

Professional Master of Arts in Social Innovation Podcast

Hello, my name is Amanda and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's professional Master of Arts in Social Innovation 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 Arts in Social Innovation program will prepare students to work in non-profit, governmental and/or for-profit settings in diverse fields such as health, human services, education, urban planning, and sustainability through problem based courses, internship, and projects. This is a 36 credit hour program and can be completed in 2 years as a full-time student or in 3-4 years as a part-time student.

Demand for social innovation careers increased nationally by 28% in recent years and is expected to continue to increase globally as noted recently by the Bureau of European Economic Advisors.

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 previously applied to Grand Valley.

Program details as well as the online application can be found on the Social Innovation program website www.gvsu.edu/grad/si/.

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

The Master of Arts in Social Innovation Program at Grand Valley is a 36 credit hour program. 18 credit hours will include core courses. An additional 9 credit hours will be dedicated to application courses selected by students, along with 3 required credit hours of internship and 6 credit hours of project courses. For a complete listing of all courses please visit www.gvsu.edu/grad/si/.

Core courses will cover topics such as cultures of social innovation, research methods, engaging diversity, place and environmental justice, and philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. Application courses allow students to develop skills in specific areas relevant to their selected career fields such as: grant writing, community planning, fund development, non-profit management, and social entrepreneurship. Students will work directly with faculty advisors to select application courses and to plan their program of study.

Social Innovation graduates will foster and lead innovation throughout their organizations, businesses and communities both in terms of specific projects and in structural ways that impact

daily operations. Through a focused core of interdisciplinary courses, students will achieve social innovation learning outcomes and will hone their expertise through their selection of internship, project, and application credits. In this way students will transform their existing knowledge into professional expertise through the acquisition of key skills in the practice of social innovation. Three key elements that distinguish the Master of Arts in Social Innovation program include, student selected application courses based on personal and professional interest and cross-sector innovation, internship placement in government, non-profit, or for-profit organization, and project-based learning connected to complex social problems.

That is just a snapshot of the Social Innovation 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, Wendy Burns-Ardolino at burnsarw@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.