

## Combined Recreational Therapy Program Podcast

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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 Recreational Therapy combined degree program. A combined degree program allows students to complete their bachelor's and master's degree in as few as 5 years, thus saving both time and money compared to completing both degrees separately. 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. GVSU undergraduate students pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Recreational Therapy may pursue a Master of Science in Recreational Therapy at Grand Valley through this combined degree program. This option consists of 120 undergraduate credits and 24 graduate credits. In the program, students will have the opportunity to enhance their skillset and refine their career goals. As I mentioned, students in Grand Valley's combined degree programs are able to complete both degrees in as few as 5 years, while a traditional pathway would require 6 or more years to complete both a Bachelor's and Master's degree.

GVSU's recreational therapy program is designed to meet the increasingly complex needs for more research and evidence-based practice to support the work of clinicians and advance recognition of the field. Recreation Therapists specialize in the application of recreation, leisure, and experiential activities and interventions to maintain or improve the health, functioning, and quality of life for people with disabilities and chronic conditions.

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 Grand Valley previously or are currently attending Grand Valley.

More program details as well as the online application can be found on the Recreational Therapy website, [www.gvsu.edu/acad/recreational-therapy-ms.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/acad/recreational-therapy-ms.htm).

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 Master of Science in Recreational Therapy combined degree program at Grand Valley is a hybrid program, with the majority of coursework being online and one to three in-seat classes per semester. Coursework covers grant writing, research methods, program development, and advanced practice. In addition, students will participate in field observations and service learning to increase experience within various health care settings. For a complete listing of all courses please visit [www.gvsu.edu/acad/recreational-therapy-ms.htm](http://www.gvsu.edu/acad/recreational-therapy-ms.htm)

The program is the only recreational therapy master's program in Michigan and the first advanced practice program in the U.S. within a college of health professions. It is also located in the state-of-the-art Raleigh J. Finkelstein Hall with a one-of-a-kind recreational therapy classroom/lab space, an adventure therapy course and adaptive sports court(s). Finkelstein Hall is in close proximity to five hospitals, and many research, clinical, and treatment facilities.

That is just a snapshot of the Recreational Therapy combined degree 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, Dawn De Vries, at [devridaw@gvsu.edu](mailto:devridaw@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.