

Public Nonprofit Administration and Public Administration Combined Degree Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Kassie 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 Public Nonprofit Administration and Public Administration combined degree program. A **combined degree program** allows students to complete their bachelor's and master's degree in as few as 5 years, thus saving both time and money compared to completing both degrees separately. 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. GVSU undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Public Nonprofit Administration may pursue a Master of Public Administration degree at Grand Valley through this combined degree program. In the program, students will have the opportunity to enhance their skillset and refine their career goals. As I mentioned, students in Grand Valley's combined degree programs are able to complete both degrees in as few as 5 years, while a traditional pathway would require 6 or more years to complete both a Bachelor's and Master's degree.

Demand for Public Administration graduates is growing and students with training in this field are needed in all levels of government and as public sector consultants. Many of our graduates also work in the business and nonprofit sector where they partner with local governments to improve their communities.

Grand Valley undergraduates may apply to the program after reaching junior standing or completing 75 credit hours. Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at GVSU, obtain a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above, complete coursework with a B or better, and complete the PNH 520 - Foundations of Public Service taken during the fifth or sixth semester. Additional requirements for applying to the program include a current resume, three letters of reference from informed sources, and an essay outlining career and educational objectives while in this program.

The Public Nonprofit Administration and Public Administration combined degree program requires 27 graduate credits to be completed after the 120 credits for the bachelor's degree have been completed. All combined degree students will be required to take one, three-credit hour graduate-level internship in addition to the undergraduate internship requirement. This totals to 42 graduate credit hours for combined degree students. Classes are offered in both face-to-face and hybrid formats.

There are many things that distinguish the Master of Public Administration program at GVSU. This program has been accredited by the Network of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration since 1994. Students in our program benefit from small class sizes, and instruction that incorporates the teaching of both practical and theoretical perspectives on current issues facing our communities. The Master of Public Administration program helps you develop skills and techniques used by leaders and managers to implement policies, projects, and programs in public-serving organizations.

If you are strongly motivated to be an effective, ethical, and innovative organizational leader working for the betterment of your community, this program is your best choice

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Public Nonprofit Administration and Public Administration combined degree website, www.gvsu.edu/combineddegrees.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates do not change based on residency status. 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.

That is just a snapshot of the Public Nonprofit Administration and Public Administration combined degree 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. Neal Buckwalter, at buckwaln@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.