

New Graduate Student Orientation



THE GRADUATE
SCHOOL

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY®

Winter 2026

Graduate School Staff Introductions

- Erica Hamilton, Vice Provost for Distributed Learning and Dean of the Graduate School
- Jennifer Moore, Associate Dean
- Trista Shumway, Director of Graduate Programming and Communication
- Sheri DeVries, Administrative Assistant

Graduate Education



Deeper
knowledge and
advanced skills



High impact
learning
experiences



Professional
certifications
and licensures



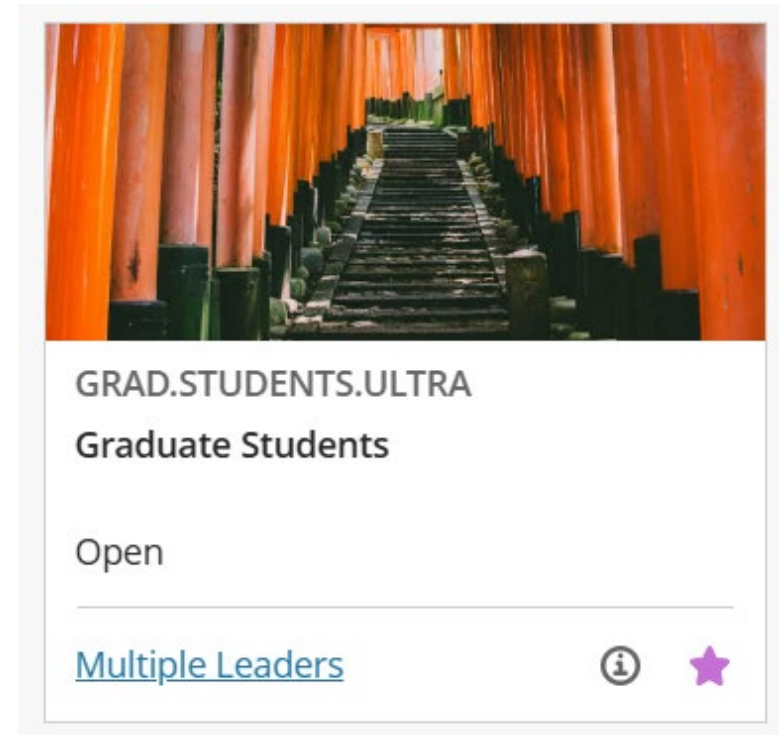
Meaningful
career related to
field of study

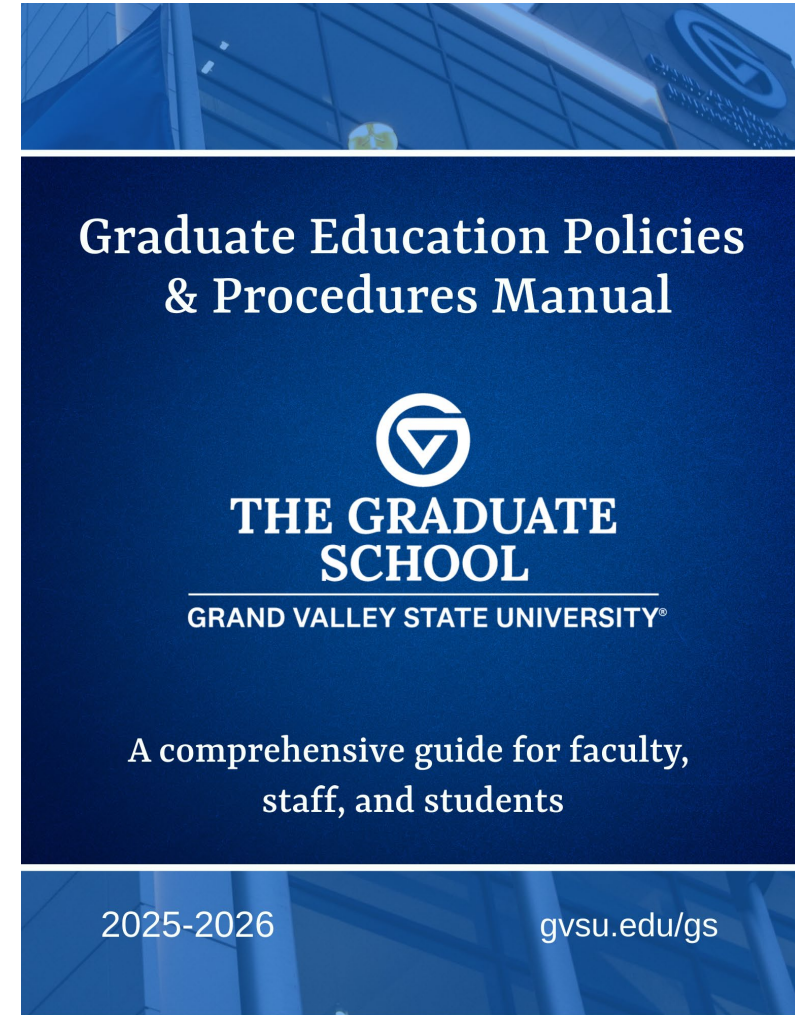
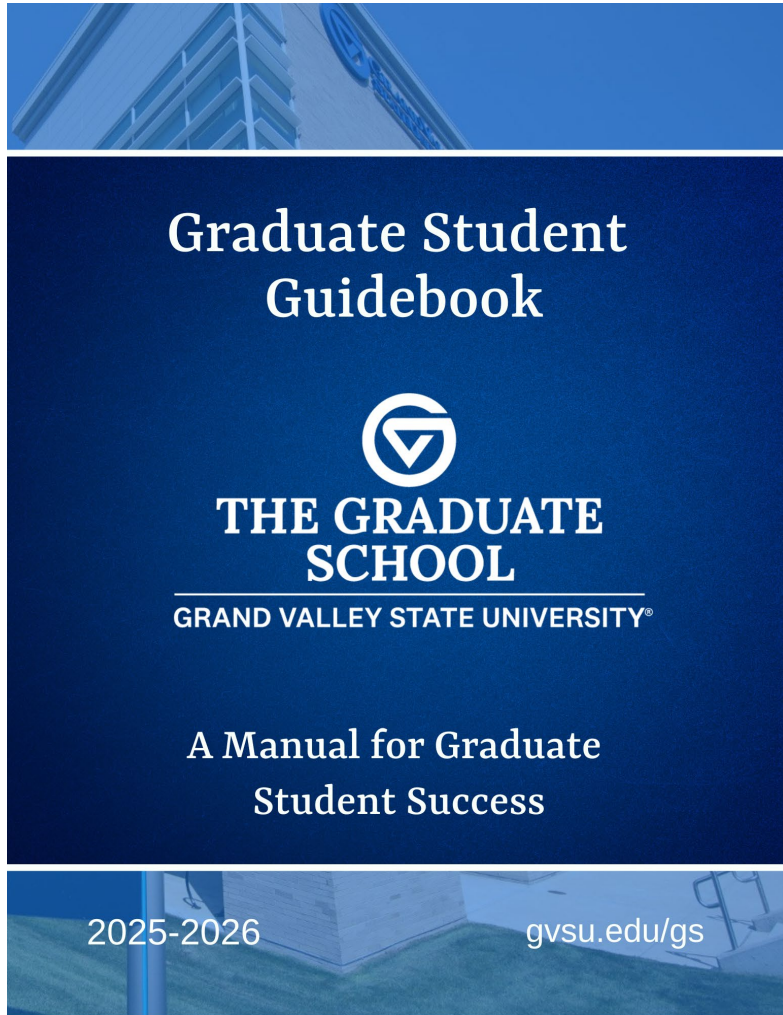
How can the Graduate School help you be successful?

- Support all aspects of Graduate Education
- Provide graduate student mentorship and professional development
- Fund opportunities for graduate students
 - Graduate Assistantships
 - Presidential Research Grants
 - Graduate Academic Conference Fund
- Support the Graduate Student Association

Graduate School Communications

- Graduate Student Blackboard Ultra Organization
- 6 in 60 Newsletter – Sent out monthly
- Emails
- Social Media Accounts
- Survey at graduation





[Guides](#) for Graduate Students

Academic Expectations

Complete all requirements for your graduate program

Maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average

Credit at the graduate level will be awarded for grades of C or better

Credit for a research project, thesis or dissertation will be awarded for a grade of pass or pass with distinction

Academic Support Services



- [Statistical Consulting Center](#)
- [Fred Meijer Center for Writing and Michigan Authors](#)
- [GVSU Speech Lab](#)
- [University Libraries](#)

Research and Scholarly Activity



Support for Research and Scholarship

- Funding to initiate, maintain, and disseminate your research, scholarship, and creative activities
- Graduate Student Programs
 - [Presidential Research Grants](#)
 - [Graduate Academic Conference Fund](#)
 - [Library Open Access Publishing Fund](#)

The GSA wants to support you!

Funds are available for:

- Professional & Academic Conferences
- Professional Development
- Up to \$1,000 per student and \$10,000 per registered student organization

Programming

- Welcome events
- Professional development
- Graduate student appreciation week
- Community meet-ups

Graduate Student Support & Resources



Student Services Center

- Student ID cards
- Registration
- Payments
- In-school loan deferment
- Enrollment verification
- Transcripts
- Devos Center on the City Campus & Student Services on the Valley Campus
- Check [Registrar](#) to plan your trip



Financial Aid



Fill out your [FAFSA](#) – Applies to domestic students only



Check [Scholarships](#)



Financial Hardship Grants



Contact via [email](#) or phone 616-331-3234



[Financial Aid Office](#) is on the Valley Campus in the Student Services Building

GVSU Career Center

- Located on the [Valley and City Campuses](#)
- Consultations
- Career Fairs and Events
- Internship and Job Searches
- Resumes and Cover Letters
- On-Campus Jobs and graduate assistantships are found on Workday
- Off-Campus Jobs are found on [Handshake](#)



University Counseling Center

Free Services – No insurance required

Clinical Services:

- One-on-one counseling
- Crisis intervention
- Referrals

Mental Health Prevention and Education

Substance Abuse Education and Recovery Services



Student Accessibility Resources

- Contact Student Accessibility Resources (SAR) to request resources and accommodations related to disabilities: [email](#)
- SAR will contact your instructor(s) to inform them of your accommodations but not your diagnosis.
- [Links U](#): Supporting students with autism spectrum disorder
- Examples of accommodations may include:
 - Extended test-taking time
 - Readers/scribes for tests
 - Electronic enlarged print materials
 - Permission to record lectures
 - Assistive technology
 - Preferential seating



Information Technology

- Computer Lab Access and Printing
- Blackboard Ultra and Zoom Support
- Gmail/Student Email Accounts
- Password Reset
- Submit a Help Request
- [Software, hardware, and student discounts](#)
- Cybersecurity

Student Centers

- [Office of Multicultural Affairs](#)
- [Gayle R. Davis Center for Women and Gender Equity](#)
- [Milton E. Ford LGBT Center](#)
- [Peter Secchia Military and Veterans Resource Center](#)

Title IX Anti-Harassment Policies

Sexual or gender-based harassment is prohibited conduct at GVSU

No employee, student or other person at the University shall engage in sexual or gender-based harassment

- **Sexual Harassment:** any unwelcome sexual advance, request for sexual favors, or other unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, whether verbal, non-verbal, graphic, physical, or otherwise
- **Gender-Based Harassment:** includes gender, sexual orientation, transgender, gender non-conforming, transitioning, gender identity, or gender expression
- **A “Hostile Environment”** exists when the sexual or gender-based conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, and/or pervasive

Sexual Misconduct

Sexual Misconduct includes sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual exploitation and is prohibited by the University

Resources and Reporting Options:

- In an emergency or to report sexual violence call 9-1-1
- [YWCA Grand Rapids](#), Free Nurse Examiner Program and resources
- 24-Hour Confidential Helpline 616-454-YWCA (616-454-9922)
- Free confidential counseling is available from the University Counseling Center

Victim Advocate: any student can seek support, options, and advocacy. Rachel Dziabuda at 616-331-2748 or [email](#). For more information visit [Victim's Rights and Options](#)

Title IX Coordinator: to report sexual or gender-based harassment or sexual misconduct, call 616-331-9530 or visit [Office of Civil Rights and Title IX](#)

Personal and Campus Safety

For any emergency Call 9-1-1

Always lock your doors (residence and vehicle) and stow your valuables

Be aware of your property such as backpacks, laptops, tablets, phones, and textbooks

Be an alert pedestrian; watch for cars, trains, and scooters

GVPD Safe walks: Call 616-331-6677

Register your bike

Protect your property - use a U-lock!

Victim's Rights and Options



myName

- Students may use the [myName](#) process to update Banner and some related systems
- The myName process allows students to have their chosen name appear anywhere a legal name is not required

GVSU Alert! Emergency Notification System

All GVSU students are automatically registered to receive email notifications to their email address.

To receive GVSUAlert! Text messages, register your phone number. This step ensures you will be notified as quickly as possible.

GVSUAlert! will notify you of:

- Power outages
- Weather hazards (tornado watch/warning)
- Hazardous material incident
- Closings or cancelations
- Criminal activity on or near a GVSU campus



Open, Remote, Cancelled, Closed

Open: The University's normal operating condition. Students, faculty and staff should assume the university is open unless advised otherwise.

Remote: The most common reason to shift to remote status would be for weather related reasons. Classes will shift to remote delivery whenever feasible. Classes that cannot be delivered remotely will not be held.

Classes Cancelled: Only classes are cancelled. The remainder of the University is open as normal.

Closed: Classes and campus events will not be held. The university would normally only close for significant and unanticipated events. It is not anticipated the university would close for weather related events.

- During inclement weather, faculty **may** notify students of a class cancellation or tell students that anyone choosing not to attend due to the weather and road conditions will not be penalized. **These notifications are typically sent via email.**

Student Parking 2025-26

- No physical permits
- Students cannot park in faculty/staff spaces
- ParkMobile App accepted at GV meters
- Overnight parking prohibited 3 - 6 am unless you live on campus
- Limited Temporary Passes:
 - Valley Campus: 616-331-7275
 - City Campus: 616-331-6601
- ADA [Parking Information](#)
- Questions? Visit Parking Services

GVSU Laker Line and RAPID Bus System



- The Laker Line connects Grand Valley State University's Valley Campus with its City and Health Campuses
- Ride any RAPID bus route for free by showing GVSU ID

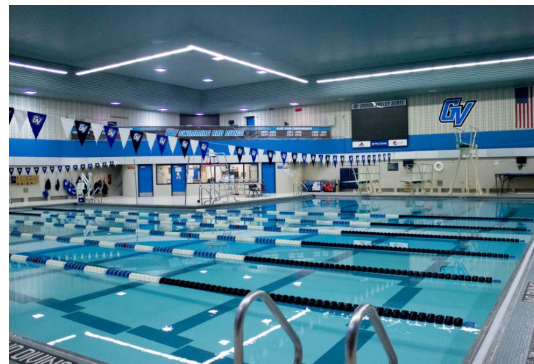
Textbook Information



- Textbooks ordered online can be shipped to you or a GVSU Laker Store for pick-up
- Online ordering will also show you comparative pricing for textbook rentals and purchases from online retailers
- For courses taught on the City Campus, go to the GVSU Laker Store in DeVos Building C
- For courses taught online or any other location, go to the GVSU Laker Store on the Valley Campus
- Textbooks can be transferred between the Valley and City Campuses for free

GVSU Recreation Center

- Student access is **FREE** with a valid GVSU student ID.
- Hours of operation and current access to equipment see [Athletic and Recreation Facilities](#)
- Exercise Classes, Intermural Sports, Nutrition Guidance, and more through [Recreation and Wellness](#)
- [Grand Rapids YMCA](#) – **FREE**
- Meadows Golf Course – student discount



Graduate Student Panel

