

Graduate Student Association:

Hello and Welcome, my name is Aruna, 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 Graduate Student Association at GVSU.

Grand Valley State University has more than 400 registered student organizations which show active participation, a vibrant student community, and generally year-round activities from all disciplines. In the midst of 400+ organizations, the Graduate Student Association caters to the holistic experience of all graduate students here at Grand Valley. It's a platform that supports and promotes interdisciplinary communication, and encourages collaboration and innovation among the students.

The Graduate Student Association dates back to its origin in July 2006 as it has been creating space for graduates to develop academically, intellectually, professionally, and socially. It continuously advocates for resources and opportunities for graduate students. It helps graduate students access university resources and sponsors academic, cultural, community service, and professional development events. The Graduate Student Association serves as a voice for graduate student needs and requirements and acts as a bridge for networking and social opportunities to connect with fellow students, graduate faculty, university staff, and community leaders.

The Graduate Student Association is an integral part of the graduate student experience as it helps the students to actively participate in their programs, and also within Grand Valley and the community. The GSA helps to facilitate and coordinate many different programs throughout the year ranging from the new graduate student orientation resource fair, networking events, and professional headshots to the faculty awards in the Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence. It fosters extra-curricular activities in a wider range helping the students to build leadership, teamwork, and community development.

The executive board of the organization consists of the president, vice president, finance officer, administrative officer, and communication officer to operationalize the association. The e-board meets every month to discuss agendas and event coordination with other organizations. The tenure of the board is for 14 months beginning March 1st to April 30th of the following year. The criteria to be an executive board member are;

- a. the student must be admitted and enrolled in a graduate program at GVSU and must be in good academic standing to serve,
- b. the student must commit to the full term of service of 14 months, and
- c. he/she/they must not be serving as an officer in any other graduate student organization.

There are no annual fees for being a member and all graduate students can become a member of the GSA. It is an amazing space and to be a part of the association, you can visit www.gvsu.edu/gsa/become-a-member-6.htm.

That is just a snapshot of the Graduate Student Association at Grand Valley State University. For more information and queries regarding the GSA, visit the website at www.gvsu.edu/gsa/ or email the communication officer at gsa_comm@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.