



Looking for your graduate's name?

Visit *gvsu.edu/commencement/ yearbook* or scan the QR code to view the list of 2025 graduates!



gvsu.edu/commencement/yearbook

Friday's ceremony

College of Computing
College of Education and Community Innovation
Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Saturday's 10 a.m. ceremony College of Health Professions Seidman College of Business

Saturday's 3 p.m. ceremony
Kirkhof College of Nursing
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

W~

Are you a graduate?

"Sign" the digital yearbook! Upload a photo, share your favorite memory at GVSU, or highlight an individual who positively influenced your time at Grand Valley. Family and friends can share your yearbook entry, too!

Use #GVgrad or #GVSU when posting to social media today, and appear on the big screen!



Scan to listen to the GVSU Alma Mater

The Alma Mater

Hail to Thee, Grand Valley by Arthur C. Hills

Hail to thee Grand Valley — We're loyal, steadfast, true.

Praise our Alma Mater — We pledge our faith to you.

Keep your banners flying, black and white and blue.

We sing to thee Grand Valley. United we're for you!

Order of Ceremony

Welcome Video Presentation		
Processional: Pomp and Circumstance	arr. Alex Wilson	
Grand Valley State University Brass Quintet (prerecorded)		
Opening of Ceremony	Courtney Karasinski, Ph.D., CCC-SLP Chair of University Academic Senate	
Star-Spangled Banner*	rday afternoon, arr. Michael G. Sinshack Saturday morning, arr. Tumaini Sango t, piano ent, soprano U student, soprano	
Welcome and Remarks F	President, Grand Valley State University	
Student Speaker	Friday evening, Bex L. Takacs-Britz Saturday morning, Anna Schlutt Saturday afternoon, Cabdulcasiis Ciise	
"A Million Dreams"	Benj Pasek and Justin Paul	
Friday Saamanthy Rajenthiran, GVSU student, soprano Anna Bremmer, GVSU student, soprano Hannah St. Andre, GVSU student, soprano Brianna Hofman, GVSU student, piano		
Saturday morning Hannah St. Andre, GVSU student, soprano Natalie T Lindsey O'Donnell, GVSU student, mezzo-soprano Briar	Tripp, GVSU student, soprano nna Hofman, GVSU student, piano	
Saturday afternoon Saamanthy Rajenthiran, GVSU student, soprano Ava Grillo, GVSU student, soprano Lindsey O'Donnell, GVSU student, mezzo-soprano Brianna Hofman, GVSU student, piano		
Conferring of Honorary Degree	yor of Grand Rapids	
Recipient hooded during Friday ceremony by Provost and Execut	Jennifer A. Drake, Ph.D. tive Vice President for Academic Affairs	
Conferring of Degrees	President Mantella Provost Drake	
Alma Mater: "Hail to Thee, Grand Valley"	Arthur C. Hills	
Moving of the Tassel	Provost Drake	
Closing of Ceremony	President Mantella Courtney Karasinski	
Recessional	*Those who are able may stand.	



1960

Michigan Legislature established Grand Valley State College in 1960. Nearly 800 acres were acquired in Allendale.



1963

Grand Valley opened its doors to 226 students in September 1963, offering liberal arts coursework.

Friday, April 25

7 P.M. CEREMONY

College of Computing

Marouane Kessentini, Ph.D., Dean

College of Education and Community Innovation

Sherril Soman, Ph.D., Dean

Seymour and Esther Padnos College of Engineering

Adebayo Ogundipe, Ph.D., Dean

Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Mark F. Schaub, Ph.D., Dean

Marshals

Grand Marshal

Courtney Karasinski, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, College of Health Professions

Mace Bearer

Krista Benson, Ph.D., Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Student Marshals

Joseph Kuilema, Ph.D., College of Education and Community Innovation Samah Mansour, Ph.D., College of Computing

Faculty Marshals

Lindsay Corneal, Ph.D., Padnos College of Engineering Jack Mangala, Ph.D., Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Stage Marshals

Kyle Barnhart, M.Ed., Alumni Relations Elizabeth Chase, M.Ed., Student Academic Success Center

Platform Officials Marshals

Dave Huizen, Ph.D., Padnos College of Engineering Maureen Wolverton, M.A., Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies

Graduate degree recipients will be congratulated by Erica Hamilton, Ph.D., The Graduate School. Live name reading of candidates will be performed by Gayle Schaub, MLIS.

American Sign Language interpreting provided by Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services.



1972

Renamed to Grand Valley State Colleges to recognize the five cluster colleges, each with its own identity.



1979

The 1970s closed with a noteworthy addition to the campus: a football stadium, named Lubbers Stadium after President Lubbers.

Saturday, April 26

10 A.M. CEREMONY

College of Health Professions

Jeffrey Potteiger, Ph.D., Interim Dean

Seidman College of Business
Diana R. Lawson, Ph.D., Dean

Marshals

Grand Marshal

Courtney Karasinski, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, College of Health Professions

Mace Bearer

Tonya Parker, Ph.D., College of Health Professions

Student Marshals

Shari Bartz-Smith, Ph.D., College of Health Professions Gerry Simons, Ph.D., Seidman College of Business

Faculty Marshals

Steven Dahlquist, Ph.D., Seidman College of Business Kerry Mohney, M.A., College of Health Professions

Stage Marshals

Susan Proctor, M.Ed., Alumni Relations Brian Hatzel, Ph.D., College of Health Professions

Platform Officials Marshals

Chandresh Baid, Ph.D., Seidman College of Business Todd Sander, Ph.D., College of Health Professions

3 P.M. CEREMONY

Kirkhof College of Nursing

Linda Lewandowski, Ph.D., Dean

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Donovan Anderson, Ph.D., Interim Dean

University Libraries

Annie Bélanger, MLIS, Dean

Marshals

Grand Marshal

Courtney Karasinski, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, College of Health Professions

Mace Bearer

Julie Henderleiter, Ph.D., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Student Marshals

Jeffrey Rothstein, Ph.D., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Kelli Damstra, D.N.P., Kirkhof College of Nursing

Faculty Marshals

Barbara Hooper, D.N.P., Kirkhof College of Nursing Len O'Kelly, Ph.D., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Stage Marshals

Susan Proctor, M.Ed., Alumni Relations Katie Perschbacher, M.Ed., Dean of Students Office

Platform Officials Marshals

Majd Al-Mallah, Ph.D., College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Christina Quick, D.N.P., Kirkhof College of Nursing

Hooding will be performed by:

College of Health Professions - Lisa Kenyon, Ph.D.; Barbara Hoogenboom, Ed.D.; Michael Shoemaker, Ph.D.; Mary Green, J.D.; Kara Hotaling, Au.D.; and Jennifer Smart, Ph.D. Kirkhof College of Nursing - Amy Manderscheid, D.N.P. and Nicole Harpold, D.N.P.

Graduate degree recipients will be congratulated by Jennifer Moore, Ph.D., The Graduate School. Live name reading of candidates will be performed by Jon Jeffryes, MLIS, at 10 a.m. and Pam Wells, Ph.D., at 3 p.m.

American Sign Language interpreting provided by Misti Ryefield, M.S., College of Health Professions.



1984
The Great Laker, team mascot



1996

A public broadcasting pledge drive took place in 1996. WGVC — later WGVU bit the airwayes in 1973.



Dear Class of 2025,

Congratulations on earning your degree from Grand Valley State University! This achievement is a testament to years of hard work, determination, and commitment.

Earning a degree is no easy task — it takes late nights, early mornings, and the ability to embrace and overcome challenges. This ceremony is a celebration of you and the work you've done and the sacrifices you've made that have led to this moment.

As you move forward into the world beyond GVSU, I encourage you to continue to nurture the love of learning that has carried you to this milestone. I have no doubt you will continue the tradition of Laker alumni who positively impact the world around them and make the world a better place. Wherever your future leads, you always have a place within our community because you are a Laker for a Lifetime!



Mula Martella Ph D

Philomena V. Mantella, Ph.D.
President



2000
The Richard M. DeVos
Center opened in 2000,
giving GVSU visual
significance in downtown
Grand Rapids.



2004
Anishinaabek (Dance and Feast) was sponsored by Grand Valley's Native American student group.





Jennifer Drake, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs

Dear Laker,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone! Today is a celebration of your hard work, resilience, and growth, and we are grateful that you chose Grand Valley State University as the place to learn, explore, and pursue your goals.

At GVSU, we think of education as more than a series of classes. I hope your time here has sparked your curiosity, deepened your understanding, and inspired you to think and grow in new ways. I hope you have defined your passions and sharpened your purpose. GVSU's many stories of alumni success provide evidence that you are well-prepared for a life of meaning and impact.

As you step into what comes next, we hope you'll carry GVSU's spirit of learning and connection with you — and that you'll stay in touch. We want to hear about your future successes and continue to support you as part of the Laker family.

Wherever your journey leads, know that GVSU will always be proud to be part of your story.



2010Grand Valley celebrated
50 years of shaping lives!



2011
The Laker for a
Lifetime initiative
strengthened the Grand
Valley connection for
students and alumni.

Officers of the University

Philomena V. Mantella, Ph.D.	President
Laura Aikens, M.S.WVice	President for University Development
Stacie R. Behler, J.D. Vice F Communications Of	President and Chief Public Affairs and ficer and Secretary, Board of Trustees
Jesse M. Bernal, Ph.D.	Vice President for Strategy and Chief of Staff to the President
Jennifer A. Drake, Ph.DProvost and Executiv	e Vice President for Academic Affairs
Jenny Hall-Jones, Ph.D.	Vice President for Student Affairs
Gregory J. Sanial, Ph.D	nt for Finance and Administration and Treasurer, Board of Trustees
Robert Shorty, Ph.D	sident for People, Equity, and Culture
Miloš Topić, Ph.D Vice President for Information	n Technology and Chief Digital Officer
B. Donta Truss, Ed.D Vice President for Enrollment De	velopment and Educational Outreach
Kara Van Dam, Ph.D	nt and Chief Executive of GVSU Omni

Board of Trustees

Mikyia S. Aaron, J.D., '10, Vice Chair	Taylor
Elizabeth C. Emmitt, B.A., Chair	Byron Center
Ronald E. Hall, J.D.	Bloomfield Township
Brandon J. Hofmeister, J.D.	Ann Arbor
Susan M. Jandernoa, B.S.	West Olive
Noreen K. Myers, J.D., D.P.S., '72	East Grand Rapids
Shelley E. Padnos, J.D., D.P.S.	Fennville
Jason R. Trice, B.S., '01	Flint
Philomena V. Mantella, Ph.D., (ex officio)	President of the University

Honorary Life Members

Donna K. Brooks, L.H.D. • Dorothy A. Johnson, L.H.D. John C. Kennedy, D.P.S. • Kate Pew Wolters, D.P.S.



2014
Students and faculty
worked with Van Andel
Institute to improve early
detection of cancer
and disease.



2015
In April 2015,
Dale Boedeker became
the 100,000th person
to be awarded a degree
from Grand Valley.

Graduation Honors

The cords, stoles, sashes, and flags of different colors worn by some of the graduates are part of a special commencement tradition. They represent honors distinctions and recognize academic excellence or achievements in leadership. Some of the honors are based on grade point averages; other honors involve meritorious scholarship in fields of study or notable work for a particular organization.

For the Winter 2025 graduates who may qualify for the honors distinction once final grades are posted, the designation of "honors candidate" has been granted.

Honors will be awarded as follows: Summa cum laude — 3.9–4.00 Magna cum laude — 3.75–3.899 Cum laude — 3.5–3.749

A list of honor societies, awards of distinction, and recognition can be found at *gvsu.edu/commencement/honors*.

Tradition of Regalia

Academic dress consists of a gown, cap, and hood, which indicate the degree held by the wearer and the college or university that awarded that degree. Learn more about the significance of the various gowns, hoods, and more at <code>gvsu.edu/commencement/regalia</code>.



Join us in shaping Grand Valley's next strategic plan!

Your feedback will help the university to reflect, honor, inquire, adapt and celebrate.



gvsu.edu/reachhigher/survey



2019
President Haas took
his first selfie with
President-elect Philomena
V. Mantella, Grand Valley's
fifth president.



2020

A ceremony marked the official launch of the Laker Line, which connects the Allendale Campus to downtown Grand Rapids, with 20 stops along the way.



Honorary Degree Recipient

The Honorable Rosalynn Bliss, Former Mayor of Grand Rapids

Rosalynn Bliss became the City of Grand Rapids' first female Mayor when she took office on January 1, 2016. She previously served as a Second Ward City Commissioner for 10 years. Bliss has had a significant relationship with Grand Valley State University, contributing both as an educator and a leader. Bliss served as an adjunct professor at GVSU's School of Social Work for a decade. In 2019, while serving as mayor, Bliss was appointed as the Frederik Meijer Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and Innovation at GVSU's Frederik Meijer Honors College. This prestigious position involves teaching a junior seminar each semester, which emphasizes leadership development, innovation, and creative problem-solving. Through these roles, Bliss

has significantly impacted GVSU by bridging practical experience with academic learning, fostering an environment that encourages leadership and innovation among students.

Bliss is an active member of the community. She currently serves on the boards of the Downtown Development Authority, Kent County Convention Arena Authority, Community Rebuilders, ArtPrize, and Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park.

She has been recognized and honored locally as well as statewide for her commitment, dedication and work in the field of child abuse and neglect, and for her leadership in the community. Recognitions include: Michigan Women Forward Women of Achievement and Courage Award, Michigan Municipal League Honorary Life Membership Award, Crain's 100 Most Influential Women, and the Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Special Recognition Award.

She earned her bachelor's degrees in psychology and criminal justice from the University of South Alabama and a master's in social work from Michigan State University.



2024

Data shows GVSU
is #1 in the nation at
retaining graduates
in state.



2025GVSU celebrates the success of the Reach Higher 2025 strategic plan.



Your relationship with Grand Valley and each other is only just beginning. Today you join a community of more than 148,000 alumni who will help you stay connected, informed, and engaged as a Laker for a Lifetime.



Access Career Support

As an alum, you have free lifetime access to the GVSU Career Center. Our career coaches and workshops will help you plan or re-plan your career path, explore opportunities, improve your resumé, and expand your network.



Unlock Services & Discounts

Request your alumni benefits card to enjoy great services and discounts such as alumni pricing at the GVSU Laker Store, restaurant and travel deals, library access, and more!



@gvsualumni



@alumnigvsu



@gvsualum



linkedin.com/school/gvsualumni



@GVSUAlumni



Build Community

Connect with one of our alumni networks to socialize and network with fellow Lakers. Continue learning and growing with alumni events that take place throughout the year, across the country, and online.



Keep in Touch

Stay connected to GVSU by updating your contact information. It takes only a few minutes to ensure that the university and fellow Lakers feel as close as ever.

gvsu.edu/alumni/welcome







