Health Informatics and Bioinformatics Program Podcast

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 Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics 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. Health Informatics and Bioinformatics are two growing fields that focus on collecting, processing, analyzing and storing massive amounts of patient or biological information in an electronic format. The accumulation of "big data" on the health informatics field requires sophisticated analytics to support changes in the United States healthcare system rather than simply updating electronic recordkeeping systems. The Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics at GVSU will prepare students to become informaticians or analysts working in healthcare informatics, pharma industry or bioinformatics research or programming through lecture, projects and lab courses. This is a 36-credit hour program and can be completed in 1 year and 9 months or up to 2 years as a full-time student, or 3-4 years as a part-time student. Graduates of this program hold job titles such as health informatics specialist, clinical informatics specialist, clinical analyst or bioinformatics analyst.

The demand for health informatics workers is projected to grow at twice the rate of employment overall, but there is strong evidence that the nation already faces a shortage of qualified workers in this field, according to a 2014 report from the Boston-based Burning Glass Technologies.

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 TOEFL, IELTS, MELAB, or the PTE Academic. There is a $30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Additional admission requirements for the Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics program include a GPA of 3.0 or a sufficient GRE score, three letters of recommendation and a personal statement outlining students' educational goals and what they hope to accomplish with their degree. Students are expected to have taken a qualifying programming class and to have some background in either healthcare or biology or a related field. The programming requirement can be fulfilled after being admitted to the program if necessary.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Health Informatics and Bioinformatics program website, www.gvsu.edu/grad/bioinfo/.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. 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.

The Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics program at GVSU is a 36 credit hour Professional Science Masters (PSM) program, therefore, instead of a thesis the student must complete a capstone project and a three-month industry internship. Students will complete 4 common core courses and one seminar including statistics, professional practice, and ethics. An additional 5 advanced courses with two focus areas in health informatics and bioinformatics add up to 15 credits. 4 credit hours will go towards internships and 3 credit hours will go towards the capstone experience. For a complete listing of all courses please visit www.gvsu.edu/grad/bioinfo/.

The Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics Program at GVSU educates Health and Bioinformatics professionals with competitive skills in information systems, data analytics, business, communication, project management and ethics, and includes a comprehensive health or life science internship. This program is in the Top 25 Master's in Healthcare Informatics Degrees, a prestigious honor reflecting our program's accomplishments.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Science in Health Informatics and Bioinformatics graduate program at Grand Valley State University. We hope that you will consider applying to a grad program at GVSU. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate Program Director, Dr. Guenter Tusch, at tuschg@gvsu.edu or the PSM Coordinator, Mr. Anirudh Chowdhary, at chowdhan@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.