Information Systems and Applied Computer Science Combined Degree 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 GVSU's Information Systems and Applied Computer Science 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 Information Systems may pursue a Master of Science in Applied Computer Science at Grand Valley through this combined degree program. 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.

Computing professionals are in demand regionally and nationwide. According to 2020 EMSI data, job opportunities are projected to grow 11% in West Michigan and 8% in the U.S. by 2024. These jobs include:

- Computer programmer
- Network administrator
- Software engineer
- Web domain administrator
- Web programmer/developer
- Systems analyst

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 PTE Academic, TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo. There is a $30 nonrefundable application fee, however this fee is waived if you attended GVSU previously or are currently attending GVSU.

Interested students may apply for this combined degree program during their second academic year. Additional requirements specific to the Master of Science in Applied Computer Science combined degree program include an overall GPA of 3.25 or greater, 60 hours of academic credit completed or in progress, and two letters of recommendation.

More program details, as well as the online application can be found on the Information Systems and Master of Science in Applied Computer Science combined degree website, www.gvsu.edu/combineddegrees/.

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.

This is just a snapshot of the Information Systems and Master of Science in Applied Computer Science 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, Dr. Robert Adams, at adamsr@gvsu.edu or to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.