

Public Administration 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 the Master of Public Administration program at GVSU. 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 Public Administration degree program will prepare you to become local government managers, public policy analysts, administrators in various health care settings, or in nonprofit organizations. This is a 39 credit hour program or 42 credit hour program for students admitted without 3 years of professional experience. The program can be completed in two years as a full-time student or approximately 4 years as a part-time student.

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.

Standard GVSU 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 requirements for application to the Master of Public Administration graduate program include a current resume, three letters of reference from informed sources, and an essay outlining career and educational objectives while in this program.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Public Administration website, www.gvsu.edu/pnacombo.

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 Public Administration program includes 18 credit hours in the core curriculum. These classes review the foundations of public service, research methods in public administration, human resources, organization theory, and public finance. An additional 15 credit hours are dedicated to one of our concentration areas: State, Regional, and Local governance; Policy Analysis, Advocacy and Evaluation; Health Administration; Nonprofit Management and Leadership; and Criminal Justice Administration. 6 credit hours are in electives which can be drawn from courses in another concentration area, from workshops, or from complementary courses taken in other graduate programs. Workshops are 1 credit hour intensive courses that focus on issues of current

interest in the field. You can take up to three of these 1 credit hour courses to be counted towards the six elective credits. If you have less than 3 years of experience in a public, nonprofit or healthcare setting you will be required to complete a 3 credit-hour internship prior to graduation.

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.

That is just a snapshot of the Master of Public Administration 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. 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.