New Graduate Student Orientation
Fall 2015

Getting the Most Out of Your Graduate Education

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What is graduate education about?

* Acquiring deeper knowledge and developing advanced skills expected of an entry-level professional
* Gaining deeper, richer, higher impact learning experiences
* Preparing you for professional certification and licensure
* Improving your chances of starting a meaningful career related to your field of study
What is the value of a graduate education?

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**Education pays**

**Unemployment rate in 2009**
- Doctoral degree: 2.5
- Professional degree: 2.3
- Master’s degree: 3.9
- Bachelor’s degree: 6.8
- Associate degree: 8.6
- Some college, no degree: 9.7
- High school graduate: 14.6
- Less than a high school diploma: 14.6
- Average, all workers: 7.9

**Median weekly earnings in 2009**
- Doctoral degree: $1,532
- Professional degree: $1,529
- Master’s degree: $1,257
- Bachelor’s degree: $1,025
- Associate degree: $761
- Some college, no degree: $699
- High school graduate: $626
- Less than a high school diploma: $454
- Average, all workers: $774

What can you expect of your graduate education at GVSU?
How can the Office of Graduate Studies help?

- Support all aspects of Graduate Education
- Enforce the Graduate Education Policies
- Produce the Graduate Student Guidebook
- Fund opportunities for graduate students
  - Graduate Assistantships (stipend + tuition remission)
  - Presidential Research Grants
  - Academic Conference Fund
- Provide support for Graduate Student Association
- Award Graduate Dean’s Citations for Excellence

www.gvsu.edu/gs
What are some tips for getting started?

- Identify an advisor/mentor
- Know the program requirements
- Get involved
- Establish a workable timeline to finish your degree requirements
Best Wishes for a Successful Graduate Education Experience at Grand Valley!