

## PSM Programs 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 Professional Science Master's programs in Biostatistics, Cell and Molecular Biology, and Medical and Bioinformatics. Today we're going to cover the admissions process, program requirements, and the qualities that distinguish these programs.

Let's start by explaining to you what these programs entail. The Professional Science Masters programs use lecture and seminar courses and an internship experience to prepare students to enter the workforce as productive employees who can quickly move up the managerial chain. These are 36 to 37 credit hour programs which are typically completed in two years as a full-time student or four to five years as a part-time student.

Employment varies by each program, but students find that their 440 hour internship experience makes them highly attractive to employers. In fact, many students are hired by their internship site. The generation of large amounts of data has created a strong demand for graduates of the Biostatistics program. The move to electronic health records is creating positions for our Medical and Bioinformatics graduates, and the pharmaceutical and research industries continue to hire graduates of the Cell and Molecular Biology program. All of these professions are projected to see employment growth anywhere from 8 to 34 percent by 2024.

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.

In addition to university requirements, the Professional Science Masters programs require applicants to submit a personal statement of their career goals, at least two letters of recommendation, a GRE score, and a resume detailing their work experiences and accomplishments.

More details as well as the online application can be found on the Professional Science Masters program website, [www.gvsu.edu/psm/](http://www.gvsu.edu/psm/).

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](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).

The Professional Science Masters programs at GVSU consist of 36 to 37 credit hours. About 18 credit hours are taken from courses in the program discipline, such as statistics, cell and molecular biology, or medical and bioinformatics. An additional 15 credit hours are taken from courses in the other two Professional Science Masters programs plus professionalism related coursework, and the

final four credit hours are used for the internship experience. For a complete listing of all courses please visit [www.gvsu.edu/psm/](http://www.gvsu.edu/psm/).

The most distinguishing feature of the Professional Science Masters programs is the 440 hour internship experience. In their first year, students take graduate coursework in their discipline to prepare themselves for the technical aspects of their internships. Most internships are then initiated during the summer between the first and second year, and many continue into the second year of the program. During their internship students work on a project chosen by the internship site and are exposed to the professional workplace setting. By the end of the internship students are expected to work independently, make tangible contributions to their internship site, and know how to function effectively within the workplace.

That is just a snapshot of the Professional Science Masters graduate programs 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 PSM Programs Coordinator, Mr. Anirudh Chowdhary, at [chowdhan@gvsu.edu](mailto:chowdhan@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.