

School Counseling Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Maggie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about GVSU's Master of Education in School Counseling 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 Education in School Counseling program will prepare students to become licensed school counselors for those who do not have a teaching degree or endorsed school counselors for those who have been trained as a teacher in kindergarten-12th grade school settings. This is a 36-42 credit hour program and can be completed in two years as a full-time student or up to eight years as a part-time student.

Employment in this field is projected to grow by approximately 10% across the nation by the year 2024 and growth is also expected in Michigan as a result of new job growth and retirement of current school counselors.

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 attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU. The School Counseling program requires that students include three academic and/or professional references. More details as well as the online application can be found on the school counseling program website at gvsu.edu/grad/counseling.

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 gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

As I mentioned, the Masters of Education in School Counseling program at GVSU is a 36-42 credit hour program. Students in this program complete 30 credit hours that are specific to the field of school counseling in comparison to other training programs that limit school counseling specific courses to 6-12 credit hours. In addition to 21 credit hours of coursework in school counseling that includes 100-hours of practicum experiences, the planned program of study includes courses in social foundations of education and research. All students complete a 600-hour internship and a research-based capstone experience. For a complete listing of all courses please visit gvsu.edu/grad/counseling.

The Masters of Education in School Counseling at GVSU prides itself as being one of the few training programs in the nation that is aligned with the American School Counselor Association's National Model. This means that the school counselor preparation program is laser focused on the training that students need to be successful school counselors. When our students complete the School Counseling graduate program, they are career-ready and well versed in supporting all

kindergarten through 12th grade students in the areas of academic, career, and social/emotional development.

That is just a snapshot of the Masters of Education in School Counseling 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. Shawn Bultsma, at bultsmas@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.