

Physician Assistant Studies Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Kelsey 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 Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program. 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. The Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program will prepare students to become competent Physician Assistants that work in all areas of medicine. This is a 103 credit hour, cohort program that will be completed in 28 months.

The Physician Assistant, or PA, profession has been one of the most sought after careers for the last decade. It has consistently been rated as one of the top careers and best Masters degrees to obtain. The Physician Assistant profession is expected to grow by 30% through 2024.

Standard Grand Valley admission requirements include completion of the online application as well as a Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education. 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 have attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Additionally, the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program has a set of requirements for application and matriculation into the program. While the program does not require a specific bachelor's degree, there is a set of 12 pre-requisite courses that must be completed prior to matriculation. Five of the 12 courses are required prior to application including Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Biochemistry and Organic Chemistry. This program also requires a minimum of 500 hours of hands on, patient care experience. This experience can be paid or volunteer and we accept shadow and scribe hours as well. The applicant must submit two letters of recommendation and it is suggested that at least one letter be from a health care professional. Lastly, applicants must submit their GRE scores.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Master of Physician Assistant Studies website, www.gvsu.edu/pas.

The great news about GVSU's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies program at GVSU is a 103 credit hour program. The first 67 credit hours are considered the didactic phase of the program which includes lectures, labs, simulations, and small group, problem based courses. 36 credit hours count towards fulfilling the clinical experience requirements. These include 9 different rotations in all areas of medicine. For a complete listing of all courses please visit www.gvsu.edu/pas.

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies program uses a system based approach to the curriculum during the second through fourth semesters. Classes such as Clinical Medicine, Practical Therapeutics, Clinical Applications, Clinical Pathophysiology all work through the various body systems. The program also uses laboratory, small group classes and simulation experiences throughout the program to help students apply what they have learned into clinical scenarios. The Program accepts 36 students at the Grand Rapids campus and 12 students at the Traverse City campus. There are 12 full time faculty in the Physician Assistant Studies program including 3 Ph.D.'s, 7 Physician Assistants, a Registered Dietician, and a Doctor of Pharmacy. This program has had very successful student outcomes with nearly 100% of graduates being employed as Physician Assistants and a 98% first time pass rate on the national certifying boards.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Physician Assistant Studies graduate 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. Andrew Booth, at bootha@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.