. in Water Resource Policy). Several program changes were also reviewed and approved in the following master’s programs: the Combined Degree in Computing, Master of Health Science in Biomedical Sciences, MS in Medical Dosimetry, Literacy Studies (Elementary Reading), Literacy Studies (K-12 Reading Specialist), Literacy Studies (Secondary Reading), Clinical Dietetics x2, Criminal Justice, TESOL Updates for New Standards (for the current program following the sun-setting for both TESOL and Applied Linguistics), MSE Biomedical Engineering Program, Professional MBA, Applied Computer Science, and a combined degree for M.S. in Occupational Therapy and Doctor of Occupational Therapy (MSOT/DrOT). The GC-CPR approved a program change for the Doctor of Nursing Practice to add an emphasis in Advanced Practice Nursing in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing. Badge changes at the graduate level included a change to the Badge in Web and Mobile Computing, an update to the Biomedical Informatics Badge, and a new certificate program Data Analytics Badge. The GC-CPR suspended program reviews for this academic year; the programs to be reviewed for the next academic year have been notified at the time of this report. One program review report left over from academic year 2019-2020 for the Reading/Language Arts was completed, submitted to GC-CPR and the full G.C., and forwarded to the provost in winter semester.

The G.C. received a memo from the ECS that set a general agenda for the 2020-2021 academic year. More specifically, the G.C. was charged with several tasks in that memo. The efforts of G.C. related to these charges are summarized below.

1. Review Graduate Faculty Workload
This review is ongoing and is beginning with a survey of how graduate faculty members spend their time during the academic year. The survey has been developed and is being piloted and finalized to send to graduate faculty at the beginning of next academic year. The survey will be used to obtain a basic understanding of how workload is currently distributed across faculty members’ activities and the opportunities for faculty to engage in their significant area of focus.

2. Year End Report—this document
In an effort to engage more faculty in our shared governance system, prepare a one to two page year-end report is disseminated to ECS/UAS and College Deans.

The following charges are deferred for the time being and may be undertaken should time permit. Program review documents will receive a priority in the GC-CPR to prepare for when program reviews begin again next academic year.

3. Graduate Program Culminating Experiences
Review all culminating experiences of graduate programs and make recommendations as needed.
4. Graduate Student Experience
Define what the graduate student experience at GVSU should be, identify needs, and make recommendations to improve the graduate student experience as needed.

5. Graduate Program Review
Evaluate the graduate program review process, documents, and templates and revise as needed.
- This activity has been started in G.C. and GC-CPR. Some work will be done on this over the summer. The task force that is examining program reviews for the whole university will be meeting to examine and, perhaps, streamline all the reports required of programs by the university and university governance.

Graduate Program Directors (GPD) Group
The GPDs meet monthly with the Dean of the Graduate School to review issues, policies, and procedures affecting graduate education at GVSU.

Total number of meetings: 5 regular meetings

Average number of attendees per meeting: 54

Major initiatives and discussions in which the GPDs participated in 2020-21 included:
- Postponing of graduate academic program reviews for the 2020-2021 year
- Graduate Student Mental Health
  - Creation of a Mental Health task force
  - Offered suggestions for how to expand mental health services across the university
- The introduction of the Graduate and Lifetime Learning Unit
  - Introduction of Kara Van Dam, Vice-Provost of Graduate and Lifetime Learning
  - Q and A with Kara Van Dam to clarify the role of the Graduate and Lifetime Learning Unit and how this unit will enhance graduate programs
- Creating a Prospective Student FAQ list for each graduate program
- Temporary changes to admissions requirements
- Updating the Graduate Writing Resources web page
- Admissions of International students
The Graduate School Information and Activities

Periodically, The Graduate School provides financial support to units, programs, events, and individuals for travel, conference registration, and other matters relating primarily to graduate education. In fiscal year 2020-21, due to ongoing restrictions on travel and in-person events because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, there were no events for the Graduate School to sponsor.

The Graduate School covers the cost of institutional memberships in the following organizations:

Table 9: Membership Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Support</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,999.00</strong></td>
</tr>
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The Graduate School Staff

Jeffrey Potteiger, Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger joined Grand Valley State University in July of 2010 and is a professor in the Department of Movement Science. He received his Ph.D. from Auburn University, his M.S. degree from McDaniel College, and his B.S. degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Potteiger has been a faculty member at Indiana State University, the University of Kansas, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Miami University. Dr. Potteiger has served in university administrative roles as a laboratory director, graduate program director, department chairperson, dean, and associate provost for research.

Dr. Potteiger began his professional career as a public school teacher in Pennsylvania before becoming involved in education at the university level. He has over 100 published research articles, books, and book chapters much of which has involved work with students. Dr. Potteiger recently published the 3rd edition of the textbook titled ACSM's Introduction to Exercise Science. His broad research interest is in how physical activity and nutrition influence health and disease. Much of Dr. Potteiger's recent research activity has been focused on the role of exercise and dietary intake on the use of carbohydrates and fats by the body.

In addition to his role as Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Potteiger serves as the GVSU Authorizing Institutional Official for all research activities and as the university's Research Integrity Officer. Dr. Potteiger contributes to his profession by serving on the editorial boards of several journals and as a leader in the American College of Sports Medicine.

Mark Luttenton, Associate Dean of the Graduate School

Dr. Mark Luttenton became a faculty member at GVSU in August 1989 and is a Professor of Biology and Associate Research Scientist in the Aniss Water Resources Institute. He earned a B.S. in Biology with a minor in chemistry from Central Michigan University (1977), an M.S. in Biology from University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse (1981), and received a Ph.D. in Aquatic Ecology from Bowling Green State University (1989). He joined the Graduate School in Winter 2016.

Dr. Luttenton began his teaching career in 1977 at the Toledo YMCA outdoor education center. Before joining GVSU, he taught at East Carolina University and Findlay College. Since joining GVSU, he has taught over a dozen different courses covering a wide range of topics and was recognized as the 2006 Outstanding Educator by the G.V. Alumni Association. In addition to his teaching duties at GVSU, he has served as Acting Biology Department Unit Head, Acting Director of the Aniss Water Resources Institute, and served for 14 years as the Biology Graduate Program Coordinator. He has been actively involved on GVSU faculty committees, most importantly, serving 13 years on the Graduate Council, 6 of those years as chair.

Dr. Luttenton’s research has covered a broad range of ecological systems ranging from small streams to the Mississippi River and from the Great Lakes to small freshwater pools in the Bahamas. He has researched native and invasive plants, protozoans, invertebrates, and fish including the ecology of stream-dwelling trout, trout diseases, and stream community bioenergetics. He is currently collaborating with researchers at three institutions on a study to explore the
The research team is screening the fungi for chemicals that may destroy a range of cancer cell types, or alternatively, stimulate nerve cell growth.

Irene Fountain, Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School

Irene Fountain has been with the Graduate School since the department was formed in 2000 as “Graduate Studies and Grants Administration.” She holds a Master’s degree in Public Administration from GVSU and a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Davenport University.

Irene serves as the dean’s administrative assistant. She coordinates the Graduate School financial and operational records, organizes meetings with various constituent groups such as the graduate program directors’ advisory group and the Graduate Council and its subcommittees, and keeps the official minutes and records of the Graduate Council. As the primary administrative support person for the Graduate Council, she is responsible for coordinating external reviewer site visits for programs undergoing graduate program review.

She also coordinates and administers the Graduate Presidential Research Grant (PRG) program, oversees the Academic Conference Fund (ACF) for Graduate Students, and works with the Graduate Student Association’s (GSA) funding board by assisting with the review of funding requests and approvals. She maintains the budgets and tracks expenditures for the PRG, ACF, and GSA and serves as the dean’s designee for expense reimbursements.

Irene manages the graduate assistantship program, ensuring adherence to the graduate assistantship policy, communicates with constituents and coordinates assistantship appointments with Financial Aid, Student Employment, GA supervisors, and students, and organizes the New Graduate Assistantship Orientation.

Jennifer Palm, Assistant to The Graduate School

Jenn joined GVSU as a staff member in 2005 and began working with graduate studies in January 2008. She earned a Master of Science in Communications (2017) and a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising and Public Relations (2004), both from GVSU.

In the Graduate School, Jenn is responsible for department publications and major events. This includes the Advising Guidebooks, Graduate Student Guidebook, Graduate Faculty Handbook, Graduate Directors Handbook, the Graduate Policies & Procedures Manual, and the Graduate School’s Annual Report. She coordinates department events such as the Graduate Student Celebration, the Graduate Showcase, New Graduate Student Orientations, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

Jenn oversees the department’s social media presence, maintains the Graduate Student Blackboard group, and creates the monthly 6 in 60 newsletter. She maintains and creates content for the department webpages, including News and Information, Success Stories, Events, and resources for students, faculty, and staff. She also coordinates the department presence at internal and external recruitment events.

She is the primary contact for graduate student issues and serves as the department contact for requests for exceptions to university policies. Jenn assists faculty applying for Graduate Faculty Status and maintains the database of approved faculty. She also serves as the department’s Thesis and Dissertation Coordinator and organizes the Thesis and Dissertation Workshops.

Jenn is approved as an Inclusion Advocate and serves as the department liaison for issues relating to inclusion and equity. She is part of the Leadership Team of the Women’s Commission affinity group at GVSU and an active participant in the GVSU Teach-In. In 2020-21, Jenn serviced on the Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force.
The Graduate School Graduate Assistants and Student Assistants

Amanda Filkins, Graduate Assistant

Amanda joined the Graduate School as a Resources and Marketing Graduate Assistant in Fall 2019. She graduated from GVSU with a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science degree in April 2019.

Amanda conducted research surrounding current graduate programs at GVSU and other graduate programs throughout the U.S. She also assisted with improving website materials and resources, as well as creating content for newsletters and other various documents. She was the primary coordinator of the Graduate School podcast series. Amanda supported the management of events such as the Graduate Dean’s Citation Awards, the Graduate Showcase, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

Amanda received her Master of Public Health degree in April 2021.

Maggie Scannell, Graduate Assistant

Maggie joined the Graduate School as a Resources and Marketing Graduate Assistant in Fall 2020. Born and raised in Grand Rapids, she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University and is currently pursuing a Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership from GVSU.

In 2020-21, Maggie was responsible for creating and posting content to the Graduate School website, including writing student success stories and posting about upcoming events. She also coordinated the Graduate School’s social media and supported the promotion of events such as the Graduate Dean’s Citation Awards, the Graduate Showcase, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

She served as a member of the Graduate Council as well as the University Technology Committee.

Maggie is also the President of the Nonprofit Professional Graduate Student Organization.

Long Ho, Student Assistant

Long became the Student Assistant to the Graduate School in May 2019. He is currently seeking a Management undergraduate degree. In the near future, Long is planning to pursue a Master of Public Administration at Grand Valley. He likes to play games, listen to K-pop music, and hang out with friends. He is also a member of Grand Valley’s Vietnamese Cultural Association, Asian Student Union, and Circle K International.

Long joined the Graduate School to maintain department databases related to graduate assistantships, graduate thesis and dissertations, and student petitions. He assists with data entry, filing, communication with students and faculty, and special projects to help the office run efficiently.

Sarah Spencer, Student Assistant

Sarah joined the Graduate School in October of 2019. She is currently an undergraduate student at Grand Valley studying Writing with a minor in Theater. While still exploring the many facets of the field, working as a Medical Translator or as an Editor are careers she would like to pursue. She enjoys camping, spending time with friends and family, and performing.

Sarah joined the Graduate School to maintain department databases related to graduate assistantships, graduate thesis and dissertations, and student petitions. She assists with data entry, filing, communication with students and faculty, and special projects to help the office run efficiently.
The Graduate School extends its appreciation to the students, faculty, and staff who further the mission of quality graduate education at Grand Valley State University. Comments, questions, or suggestions regarding this Annual Report may be directed to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7105.