

Master of Social Innovation 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 Master of Arts in Social Innovation 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 Master of Arts in Social Innovation will prepare students to work in non-profit, governmental, and for-profit settings in diverse fields such as health and human services, education, urban planning, or sustainability through problem-based courses, internships, and projects. This is a 36-credit hour program and can be completed in 2 years as a full-time student or in 3-4 years as a part-time student.

Demand for social innovation careers increased nationally by 28% in recent years and is expected to continue to increase globally, as noted recently by the Bureau of European Economic Advisors.

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 PTE Academic, TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo. 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 Social Innovation admissions website: www.gvsu.edu/grad/si/.

The great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates do not change based on residency status. 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 Arts in Social Innovation at Grand Valley is a 36-credit hour program. 18 credit hours will include core courses. An additional 9 credit hours will be dedicated to application courses selected by students, along with 3 required credit hours of internship and 6 credit hours of project courses. For a complete listing of all courses, please visit www.gvsu.edu/iris/sicurriculum.

Core courses will cover topics such as cultures of social innovation, research methods, engaging diversity, place and environmental justice, and philanthropy and the nonprofit sector. Application courses allow students to develop skills in specific areas relevant to their selected career fields such as: grant writing, community planning, fund development, non-profit management, and social entrepreneurship. Students will work directly with faculty advisors to select application courses and plan their program of study.

Social Innovation graduates will foster and lead innovation throughout their organizations, businesses and communities both in terms of specific projects and in structural ways that impact daily operations. Through a focused core of interdisciplinary courses, students will achieve social

innovation learning outcomes and will hone their expertise through their selection of internship, project, and application credits. In this way, students will transform their existing knowledge into professional expertise through the acquisition of key skills in the practice of social innovation.

Here are the top three key elements that distinguish the Master of Arts in Social Innovation program

1. student selected application courses based on personal and professional interest
2. cross-sector innovation, internship placement in government, non-profit, or for-profit organizations,
3. project-based learning connected to complex social problems.

That is just a snapshot of the Social Innovation 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. Azfar Hussain at hussaina@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu.

Thank you for your time, and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.