

Physician Assistant Studies 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 GVSU's Master of Physician Assistant Studies 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 mission of the Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program is to prepare highly competent physician assistants who embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion; lead and advance the profession; and provide quality patient-centered healthcare in all communities and settings.

The Physician Assistant, or PA, profession has been one of the most sought-after careers for the last decade. It has consistently been rated as one of the top careers and best master's degrees to obtain. The Physician Assistant profession is expected to grow by 30% through 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 have attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Additionally, the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program has a set of requirements for application and matriculation into the program. While the program does not require a specific bachelor's degree, there is a set of 11 pre-requisite courses that must be completed prior to matriculation. Five of the 11 courses are required prior to application including Anatomy, Physiology, Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Organic Chemistry. This program also requires a minimum of 500 hours of hands-on, patient care experience. This experience can be paid, or volunteer work and we accept shadow and scribe hours as well. The applicant must submit two recommendation rubrics and it is suggested that at least one rubric be completed by a health care professional. Applicants must also submit their GRE scores and complete CASPer, the online situational judgement test.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Master of Physician Assistant Studies website, www.gvsu.edu/pas.

The great news about GVSU'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 Physician Assistant Studies program at GVSU is a 103-credit hour program. The first 67 credit hours are considered the didactic phase of the program which includes lectures, labs, simulations, and small group, problem-based courses. 36 credit hours count towards fulfilling the

clinical experience requirements. These include 7 different required rotations in all areas of medicine with additional opportunities for elective rotations in areas of individual student interest. For a complete listing of all courses please visit www.gvsu.edu/pas.

The Master of Physician Assistant Studies program uses a system-based approach to the curriculum during the second through fourth semesters. Classes such as Clinical Medicine, Practical Therapeutics, Clinical Applications, and Clinical Pathophysiology all work through the various body systems simultaneously. The program also uses laboratory, small group classes, and simulation experiences throughout the program to help students apply what they have learned into clinical scenarios. The program accepts 36 students at the Grand Rapids campus and 12 students at the Traverse City campus each fall. There are 13 faculty members in the Physician Assistant Studies program including 3 Ph.D.'s, 8 Physician Assistants, and two physicians. This program has had very successful student outcomes with nearly 100% of graduates being employed as Physician Assistants and a 97% first-time pass rate on the national certifying boards.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Physician Assistant Studies 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. Jill Ellis, at ellisji@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.