

## Graduate Program Podcast - Masters of Athletic Training

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Hello, my name is Maggie 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 Master of Athletic Training 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 Athletic Training program will prepare students to become Athletic Trainers in a practical setting through lecture and laboratory courses. This is a 59-credit hour program and is designed to be completed in 2 years. This program is for students who have earned a Bachelor's degree and meet the pre-admission requirements.

Opportunities for certified athletic trainers are expected to grow 10% in the U.S. by 2025. The Athletic Training program at GVSU maintains a high pass rate on the national certification exam.

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 PTE Academic, TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo.

Additional requirements specific to the Master of Athletic Training program include two recommendations, academic transcripts, resume, writing samples, a minimum of 35 hours of documented observation, and health care provider CPR/AED and first aid certifications.

The Masters of Athletic Training program utilizes the Athletic Training Centralized Application System, ATCAS, for the application process. Please refer to [www.atcas.liaisoncas.com](http://www.atcas.liaisoncas.com) to get general information about the ATCAS process. GVSU specific information is posted on the ATCAS website. There is no cost to create a login to ATCAS, but there is an application fee of \$85.00 for the first school application you submit and an additional fee for each school beyond the first. Students may begin applying for the fall application deadline when the application portal opens in early July.

Applications and all supporting documents for ATCAS and GVSU have a receipt **deadline of October 15<sup>th</sup>**, with a planned start date in the program for the following fall. It is strongly recommended that applicants submit application materials 4 to 6 weeks prior to October 15 to allow for ATCAS processing time.

In addition, all applicants must complete prerequisite courses and all prerequisites must be taken for letter grades. Prerequisites can be in progress at the time of application, but must be completed prior to starting your graduate classes. For each course, a grade of C or higher is required with an average

overall GPA of a 3.0. More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Athletic Training website, [www.gvsu.edu/grad/at/](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/at/).

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](http://www.gvsu.edu/financialaid) or by calling 616-331-3234. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu).

As I mentioned, the Master of Athletic Training program at Grand Valley is a 59-credit hour program. First year coursework includes courses in Assessment, Methods of Evidence Based Practice, Therapeutic Interventions, Pre-Hospital Care, and General Medical Conditions. An additional 6 credit hours will be dedicated to clinical rotations, which occur in a variety of professional settings including high school, collegiate, professional, clinical, and performing arts environments. In the summer between years 1 and 2, students will complete coursework in Interprofessional Education, Therapeutic Interventions, Statistics and Project work. Second year coursework includes: Therapeutic Interventions, Pharmacology, Advanced Techniques, Professional Topics, and Project work. Seven to eight additional credit hours will go toward immersive clinical experiences in a variety of professional work settings. For a complete listing of all courses and sample clinical sites please visit [www.gvsu.edu/grad/at/](http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/at/).

This is just a snapshot of the Master of Athletic Training 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, Dr. Shari Bartz-Smith, at [bartzs@gvsu.edu](mailto:bartzs@gvsu.edu) or to The Graduate School at [gradschool@gvsu.edu](mailto:gradschool@gvsu.edu). Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.