

Recreational Therapy 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 Masters of Science in Recreational Therapy 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 Recreational Therapy Master's program will prepare students to become leaders and managers of recreational therapists in a variety of settings. There are two degree options within this program. If you have already obtained a bachelor's degree and are a certified therapeutic recreation specialist, then the program takes one year to complete and consists of 33 credits. The second option is for GVSU students to obtain the degree as part of the combined degree program, where you earn a bachelor's and master's degree together. This option consists of 120 undergraduate credits and 24 graduate credits.

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

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 616-331-323. For information on graduate assistantships, please contact The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

The Master of Science in Recreational Therapy 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

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 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, Dawn De Vries, at devridaw@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.