



GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY®
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL



Annual Report • 2021-22

The Graduate School

Grand Valley State University

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Executive Summary 2020-21

The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University is highly involved in the education of our students. We provide meaningful support to students, staff, and faculty, encouraging their educational, professional, and personal development. We continually strive to give our graduate students the best educational experience possible so they may be lifelong learners who are actively engaged in their professions and their communities. Our rigorous master's, specialist, and doctoral programs are taught by highly qualified faculty and staff who use innovative strategies and techniques for engaging students. All GVSU's graduate programs are grounded in rigorous academic plans of study and supported by a university that adheres to policies and procedures that guide the academic process yet provide the flexibility to address unique situations and create individual learning experiences.

The Graduate School actively oversees all areas of graduate education at GVSU. We are responsible for the administration of the graduate assistantship program; collaborating with the Graduate Student Association to support graduate students and offer professional development; leading the

Graduate Showcase; hosting the New Graduate Student Orientations, the Graduate School's Citations for Academic Excellence Ceremony, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition; supporting the work of shared governance through Graduate Council; supporting the Graduate Student Association; producing the Graduate Director's Handbook, the Graduate Student Guidebook, and the Graduate Advising manuals; administering the Presidential Research Grants and Academic Conference Fund programs; reviewing graduate faculty applications and maintaining a graduate faculty database; and enforcing graduate education policies. Major initiatives for 2021-22 included: assisting students, staff, and faculty in addressing the unique challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic; supporting academic units seeking to create combined degree programs; and the completion of the Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force. There were two new graduate programs added: Recreational Therapy and Water Resources Policy. The Graduate School plays an important role in supporting our students and the faculty and staff engaged in graduate education. Each of the major initiatives, as well as the annual work of the Graduate School, is described in detail in this report.



The Graduate School

Our Mission

To define, support, and advance excellence in graduate education and the scholarly and research activities associated with it. To articulate a vision of excellence in our actions and policies that affect students, faculty, and curriculum. To advocate for graduate education and graduate students, faculty, and staff within the university in terms of resources, services, and other activities that support graduate student endeavors and goals; and encourage a diverse, inclusive, and connected graduate community.

Our Vision

GVSU will become the university of choice for students seeking a strong graduate education in a Carnegie classification Master's Colleges and Universities – Larger programs institution of higher education that is grounded in a liberal arts tradition by focusing on the promotion of distinctive and exemplary graduate education programs, comprehensive educational settings, service, and scholarly experiences. The Graduate School will provide exemplary leadership and continuous support for the development and provision of distinctive and exceptional graduate programs that prepare GVSU graduates to be effective leaders in their field, to be engaged lifelong learners, to succeed in attaining a professional career or admission to further graduate or professional study, and to excel in a global environment.

Our Values

- **Critical Thought** - our students actively and skillfully engage in conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information as it applies to their area of study as well as their community as a whole.
- **Personal Capacity** - our graduate community develops and sustains personal initiative and maintains a culture of professionalism and integrity.
- **High Impact Challenges** - we offer meaningful opportunities to learn in a holistic environment and those involved are challenged and transformed by the environment and those opportunities.
- **Inclusion** - we provide an environment and climate of collegiality, collaboration, and inclusiveness for all.

The Graduate School Staff at Grand Valley State University for 2021-22 included:

Associate Vice-Provost Jeffrey A. Potteiger
Assistant Director of Programming and Communication Trista Bergerud
Administrative Assistant Irene Fountain
Assistant to the Graduate School Jennifer Palm
Graduate Assistants Maggie Scannell and Kassie Nguyen
Undergraduate Student Assistants Long Ho and Sarah Spencer



Graduate Program Profile: 2021-22 Academic Year

The 2021-22 academic year includes the Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring/Summer 2022 semesters. For many graduate programs, students may have applied, been admitted, and/or matriculated in any of those semesters.

The Applied and Admitted columns in Table 1 represent all graduate applications received by each program combined from Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring/Summer 2022 semesters.

The New Enrollees and Total Enrollees columns represent the combined unduplicated headcounts for Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring/Summer 202 based on official census numbers.

The Degrees Awarded column represents Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring/Summer 2022.

Table 1: Profile of Graduate Students for the 2021-22 Academic Year

College	Program	Applied	Admitted	New Enrollees	Total Enrollees	Degrees Awarded
Col of Ed & Comm Innovation	Criminal Justice	29	24	15	30	7
	Educational Leadership	121	116	79	297	29
	Educational Technology	17	16	9	36	8
	English as a Second Language	38	37	17	17	14
	General Education	-	-	-	5	-
	Health Administration	84	74	32	81	11
	Higher Education	78	72	33	86	29
	Instruction & Curriculum	103	101	76	237	25
	Educational Specialist in Leadership	21	19	14	48	8
	Literacy Studies	22	22	18	114	23
	Nonprofit Leadership	8	8	5	9	-
	Online/Blended Instr & Assess	2	2	1	4	-
	Philan & Nonprofit Leadership	9	9	7	23	5
	Public Administration	76	65	24	88	25
	School Counseling	87	80	58	133	21
	Social Work	263	259	118	426	118
	Special Education	77	68	57	154	11
	SUBTOTAL	1035	972	563	1788	334
Col of Lib Arts and Sciences	Applied Behavior Analysis	11	7	4	8	2
	Applied Linguistics	1	1		7	7
	Applied Statistics	16	12	3	6	1
	Athletic Training	15	13	12	20	9
	Bioinformatics and Genomics	6	6	3	4	1
	Biology	15	15	13	41	7
	Biomedical Sciences	45	26	13	32	4
	Biostatistics	33	29	23	49	14
	Cell & Molecular Biology	39	37	26	45	8
	Communications	54	49	18	47	11
	English	9	7	6	28	-
	School Psychology	67	24	11	35	10
	Water Resource Policy	3	3	2	2	-
	SUBTOTAL	314	229	134	324	74

College	Program	Applied	Admitted	New Enrollees	Total Enrollees	Degrees Awarded
College of Health Professions	Audiology	83	20	11	23	-
	Clinical Dietetics	25	23	20	46	23
	Medical Dosimetry	33	29	23	24	1
	Occupational Therapy MS	174	69	59	144	66
	Occupational Therapy DROT	7	7	7	17	-
	Physical Therapy	369	193	60	178	-
	Physician Assistant Studies	555	53	48	143	47
	Public Health	99	81	49	116	47
	Speech-Language Pathology	187	52	47	110	47
	SUBTOTAL	1532	527	324	801	170
Grand Valley State University	Non-Degree Graduate	20	1	1	226	-
	Subtotal	20	1	1	226	-
Interdisciplinary Studies	Social Innovation	25	21	17	44	7
	Subtotal	25	21	17	44	7
Kirkhof College of Nursing	Interprofessional Health Informatics	4	4	1	1	1
	Nursing DNP	25	24	19	73	19
	Nursing MSN	11	11	8	8	-
	Palliative and Hospice Care	-	-	-	1	1
	Psychiatric Mental Health NP	8	8	5	7	5
	Subtotal	48	47	33	90	26
Padnos College of Engineering and Computing	Applied Computer Science	315	215	60	82	5
	Computer Information Systems	-	-	-	19	12
	Cybersecurity	67	56	14	25	1
	Data Analytics	1	1	-	-	-
	Data Science and Analytics	497	297	58	103	16
	Engineering	74	57	32	62	5
	Health and Bioinformatics	228	97	34	52	12
	Medical & Bioinformatics	-	-	-	1	1
	Subtotal	1182	723	198	344	52
Seidman College of Business	Accounting	102	95	67	133	40
	Business General	110	99	43	139	59
	Taxation	8	8	3	6	
	Subtotal	220	202	113	278	99
	GRAND TOTAL	4376	2722	1383	3895	762

The total graduate enrollment headcount information in both Figure 1 and Table 2 is based on the Fall census data of the corresponding academic year.

Figure 1: Total Graduate Degree-Seeking Headcount 2011-21

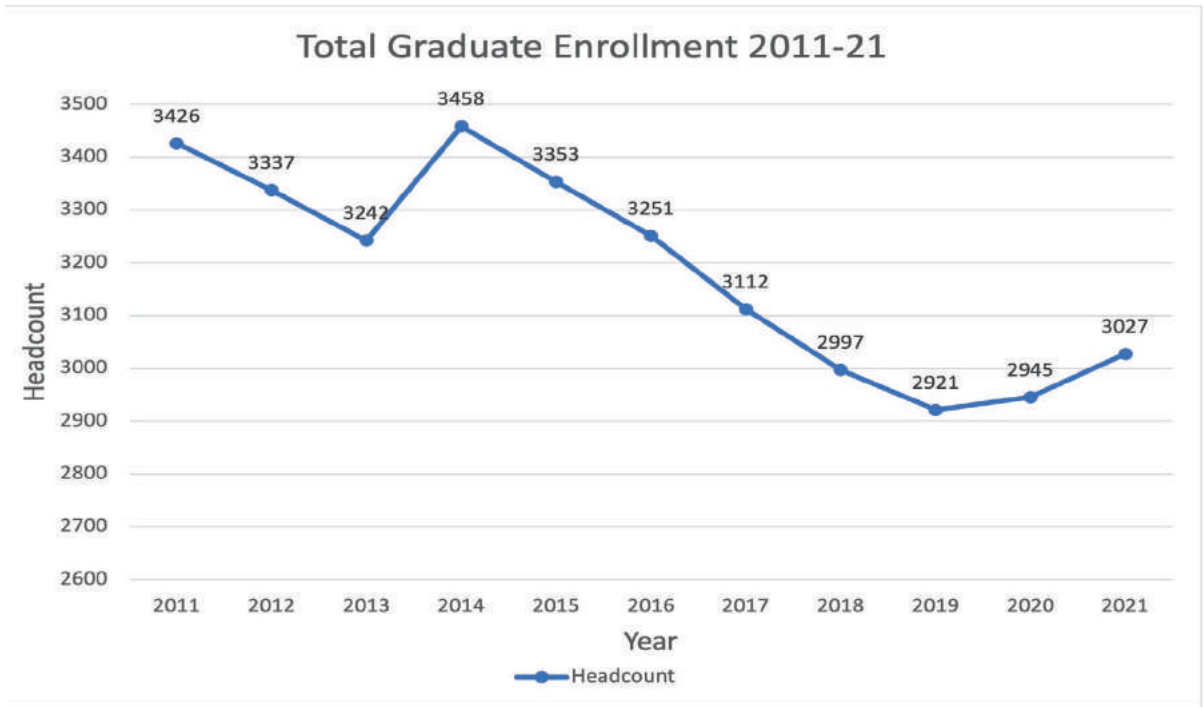


Table 2: Total Graduate Enrollment Headcount of Degree Programs by College 2011-21

College Of Degree Program	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	42	38
College of Community and Public Service	649	636	675	660	608	588	533	518	486	479	0
College of Education	1402	1294	1104	1134	1054	908	885	779	821	790	0
College of Education & Community Innovation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1241
College of Health Professions	331	372	473	607	643	679	692	690	702	776	805
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	182	183	172	202	225	261	271	270	262	256	279
Kirkhof College of Nursing	66	82	93	111	124	130	118	118	76	90	79
Padnos College of Engineering & Computing	118	143	128	150	160	170	177	213	190	189	256
Seidman College of Business	352	326	317	349	332	310	270	273	265	212	219
University (Non-Degree Seeking)	326	301	280	245	207	205	166	136	107	111	132
TOTAL	3426	3337	3242	3458	3353	3251	3112	2997	2921	2945	3027

Major Initiatives

New Graduate Programs 2021-22

During the 2021-22 academic year, no new graduate programs were approved through the University Curriculum process, but one program went on hiatus bringing the total number of graduate programs at GVSU to 45.

The Graduate School continues to support newly appointed Graduate Program Directors and assist with issues related to recruitment, admission, and enrollment in all graduate programs.

New Combined Degree Programs

During the 2021-22 academic year, three new combined degree programs were approved through the University Curriculum Review Process, bringing the total number of combined degree programs at GVSU to 27.

Accounting (B.B.A./ M.S.)

Advertising and Public Relations and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)

Allied Health Sciences and Public Health (B.S./M.P.H.)

Applied Food and Nutrition and Clinical Dietetics (B.S., M.S.)

Biomedical Sciences (B.S./M.H.S.)

Cell and Molecular Biology (B.S./M.S.)

Communication Studies and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)

Computer Engineering and Applied Computer Science (B.S.E./M.S.)

Computer Science and Applied Computer Science (B.S./M.S.)

Computer Science and Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)

Computer Science and Data Science and Analytics (B.S./M.S.)

Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)

Engineering (B.S.E./M.S.E.)

Exercise Science and Athletic Training (B.S./M.A.T.)

Exercise Science and Public Health (B.S., M.P.H.)

Health Communications and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)

Information Systems and Applied Computer Science (B.S./M.S.)

Information Systems and Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)

Information Technology and Cybersecurity (B.S./M.S.)

Multimedia Journalism and Communications (B.A., B.S./M.S.)

Occupational Therapy (M.S., Dr.O.T.)

Public Nonprofit Administration and Public Administration (B.A./B.S., M.P.A.)

Recreational Therapy (B.S./M.S.)

Statistics and Applied Statistics (B.S./M.S.)

Statistics and Biostatistics (B.S./M.S.)

Statistics and Data Science and Analytics (B.S., M.S.)

Student Initiated Combined Degree Program



Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force

In Winter 2021, Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger formed the Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force to address the increasing need for mental health resources and services among graduate students. Nationally, the Council of Graduate Schools has called for additional attention to the mental health of graduate students, particularly during the COVID-19 Pandemic. While the COVID-19 Pandemic has become a motivating factor in providing graduate students with more robust mental health support, those in graduate education have been concerned regarding needs in this area for the past several years.

Dr. Raymond Higbea, School of Public, Nonprofit, Health, Hospitality and Tourism Management, and Dr. Megan Fox, Department of Movement Science, served as co-chairs for the GVSU Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force. Other members of the task force included representatives from the University Counseling Center, the Graduate School, several academic units (Biology, Biomedical Sciences, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Psychology, Social Work), and graduate students from programs such as Clinical Dietetics, Data Science and Analytics, Education, Health Administration, Medical Dosimetry, and Occupational Therapy.

The task force completed their work during the Fall 2021 semester. The final report is provided below.

Graduate Student Mental Health Task Force (GSMHTF) Final Report – December 15, 2021

The Task Force has completed work on all assigned charges in the past calendar year. Charges include:

- Charge 1 – Review available GVSU data to better understand graduate program cultures, student well-being, student peer support, and student mental health. Identify a process to both periodically assess the culture and clarify strengths and challenges relating to the formation of a culture supporting well-being, peer support, and mental health.
- Charge 2 – Identify relevant services and resources to support graduate student mental health and well-being, as well as gaps that may need to be addressed.
- Charge 3 – Identify existing or needed university bodies working on strategy and planning related to graduate student mental health and well-being, and determine how best to assure GVSU graduate program representation in these bodies
- Charge 4 – Identify roles played or needed by different groups influencing graduate student mental. health including, but not limited to: graduate faculty, program directors, student service offices, Graduate School administration, and students themselves.
- Charge 5 – Identify ways to involve students directly in the development, review, and revision of programming to support graduate student mental health and well-being, especially as it relates to those belonging to historically underrepresented and systemically marginalized groups.
- Charge 6 – Develop a plan to provide timely and relevant student mental health and well-being continuing education, support, and resources to graduate program directors and graduate faculty and staff.
- Charge 7 – Develop a plan to communicate about resources and policies to all graduate students at least once during each academic semester, and to update existing communication strategies to include this information.

End Product for each Charge

Charge 1:

- Developed and deployed survey to assess graduate student mental health and well-being.
 - 823 participants (~27% response rate)
 - Created PP and report of demographics of sample and descriptive data with particular focus to race and age differences
 - Identified and categorized main themes from open-ended survey question asking what GVSU could do to support graduate student mental health

Charge 2:

- Developed a comprehensive list of internal and external behavioral health resources including contact information, links, and access algorithms o Worked with Graduate School to develop a web page on the Graduate School web site listing all of the above resources

Charge 3:

- Collaborating with the FTLC to develop virtual, asynchronous faculty training for what to do if a faculty member encounters a student displaying mental health concerns o Includes recognition of student deteriorating mental health and crisis intervention
 - Provides faculty with education on how and when to use the new Counselling Center mental health app available to all GVSU faculty and students
 - Will be available in Winter 2022 semester

Charge 4:

- Collaborated with GSMHFT students to develop methods for students engage in behavioral health stress reduction o Developed event planning (stress reduction) template hosted on the Graduate School web site

Charge 5:

- Recommend creating 2 part-time Graduate Assistant (GA) positions for graduate students to work as Peer Educators in the University Counseling Center and with Recreation and Wellness
 - Peer educators would provide education and outreach about mental and physical well-being that would be geared toward the graduate student population
 - * Currently all peer educators are undergraduate students

Charge 6 & 7:

- Created a Graduate Student Mental Health Communication Plan
 - Breaks down communication by semester, time in semester, & who receives the communication (graduate students, GPDs & unit heads, graduate faculty)
- CIS Senior Capstone – app creation for graduate student mental and physical health and well-being
 - To be included in the app: walk-a-thon competitions, mindfulness & guided imagery exercises, tracking sleep goals, nutrition, medication tracker, hydration goals, prompts for national screening days (i.e., depression, eating disorders, etc.)
 - To begin in January 2022 if proposal is accepted
- Working to create a more extensive website of mental health resources for graduate students to access rather than the webpage currently available
 - Creating 5 to Thrive document – where this is connected directly to GVSU resources
 - These are to be completed in January 2022

Ongoing Activities

Graduate Exit Survey

In an effort to evaluate and continually improve graduate education, the Graduate School administers the graduate exit survey. At the end of each academic semester, graduate students who are nearing the end of their degree program are invited to complete the survey and assess their graduate experience at GVSU. Of the 975 invitations sent to graduate students during the 2021-22 academic year, 373 (38%) completed the 57-question survey. Individual graduate programs were provided reports if the respondent number for the program was equal to 3 or more.

Students receiving their undergraduate degrees from GVSU accounted for 44% of the respondents.

Overall program quality was rated as very good or excellent by 70.3% of respondents (Figure 2). Figure 3 illustrates the respondent's overall impression of the GVSU faculty. When asked if they would choose GVSU again if they were to start graduate school over, 75.9% answered yes (Figure 4).

A majority of the respondents (69.3%) indicated that the overall experience was very good or excellent, and 69.7% noted that the academic experience was very good or excellent. Many respondents noted that the interaction with faculty, their cohort members, and the educational opportunities offered by their program, in general, were the highlights of their graduate experience.

Figure 2:
Graduate Student Rating of Overall Program Quality

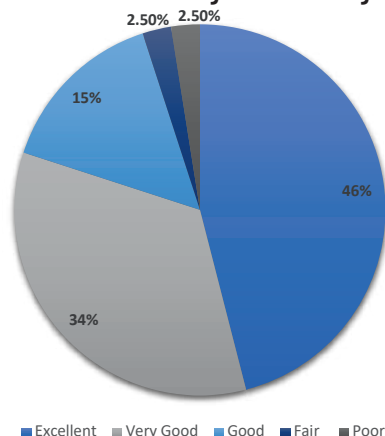


Figure 3:
Graduate Student Rating of Overall Experience at GVSU

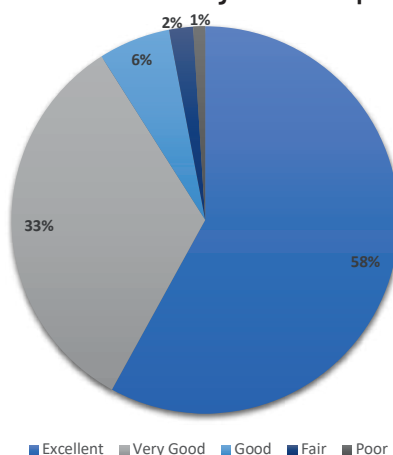
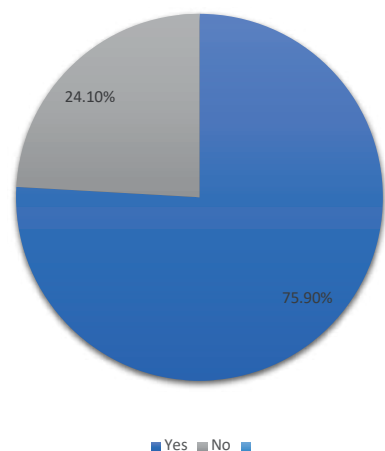


Figure 4:
Graduate Student Rating of Choosing GVSU Again



Outstanding Graduate Student Accomplishments

Marlee Busalacchi, Master of Health Science in Biomedical Sciences

Marlee Busalacchi, a graduate student in the Biomedical Science Master of Health Science degree program, was the 2022 First Place Winner of Grand Valley State University's 3-Minute

Thesis (3MT) Competition. Busalacchi's thesis, "Impacts of Microbial Experience on Monocyte and Macrophage Polarization in B16 Melanoma" won first place among 8 graduate student participants.

Busalacchi's win for first place rewarded her a \$500 cash prize as well as the full funding to represent GVSU at the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS).

Dr. Kristin Renkema, of the Department of Biomedical Sciences, stated, "Marlee is a dedicated and talented scholar and scientist. She trained and supervised a team of undergraduates, and she has taken ownership of her thesis project."



Jonathan Walt, Master of Science in Biology (AWRI)

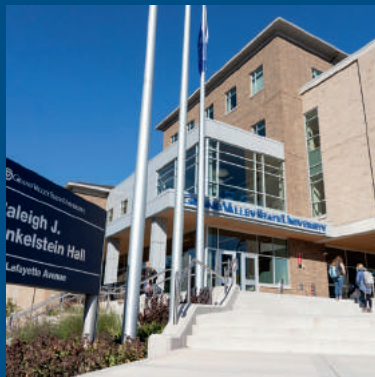
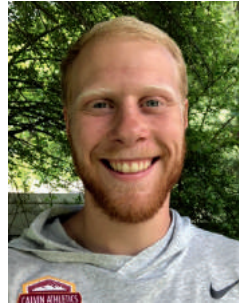
Grand Valley State University is one of 11 academic affiliate Michigan Space Grants Consortium (MSGC) institutions in Michigan. MSGC provides funding for research and educational opportunities for students, faculty, and staff in the form of seed grants, program grants, and fellowships.

Jonathan Walt was awarded an MSGC grant to continue his research on classifying invasive species in wetlands by using remote sensing.

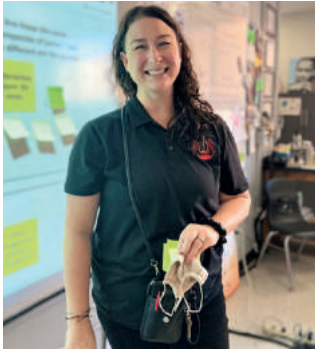
This research uses satellite imagery on the cloud-based program Google Earth Engine to find potential locations of common reed (*Phragmites australis*) and narrow-leafed cattail (*Typha angustifolia*). He has collected known locations of these species throughout Michigan during the summer and fall of 2021 and compiled the characteristics of the locations to determine where other similar patches of vegetation are located. He was inspired to conduct this research to give back to the environment.

"...I have been given so much through nature and the diversity that lies therein, and I want to reciprocate by caring for and learning about natural systems and how they function," said Walt.

Walt will also be creating habitat suitability models for these species under future climate change scenarios. He is working under the mentorship of AWRI associate professor Dr. Sean Woznicki.



Nicole Durso, Master of Education in Literacy Studies and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages



Nicole Durso, a GVSU alum of the M.Ed. in Literacy Studies and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) emphasis, was among three teachers who received an award for the Grand Rapids Public School's (GRPS) Jean Hamilton Cope Teacher of the Year.

The annual award was created in memory of Jean Hamilton Cope, formerly a GRPS teacher, now a dedicated kindergarten teacher at Huff Elementary School. The award recognizes inspiring teachers with effective teaching skills that encourage students to learn and take on leadership roles.

Durso and two other GRPS teachers became this year's honorees and received a well-deserved \$1,000 cash prize. Recipients of this award are also nominated for the Michigan Teacher of the Year Award.

Durso is a teacher invested in her students and their futures. "She cares deeply for our students and is willing to invest time in building relationships, implementing instructional strategies, and tracking down necessary resources for their success," said one of her colleagues. The GRPS Superintendent Leadriane Roby described her and the other honorees as "three wonderful, strong, and capable women."

In addition to being a science teacher, Durso is also active with the GRPS Equity and Inclusion team as a teacher

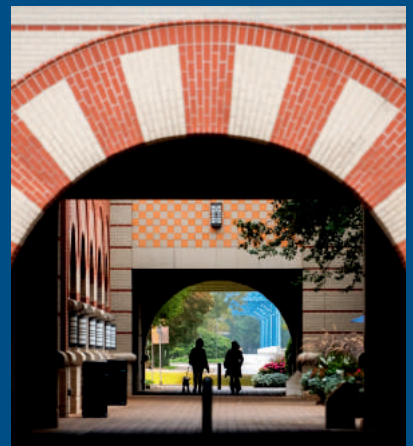
representative to help build an anti-bias and anti-racism team at Union High School. On December 7, 2020, Durso was also recognized by WZZM 13 as teacher of the week.

Jasmine Mancuso, Master of Science in Biology

GVSU alum from the Master of Science in Biology, Jasmine Mancuso, was awarded the Elsevier Early Career Scientist Award for 2021 Most Notable Paper in the Journal of Great Lakes Research (JGLR).

This award was given by the International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR), which is a scientific organization of researchers that study lakes. IAGLR held a virtual awards ceremony to honor their 2022 scholarship and awards recipients on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. Among those recipients was Mancuso who received the JGLR/Elsevier Early Career Award.

Her research article focuses on how climate change does not exclusively result in a warmer, dryer planet. Most research focuses on how increased temperatures and more frequent droughts will affect the phytoplankton community; however, extreme weather can also be a consequence of climate change. Her article mentioned that in 2019, Michigan experienced extreme weather conditions including record-breaking rainfall and cooler-than-average temperatures. This gave her the opportunity to study how this alternate scenario can affect the phytoplankton community.



Mancuso graduated from GVSU in the Spring/Summer semester of 2020. She is currently working as a lab manager for the aquatic ecology lab at Oakland University. She also teaches at Rochester University as an adjunct professor of ecology and at Oakland University as a teaching assistant. Mancuso is currently working on a new research study that focuses on carbon cycling in aquatic ecosystems. The award-winning article can be viewed on [ScienceDirect](#).

Brittany Bahl, Master of Science in Communication

Brittany Bahl, '22, is an alumna of Grand Valley's Communications graduate program. She was recently accepted into the Ph.D. Communication Studies program at the University of Iowa and plans to continue her education in the Fall semester of 2022.



"I am deeply interested in continuing to explore toxic rhetorics, such as toxic positivity, and how rhetorics of empathy might be used as an antidote to help mitigate the harmful effects of toxic rhetoric," said Bahl.

She has presented outstanding work throughout her graduate studies at GVSU. She was featured in November 2021 Student Success Story for presenting one of her papers at a conference for the Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (MPCA/ACA). She also presented her thesis at the annual GVSU 3MT Competition and at the annual Graduate Showcase. Her thesis covered rhetorical analysis of toxic depictions in film, focusing on toxic rhetorics within three popular film franchises: (1) toxic masculinity in *Coming to America* and *Coming 2 America*; (2) toxic femininity in *Bad Moms*; and (3) straightwashing as a more toxic form of heteronormativity in *Wonder Woman* and *Wonder Woman 1984*. Bahl's thesis also rewarded her with the Outstanding Master's Thesis Award for the Winter 2022 Graduate School Citations for Academic.

La'Portia Jackson, Jazzmin McGuff, Hava Topolski, and Emily Pokorski, Master of Public Health

Master of Public Health students Emily Pokorski, La'Portia Jackson, Jazzmin McGuff, and Hava Topolski had the opportunity to present their Interprofessional Education (IPE) capstone project at the 14th annual Midwest Interprofessional Practice, Education, and Research Center (MIPERC) Conference Webinar on September 23, 2021.

MIPERC is a partnership of organizations created in 2007 with the mission to implement interprofessional education and practice within multiple disciplines for better quality patient care. MIPERC holds an annual conference with designated objectives for its participants. This year's virtual conference focused on responding to diverse patient populations' needs through interprofessional advocacy, education, and research.

Jackson and McGuff presented the project titled "Public Health Interprofessional Inclusion Project" on behalf of their team. Their topic addressed the issue of health care students being unaware of public health professionals' efforts and roles in health care. The students' solutions include introducing health care students to public health, resulting in better workplace collaboration, better preparedness in disasters, and awareness of public health's purpose in health care.

The students were inspired to create their project after completing a simulation with MIPERC's IPE Program on Social Determinants of Health.

"I think that in general, more people are learning about the field of public health due to the current public health crisis," said Jackson, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. "However, there is still a disconnect even among other health/health science students that was apparent during the simulation."



Outstanding Thesis Nominees

The Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) calls for nominations for the annual Distinguished Thesis Award. Each school is allowed to nominate one student thesis for the award competition in each discipline category. The award categories rotate each year to allow for greater student representation across the disciplines.

The theses representing GVSU are selected by a committee of faculty members from multiple disciplines and approved by the Associate Vice-provost of the Graduate School.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2021 MAGS selection committee included:

- Dr. Todd Aschenbach, Department of Biology
- Dr. Sheila Blackman, Department of Biology
- Dr. Kurt Bullock, Department of English
- Dr. Lindsay Ellis, Department of English
- Dr. James McNair, Annis Water Resources Institute
- Dr. Stephen Rybczynski, Department of Biology
- Dr. Brian White, Department of English
- Dr. Jennifer Winther, Department of Biology

2021: Math, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

- Nicholas Preville, Master of Science in Biology, Thesis Title: Habitat Use and Tributary Occupancy of the Threatened River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*) in the Grand River, MI, USA – Advised by Dr. Eric Snyder, Department of Biology.

2021: Humanities and Fine Arts

- Julie Oosterink, Master of Arts in English, Thesis Title: Arriving at your own door': Transnational identity formation in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *Americanah* – Advised by Dr. Robert Rozema, Department of English.

Dissertation and Thesis Approvals

In the 2017-18 academic year, the Graduate Council passed an update to the policy on Preparation of a Thesis or Dissertation at GVSU to include a mandatory Thesis and Dissertation Workshop for students beginning a thesis or dissertation. Students are required to attend a workshop the first semester they are enrolled in thesis or dissertation credit hours.

The Graduate School hosted six workshops in 2021-22, led by Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger. In total, 61 students attended these workshops. The workshop includes an overview of the thesis and dissertation-related policies, how to select a chair and

build a committee, resources for writing and editing, and helpful suggestions on timelines, getting started, and finishing the project. In order to accommodate hybrid students, one workshop was held virtually via zoom, while the other workshops were held in-person.

The Graduate School also continued to update the Guidelines for Preparation of Theses and Dissertations to assist students in the timely submission of their final work. Communication is sent to students regarding submitting thesis/dissertation committee membership, reminders on defense and submission dates, and follow-up on continuous enrollment. When students form a thesis or dissertation committee, the Graduate School provides a Thesis and Dissertation Flowchart outlining the steps students must take to comply with the current guidelines. The Graduate School maintains this and other documents on one "quick link" created for students and faculty to reference all thesis or dissertation related documents:

Theses and Dissertations: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/thesis-and-dissertation-information-35.htm>

The Graduate School continued to review and approve all final theses and dissertations. After each document is approved, the Graduate School notifies the Registrar's Office that a student's diploma can be released and assists the students with submitting the final documents to ScholarWorks. In 2021-22, dissertations and theses from the following academic Colleges were approved:

College of Education and Community Innovation: 4
Padnos College of Engineering and Computing: 2
College of Health Professions: 0
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences: 20
Kirkhof College of Nursing: 0

Note: there are no graduate programs with a thesis option in the Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies or the Seidman College of Business.

Requests for Exception to University Policy

These numbers represent all completed petitions submitted to the Graduate School during the Fall 2021, Winter 2022, and Spring/Summer 2022 semesters.

8-Year Time Limit Requests: The Graduate School reviewed 31 petitions to extend the 8-Year Time Limit, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student petitions by program is provided below:

8-Year Petitions by Program:

Applied Computer Science: 1
 Biology: 2
 Criminal Justice: 1
 Education: 27
 Social Work: 1

12-Credit Limit Requests: The Graduate School did not receive any requests from students who had exceeded the limit of completing 12 credits as a non-degree seeking student.

Requests for Graduate Course Withdrawal, Graduate Program Withdrawal, and Graduate Program Leave of Absence: The Graduate School received a total of 34 requests, and all were approved. The requests from the following programs were approved:

Course Late Withdrawal: 17

Accounting: 1
 Biology: 1
 Biostatistics: 1
 Communications: 1
 Education: 6
 Engineering: 1
 English: 1
 Health Administration: 1
 Public Administration: 1
 Public Health: 1
 Speech Language Pathology: 1

Leave of Absence: 19

Accounting: 1
 Biology: 1
 Clinical Dietetics: 1
 Education: 1
 Engineering: 1
 English: 1
 Medical Dosimetry: 1
 Occupational Therapy: 1
 Physician Assistant Studies: 2
 Public Administration: 1
 Public Health: 1
 School Psychology: 1
 Social Work: 6

Program Withdrawal: 1

School Psychology: 1

Exception to the Policy for Continuous Enrollment in Project, Thesis, or Dissertation Stage of a Program: The Graduate School received 10 requests for an exception to the Continuous Enrollment Policy, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Applied Linguistics: 1
 Biology: 7
 English: 2

Extension of the Thesis Final Submission Deadline: The Graduate School received 1 request for an extension to the Thesis Final Submission Deadline, and it was approved. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Computer Information Systems: 1

Extension of the Thesis Defense Deadline: The Graduate School received 4 requests for an extension to the Thesis Defense Submission Deadline, and all were approved. A summary of the number of student requests by program is provided below:

Biology: 2
 Education: 2

Academic Review and Renewal: The Graduate School received 0 requests regarding the Academic Review policy.

Exception to Graduate Policies: The Graduate School received 2 requests for Exception to an Academic Graduate Policy. All were approved. A summary of the student requests is provided below:

Transfer of Credit to a Graduate Program:

Education: 1
 Social Work: 1

Total Requests for Exception to University Policy reviewed by The Graduate School in 2021-22: 111

Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education

The Graduate School continues to work with the Academic Unit Heads and Deans to ensure that qualified faculty members are engaged with our graduate students at GVSU. All graduate faculty applications are submitted electronically to the Graduate School.

Non-tenure Track Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education as of July 1, 2022

Approved Adjunct Faculty: 215

Tenured and Tenure Track Faculty Engaged in Graduate Education as of July 1, 2022

Faculty approved with Full Graduate Faculty Status: 359

Faculty approved with Associate Graduate Faculty Status: 73

These numbers do not include faculty members whose initial status has expired without renewal (or those applications approved for faculty no longer with the university).

A complete listing of approved faculty is available on the Graduate School website at www.gvsu.edu/gs/gradfaculty. Access to the policies and the electronic application forms can also be found on this page.

Graduate Assistantships 2021-22

The Graduate School oversees the graduate assistantship program at GVSU. Our primary role is to ensure that hiring departments adhere to the Graduate Assistantship (GA) Policy, to verify student eligibility for holding a GA position, and to ensure that funds allocated for graduate assistantships are appropriately utilized. We serve as a liaison between the appointing units and Financial Aid and Student Employment on budget, payroll, and tuition issues, offer advice and guidance to faculty and staff who administer GA appointments for their units, and work with units and students to resolve problems relating to any aspect of their graduate assistantships.

Typically, GA appointments are made for the academic year, corresponding with the first day of the Fall semester and ending the last day of finals week at the end of the Winter Semester. Some units maintain a number of extended

positions (10-month and 12-month). Extended positions are mostly utilized by units that need assistance beyond the regular academic year, such as the Office of Financial Aid and Housing. Some appointments are made semester-by-semester. Spring/Summer appointments are considered to be separate positions from the academic year.

These numbers do not include faculty members whose initial status has expired without renewal (or those applications approved for faculty no longer with the university).

A complete listing of approved faculty is available on the Graduate School website at <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/graduate-faculty-policies-and-applications-57.htm>. Access to the policies and the electronic application forms can also be found on this page.

In 2021-22, TGS reviewed and approved the following full time (1.0 FTE, 20 hrs. per week) and half time (.5 FTE, 10 hrs. per week) graduate assistant appointments:

- **Academic Year:**
 - 112 full time
 - 105 half time
- **10-Month Extended:**
 - 24 full time
 - 0 half time
- **12-Month:**
 - 8 full time
 - 7 half time
- **Semester-by-Semester:**
 - Fall 2021 -**
 - 15 full time
 - 45 half time
 - Winter 2022 -**
 - 14 full time
 - 56 half time
 - SS 2022 -**
 - 12 full time
 - 18 half time

Special Projects Graduate Assistantship Positions 2021-22

TGS provides funding for special project GAs to departments, units, and faculty that demonstrate a specific need. Criteria used for awarding special project GAs are: the impact of the project on the academic mission of the university, the project's congruence with the university's mission and vision and the objectives of the Strategic Plan, the roles and responsibilities for the requested GA were appropriate for a graduate student and congruent with a degree program or a set of skills required in an academic discipline, and evidence that the need could not be met through other budget processes.

Forty-four faculty/staff members submitted proposals for special projects GAs for the 2022-23 academic year. Of those, 18 full-time (1.0) positions for one academic year were awarded, and 13 half-time (.5) positions for one academic year were awarded.

Table 3 on the following page offers a full report of Special Project GAs awarded for the 2022-2023 academic year.



Table 3: Special Project Graduate Assistantship Positions approved for 2021-2022

College/Department	Project Title
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies	
Kutsche Office of Local History	Lesser-Known Histories of West Michigan Digital Series (1.0)
Writing Center	Graduate Student Writing Support (1.0)
College of Education and Community Innovation	Climate Survey on Sexual Violence (1.0)
Community Leadership & Development	Grand Connections (0.5)
Criminal Justice	GVSU Prison Education Partnership (1.0)
Educational Foundations	Adjuncts at GVSU: Characteristics and Needs (0.5)
Literacy Ed Foundations & Tech	Learning Café Study (1.0)
College of Health Professions	
Communication Sciences and Disorders	Exploring the Use of Bibliotherapy with Young Children (0.5)
Communication Sciences and Disorders	Graduate Lab and Research Assistant (1.0)
Physician Assistant Studies	Non-Academic Admissions Considerations Study (0.5)
Public Health	Population Health Research and Epidemiology (0.5)
Recreational Therapy	Adventure Programming Developer (0.5)
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	Ecology of Burbot (1.0)
AWRI	Fisheries Ecology and Management Research (1.0)
Biology	Impact of Corbicula (1.0)
Biomedical Sciences	Commercialization of Intellectual Property (1.0)
Chemistry	Supervision of Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories (1.0)
Classics	Digital Learning (0.5)
Psychology	Quantum Effects in Perception and Decision Making (.5)
Psychology	Retention Specialist Evaluation of Psych Friends Peer-to-Peer Mentoring (1.0)
Psychology	Social Emotional Learning Intervention/TEAM 21 (0.5)
Psychology	Software and Computational Model Developer (1.0)
Regional Math and Science Center	PK-12 STEM Engagement and Outreach Pilot Program (0.5)
Statistical Consulting Center	Statistical Consulting Center (1.0)
Statistics	Data Literacy in Social Studies SPGA (1.0)
Visual and Media Arts	Marketing Strategy (0.5)
Enrollment Development	
Registrar	On-Base WorkFlow (1.0)
Kirkhof College of Nursing	Student Academic Success Coach (1.0)
KCON	Marketing and Communications Special Project (0.5)
Padnos College of Engineering and Computing	Marketing Research Projects (1.0)
School of Computing	Cyberbullying Research (1.0)
School of Engineering	Investigation of Self-Cleaning Solar Panel Coatings (0.5)
School of Engineering	Evaluating the Ability of the Labor Assist Device (1.0)
School of Engineering	3D Human Movement Framework from 2D Videos Using Machine Learning (10.5)
Provost Office	
Provost Office	Faculty Initiatives for Student Success (1.0)
Student Affairs Division	
Campus Recreation and Wellness	Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation and Wellness (1.0)

Graduate Student Events and Programs

Academic Conference Fund

The Graduate School administers the Academic Conference Fund for graduate students to provide grants (\$600 for domestic travel and \$800 for international travel) for presentations at academic conferences. Students must be the primary presenter of research at a professional conference, or whose creative work is accepted for an exhibition or performance at a recognized event.

The application is submitted along with a brief budget, evidence of acceptance to the conference, and a letter of reference from a faculty member who can attest to the quality of the student's work or the academic benefit of attending the conference/meeting. Students must be in good standing with the University and should be either current graduate students or recent graduates whose research was accepted for presentation prior to graduation.

Table 4: 2021-22 Academic Conference Fund Facts

Applications Received	30
Applications Approved	30
Total Dollars Approved	\$14,106.38

Awards by College/Department:

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.....	16
• Communications	1
• Biomedical Sciences	1
• Biology.....	8
• Athletic Training.....	6
Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies.....	2
• Social Innovation	2
College of Education and Community Innovation ...	4
• Social Work.....	3
• Criminal Justice.....	1
Kirkhof College of Nursing	3
• Nursing	3
College of Health Professions	3
• Physical Therapy	1
• Occupational Therapy	1
• Speech-Language Pathology	1
Padnos College of Engineering and Computing.....	2
• Health and Bioinformatics	1
• Applied Computer Science	1

Graduate Presidential Research Grants

The Graduate School administers the Graduate Presidential Research Grant program. Grant awards up to \$1,500 are provided to graduate students to support their research endeavors. Students must be degree-seeking, and the research must be tied to completion of some aspect of their graduate degree. Usually, these grants will be in support of research undertaken for purposes of the completion of a dissertation, thesis, or final scholarly project.

Students submit an application with a detailed budget, a description of their research, and a letter of support from their major advisor or research advisor. Applications are reviewed by a committee comprised of the Associate Vice-provost of The Graduate School and faculty members representing a cross-section of disciplines. Grants are competitive therefore, not all applicants will receive an award. Faculty reviewers for 2021-22 included:

- Dr. Shannon Biros, Professor of Chemistry
- Dr. Shaunna Kelder, Assistant Professor of Occupational Science and Therapy
- Dr. Alexandra Locher, Associate Professor of Biology
- Dr. Jeffrey Potteiger, Dean of The Graduate School
- Dr. Robert Smart, Professor of Chemistry and Vice Provost for Research Administration
- Dr. Mark Staves, Professor of Cell Molecular and Biology
- Dr. Laurie Stickler, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy

Table 5: 2021-22 Presidential Research Grant Facts

The Graduate School received 27 grant applications in 2020-21. The following data refers to the 24 grants awarded for research conducted during the Fall 2020, Winter 2021, and Spring/Summer 2021 semesters.

Number of Grants Awarded	Awards in Dollars:
12 awards at \$1,500.00 each.	\$18,000.00
1 award at \$1,487.82	\$1,487.82
1 award at \$1,417.72	\$1,417.72
1 award at \$1,400.00	\$1,400.00
1 award at \$1,353.40	\$1,353.40
1 award at \$1,290.00	\$1,290.00
2 awards at \$1,025.00	\$1,025.00
1 award at 200.00	\$200.00
Total Awards:	
19 Awards	\$26,173.94

Number of Awards by College/Department:

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences	
• Biology	9
• Biology – Aquatic Sciences	2
Kirkhof College of Nursing	
• Doctor of Nursing Practice	1
College of Health Professions	
• Occupational Therapy	2



Campus-Wide Events

3-Minute Thesis Competition

The Graduate School hosted GVSU's eighth annual 3-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition on February 17, 2022. Students presented their independent research in exactly three minutes with the aid of one static PowerPoint slide. A panel of faculty judges from a variety of disciplines at GVSU evaluated the competitors and determined the winner.

The GVSU faculty who served on the 2022 3MT judging panel included:

- Dr. Andrew Booth, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Brian Hatzel, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- Dr. Tonisha Jones, College of Education and Community Innovation
- Dr. Libby MacQuillan, College of Health Professions
- Dr. Cray Mulder, College of Education and Community Innovation
- Dr. Wendy Reffeor, Padnos College of Engineering and Computing
- Dr. Gregory Warsen, College of Education and Community Innovation
- Dr. Janet Winter, Kirkhof College of Nursing

Dr. Len O'Kelly from the School of Communications served as the competition's MC

Ten students participated in the competition, and the top three students were announced at the end of the event. Due to ongoing restrictions regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic, the event was held virtually via Zoom. The students recognized at the event were:

Third Place-tie (\$100 winner):

Adam Gizowski, Biomedical Sciences (M.S.)

Second Place (\$250 winner):

Ellen Foley, Biology/AWRI (M.S.)

First Place (\$500 winner):

Marlee Busalacchi, Biomedical Sciences (M.S.)

The first-place winner continued to compete in the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools' Annual Conference, which was held in March of 2022.

Graduate Showcase 2022: Bright Minds, Bright Futures

The Graduate Showcase is an event co-sponsored by the Graduate School and the Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence. Due to the university reducing the COVID-19 alert to alert level 1, the event was held in-person. Student scholars from a variety of programs submitted abstracts to participate in the showcase. Students received a certificate of recognition.

The University Library assisted in updating the event page on ScholarWorks to house current and previous years' programs and student abstracts. All abstracts from 2011-22 are available online at <http://scholarworks.gvsu.edu/gradshowcase/>.



Table 6: Graduate Showcase Participants and Posters

Program	Student(s)	Title
Applied Computer Science	Esteban Echeverri Jaramillo and Griffin Going	Youbrush: Leveraging Edge-Based Machine Learning in Oral Care
Athletic Training	Alexia Tsakiris	The Efficacy of Instability Resistance Training on Shoulder Muscle Firing Characteristics
Athletic Training	Andrew Lowe and Noelle Kaminski	Effects of Low-Load Blood Flow Restriction on Biceps Brachii Strength and Tendon Size
Biology (Annis Water Resources Institute)	Ellen Foley	Impacts of Excess Chloride on Phosphorus in an Urban Eutrophic Lake
Biology (Annis Water Resources Institute)	Nathan Dugener	Out of oxygen: Warming and loading shape bottom water hypoxia dynamics in a Great Lakes Estuary
Biomedical Sciences	Adam Gizowski	The Effects of Nonylphenol on Male Crayfish Aggression in Acute and Chronic Exposures
Biomedical Sciences	Nicholas Bunda	Microbial Experience Increases Cytotoxicity of Tumor-Infiltrating CD8+ T Cells and Controls Tumor Growth
Biostatistics	Calvin Andrews	Children's Special Health Care Services - Data Visualization and Analysis
Biostatistics	Emma Boven	Internship with Zimmer Biomet
Cell and Molecular Biology	Louis Walter	Detection of COVID Variants in Wastewater with qPCR
Cell and Molecular Biology	Sabina Liskey	The Effects of LRB E3 Ligase Region 2 on Phytochrome Degradation in Arabidopsis Thaliana
Communications	Brittany Bahl	Princes, Moms, and Warriors: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Toxic Depictions in Film
Education-Literary Studies: K-12 Specialist	Rasma Gertners	Understanding Dyslexia as a Neurological Learning Disability: A Plan for an Instructive Website for Parents and Early Elementary Teachers
Education-Literary Studies: TESOL	Maximilian Young	Effective Strategies for Teaching English Language Learners Morphological Awareness
Education-Literary Studies: TESOL	Peter Walblay	The Need for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in the Education of Refugee ELLs
Electrical and Computer Engineering	James Nguyen	Implementing LED Drivers and Computer Vision on FPGA
Electrical and Computer Engineering	Matthew Burns and Jayla Wesley	Designing and Building a Solar Charge station
Health Informatics and Bioinformatics: Multidisciplinary Project with Health Administration and Nursing	Jacob Jackson and Sierra Strutz	Physician Office EHR Patient Safety and Usability Study
Nursing-DNP	Autumn Baldwin, Elizabeth Hill, and Thomas Finn	Reducing Delirium and Functional Decline in Hospitalized Older Adults: Pre-Implementation of CoCare Help.
Nursing-DNP	Keith Abraham	Improving Cancer Screening Adherence in a Rural Health Clinic
Public Health	Aurelia Peña	Utilizing Wastewater Surveillance to Examine SARS-CoV-2 RNA Presence in Wastewater During a Period of Mass Vaccination on a College Campus
Public Health	Charles Przybylo	Investigation of COVID-19 Susceptibility Between Student-Athlete and Non-Student Athlete Groups
Public Health	Jacob Kostrzewski	Exploring Perceptions of Pandemic Preparedness Among University Stakeholders
Social Innovation	Amy Phillips	Augusto Boal and Jean-Marie Brohm: Games for Embodied Liberation
Social Innovation	Ty Krueger	Charting a New Course for a Historically White Fraternity
Speech-Language Pathology	Madissen Vacha and Zoe King	Strategies for Working with English Language Learners as Monolingual and Bilingual First Semester Speech-Language Pathology Graduate Students

Program	Student(s)	Title
Social Work	Mariekie Barone	The Association Between Religiosity and Psychological Well-Being in Master of Social Work Students
Social Work	Marigold Cobbina	Perceptions of Professionals on School-Based Interventions for Students with Mental Health Problems in Ghana

Graduate Student Celebration

The Graduate Student Celebration and Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence event is held at the end of the Fall and Winter semesters of each academic year to recognize the academic excellence of graduate students and faculty at GVSU.

The evening traditionally begins with a reception for graduate students and their families, and includes faculty and staff who are involved with graduate education at GVSU. The reception is followed by an award ceremony where students are honored for their outstanding work at GVSU.

Table 7: Graduate Student Celebration Facts

	Fall 2021	Winter 2022
Date Held	December 3, 2021	April 16, 2021
Location of Event	Loosemore Auditorium	Loosemore Auditorium
No. of Attendees	160	175
Conference Services	\$5,028.59	\$5,921.82
Live-Streaming	\$500.00	\$500.00
Photographer	\$250.00	\$410.00
Program Printing	\$897.06	\$1229.11
Total Cost of Event	\$6,675.65	\$8,060.93

The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence

The Graduate School Citations for Academic Excellence include awards for Excellence in a Degree Program, Outstanding Dissertation, Outstanding Master's Thesis, Outstanding Final Project, Outstanding Publication, Service to the Community or Profession, Leadership and Service to GVSU, Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU, and Excellence in Sustainability.

Faculty members and graduate program directors nominate graduate students in their disciplines that are at or near degree completion. Students are nominated for excellence in the program based on grade point average, outstanding performance in coursework, academic skills that exceed the average for written assignments, projects, service, and exceptional leadership.

Students receiving awards for Service to the Community or Profession, Leadership and Service to GVSU, Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU, and Excellence in Sustainability have demonstrated active leadership, outstanding service, innovative thinking, and represented

GVSU's core values in a way that has made a positive impact on the community or university.

Awards for Outstanding Dissertation, Master's Thesis, Final Project, and Publication are given to students whose work is of publishable quality, or whose research is on a topic of exceptional significance to the profession or discipline. Excellence in design, analysis, discussion, and presentation are evident. Winners of awards for 2021-22 can be found online at <http://www.gvsu.edu/gs/graduate-deans-citations-for-academic-excellence-32.htm>.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) co-hosts this event. Graduate students at or near degree completion are encouraged to submit nominations for outstanding faculty members. The GSA Executive Board selects the recipients of the Faculty Mentor, Kimboko Inclusion, and Teaching awards. Those faculty members are invited to the ceremony and receive a certificate from the current GSA president.

Table 8: Graduate School Citations Awards 2021-22

Dean's Citation Award Category	Fall 2020	Winter 2021
Academic Excellence in a Degree Program	14	16
Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation	0	0
Outstanding Master's Thesis	3	3
Outstanding Final Project	5	5
Outstanding Publication	1	2
Excellence in Service to Community or Profession	5	9
Excellence in Leadership and Service to GVSU	3	6
Excellence in Promoting Inclusion and Diversity at GVSU	2	3
Excellence in Sustainability	1	2
MAGS Thesis Nominees	2	N/A
3-Minute Thesis Winner	N/A	1
GSA Faculty Mentor*	3	3
GSA Kimboko Inclusion*	1	1
GSA Outstanding Teaching*	3	3

*Awards presented by the Graduate Student Association

New Graduate Student Orientation

The New Graduate Student Orientation is a joint endeavor between The Graduate School and Office of Admissions. Graduate School staff and Tracey James-Heer, Associate Director of Admissions, provide leadership in planning and coordinating the event.

The event was held both in-person and virtually in Fall 2021 on Wednesday and Thursday, August 25 and 26, respectively. Two separate information sessions were held at the in-person orientation, with a resource fair in between the sessions. The resource fair includes university offices, departments, and units that support graduate students, such as Financial Aid,

Information Technology, University Libraries, Student Life, the Graduate Student Association, and others. The Winter 2022 orientation was held virtually on Thursday, January 6, 2022, and Spring-Summer 2022 was held in-person on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

Attendance:

Fall 2021:212
 Winter 2022: 43
 Spring/Summer 2022: 9



Graduate Assistant Orientation

The Graduate Assistantship Policy, Section 1.09.B in the Faculty Handbook, requires that all graduate students assigned a Graduate Assistantship must complete an orientation that explains Graduate Assistant rights and responsibilities.

The Graduate School held two New Graduate Assistant Orientation sessions prior to the beginning of the Fall 2021 semester. One orientation session was held in-person in the Loosemore Auditorium, and one was held virtually. In the

Winter 2022 semester, one in-person orientation was held for new graduate assistants starting their appointments during that term. Students who were unable to attend any of the orientation sessions were required to meet with TGS staff individually.

Attendance:

Fall 2021:	168
Winter 2022:	33



Graduate Communications

Graduate Education Publications

- **Advising Handbooks**

The Graduate School publishes both a faculty/staff and a student advising handbook. Each handbook contains advising best practices, expectations of quality advising, and resources for students and faculty. Both versions are available for download at www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual.

- **Graduate Faculty & Graduate Program Director Handbooks**

The Graduate School creates two separate handbooks, one for general graduate faculty and one specifically for graduate program directors. Both handbooks are designed to assist faculty members with a variety of duties, including recruitment, enrollment management, application review and admission, academic processes, and graduation audits. These handbooks are available for download at www.gvsu.edu/gs/resources-for-faculty-staff-59.htm.

- **Graduate Student Guidebook**

The Graduate School annually reaches out to individuals and departments to gather policies, resources, and helpful suggestions to enhance the quality of graduate students' experience at GVSU. Included in the guidebook are facts about the campus, department contacts, advice for guidance and resources, and program options. The guidebook supplements the standard university resources by providing graduate-specific information and resources. The Graduate Student Guidebook is available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/guides-for-graduate-students-70.htm>.

- **Guides for Graduate Students**

Along with the listed resources here, the Graduate School maintains several documents and guides for graduate students. Some of these include the New Graduate Student Checklist, Graduate Student Blueprint, Online Learning Guide, and the new Health Resources document. These guides are available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/guides-for-graduate-students-70.htm>.

- **Policies and Procedures Manual**

The Graduate School publishes the Graduate Education Policies and Procedures Manual annually to provide support to graduate education at Grand Valley State University and to serve as a comprehensive guide to graduate education policies and procedures for

faculty, staff, and students at GVSU. The Policies and Procedures Manual is available for download at www.gvsu.edu/gs/manual.

- **Culminating Project Guidelines**

The Graduate School annually publishes guidelines that define the procedures for creating and submitting a final graduate project at Grand Valley State University. These guidelines, along with document templates and resources, are available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/project-guidelines-104.htm>.

- **Thesis and Dissertation Guidelines**

The Graduate School annually publishes a manual that defines the procedures for creating and submitting a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation at Grand Valley State University. This manual, along with document templates and resources, are available for download at: <https://www.gvsu.edu/gs/thesis-and-dissertation-information-35.htm>.

The Graduate School Podcast Series

To provide prospective and current graduate students with more efficient ways to learn about GVSU's graduate programs, TGS decided during the 2016-17 academic year to create a series of podcasts. These podcasts intend to cater to prospective students who are often commuting, as they can listen to them "on the go."

These 3 - 7 min podcasts individually outline all graduate programs and graduate certificates at GVSU. The Graduate School now has podcasts for master's, doctoral, certificate, and combined degree programs which provide an overview of the admissions processes, degree requirements, curriculum structures, and distinguishing qualities of each program. The podcasts are recorded by a graduate assistant in the Graduate School office, edited, and uploaded to the TGS website.

As of Spring/Summer 2022, podcasts have been created for a majority of the master's and doctoral programs, combined degree programs, and graduate certificate programs. TGS has also begun a new podcast initiative to create individual podcasts for the different emphases within programs to provide more details to prospective students that are targeted to their interests. The Graduate School is continually recording and updating podcasts as new programs, and program changes arise.

6 in 60: The Graduate School Newsletter

Throughout the 2021-22 academic year, the Graduate School continued to use the cost-free EMMA software system supported by Institutional Marketing for the 6 in 60 Newsletter. The newsletter content regularly highlights graduate education activities at GVSU, including important dates and deadlines, opportunities for graduate students, news and events from the Graduate Student Association, and graduate student success stories. The newsletter is distributed via email to over 500 faculty and staff, as well as to all enrolled graduate students. Recent newsletters are available online at www.gvsu.edu/gs.

"Grad News: Headlines from Across the Nation" Newsletter

The Graduate School has continued this newsletter to highlight graduate education-related news from across the country. The Graduate School uses the cost-free EMMA software system supported by Institutional Marketing to distribute this newsletter. Stories include the addition of programs, program changes, and program recognition. This newsletter is sent to approximately 130 recipients, including members of the Provost Cabinet, Graduate Program Directors, Graduate Department Chairpersons, Academic Deans, and members of the Graduate Council.

The Graduate School Website

The Graduate School website serves as the central location for information on all issues related to graduate education for future and current students, as well as faculty and staff. The Graduate School also supports the Virtual New Graduate Student Orientation and PACES Professional Development Program websites.

Website Facts July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

Selected Graduate School website data are provided below:

- Total page views: 202,898
- Total unique users who visited the Graduate School website: 58,600
- Total number of new users on the Graduate School website: 19,572

Top 10 Pages Visited:

1. The Graduate School Homepage
2. Master and Doctoral Degree Programs
3. Graduate Assistantships – Job Openings
4. Graduate Degrees, Certificates, and Combined Degrees
5. Graduate Assistantships – Student Information and Resources
6. Graduate Assistantships – What is a Graduate Assistantship?
7. Online/Hybrid and Certificate Programs
8. Combined Degree Programs
9. Graduate Student Resources
10. Virtual New Graduate Student Orientation

The Graduate School Social Media

In Fall 2020, the Graduate School at GVSU Facebook page had over 850 Followers. Due to issues with Facebook, the page was unpublished, and a new page was created: <https://www.facebook.com/GVSUGradSchool/>. The Graduate School continued to rebuild its social media presence in 2021-22.

Posts to the page are used to actively promote events such as New Graduate Student Orientation, Thesis and Dissertation Workshops, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition. Other posts include links to articles related to professional development, career guidance, financial advice and support, and news about the GVSU or Grand Rapids communities. Campus and event photos are also featured regularly.

Graduate Leadership

Graduate Council

Full Graduate Council

Total number of meetings: 8 regular meetings, 7 executive committee meetings

Average number of attendees per regular meeting: 19 elected members, 9 ex-officio members

Topics/Decisions: The Graduate Council voted on a number of new or revised graduate policies and program changes as reflected in the Graduate Council chair's annual report to the University Academic Senate (following this section). Other items included addressing COVID concerns of faculty and students, discussing the introduction of hyflex classes for students that wish to remain online and addressing the technology that would be required, offering suggestions for the mission statement of the Reach Higher Together Strategic Planning Committee, restarting the recruitment of international students as travel restrictions eased, submitting a memo to ECS with recommendations for the Graduate and Lifetime Learning Unit, and meeting with Vice-Provost for Graduate and Lifetime Learning Unit Kara Van Dam to discuss the role of the new unit.

Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review (GC-CPR) Subcommittee

Total number of meetings: 10

Average number of attendees per meeting: 8 elected members, 4 ex-officio members

Topics/Decisions: Curriculum logs reviewed included 16 program change proposals, one new program proposal, and one new certificate proposal. The GC-CPR created a system to streamline the process that reviews admissions requirement changes for curriculum reviews. The subcommittee also updated the graduate program review procedures.

Graduate Council Policy (GC-PC) Subcommittee

Total number of meetings: 8

Average number of attendees per meeting: 8 elected members, 4 ex-officio members

Topics/Decisions: proposed or revised 3 policies and reviewed university terminology related to tracks/concentrations/emphasis/areas of study in the university's graduate programs. The GC-PC also discussed graduate faculty workload and created and administered a survey during the Fall 2021 semester. The data from the survey was examined during the Winter 2022 semester and will be evaluated further in the Fall 2022 semester.

Graduate Council 2020-21 Annual Report

Graduate Council Faculty, Student, Administrative Members, and Ex-officio members:

A. Campbell (CLAS, Chair of Graduate Council), X. Cao (PCEC), S. Choudhuri (PCEC), Fountain (administrative), B. Harvey (UL), N. Harpold (KCON), M. Harris (CECI, Vice Chair of Graduate Council), T. James-Heer (ex-officio), J. Jeffries (UL), R. Jelier (CECI), C. Karasinski (CHP), L. Kessler (SCB), A. McKay (KCON), T. Parker (CHP), J. Palm (administrative), J. Pope (SCB, Chair of Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee) J. Potteiger (ex-officio), E. Schendel (ex-officio), M. Staves (CLAS, Chair of Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee), D. Vainner (ex-officio), P. Wells (ex-officio), J. Wendland-Liu (BCOIS).

Graduate Council Student Members: T. Worm (President, GSA; member of GC-CPR), S. Knight Davenport (Vice President, GSA), P. Kalyan Pallapu (Finance Officer, GSA), J. Marsh (Administration Officer, GSA)

Ex-Officio Students Attending: M. Scannell

The Graduate Council (GC) convened on September 3, 2021, and met a total of 8 times through April. Because the GC addresses policy issues and reviews graduate curriculum proposals and implements program reviews, members of the GC also serve on either the Graduate Council Curriculum and Program Review Subcommittee (GC-CPR, Mark Staves, Chairperson) or the Graduate Council Policy Subcommittee (GC-PC, Jennifer Pope, Chairperson). With each college sending two faculty members to GC, each college is represented on both subcommittees. The GC-CPR and GC-PC generally meet 2-3 times each month in addition to regular GC meetings.

Graduate Council Charges

1. Review Graduate Faculty Workload

To address this charge, the GC-PC collaborated with Jeffrey Potteiger (AVP for the Graduate School), Pamela Wells (University Registrar), and Tracey James-Herr (Admissions Office) to develop and disseminate a survey to graduate faculty members. The survey data was collected, and analyses were conducted. A preliminary report was developed and will be reviewed by the full council in Fall 2022.

2. Graduate Program Culminating Experiences

The GC-PC did not address this charge during this academic year.

3. Graduate Student Experience:

The GC-PC reviewed several years of existing data from the graduate student exit survey regarding student perceptions related to their academic and student life experiences at the university. Overall, while students are largely positive about their academic experience at the university, they are less positive about the student life experience. This has been a consistent finding both pre and post pandemic. Further, it is apparent that there is greater dissatisfaction with student life activities on the downtown and health campuses.

After reviewing the data, the GC-PC would like to further explore the types of student life services and activities that are most important to graduate students, as their needs likely differ from undergraduate students. To aid in gathering additional data, the Graduate School has added additional questions to the graduate student exit survey for this year. The GC-PC will review the additional data and develop recommendations in 2022/2023.

4. Graduate Program Review

The GC-CPR completed 5 program graduate program reviews this year. Site visits were conducted either in-person or virtually, and final reports were approved by the council.

5. Leadership and Succession Planning:

The GC developed and approved a policy for leadership and succession planning.



Additional Activities

The GC-PC developed policy changes (Dual Level Enrollment Policy, Admissions Requirements Policy) that have received final approval. They have also continued to examine the terminology used in graduate programs across the university related to tracks/specialties/emphases and anticipate that a policy will be developed during the next academic year.

The GC-CPR reviewed and approved 13 graduate program changes, and one new graduate certificate program.

Graduate Program Directors (GPD) Group

The GPDs meet regularly with the Associate Vice-Provost of The Graduate School to review issues, policies, and procedures affecting graduate education at GVSU.

Total number of meetings: 5 regular meetings

Average number of attendees per meeting: 53

Major initiatives and discussions in which the GPDs participated in 2021-22 included:

- Students provided with Covid-19 policies – Masks, vaccination requirements
- The Graduate Student Experience, enhancing the student life experience for graduate students on campus and beyond their programs.

- Slate training provided for GPDs.
- Transcript requirements – to reduce barriers to admission, programs could potentially require only the transcript from the undergraduate degree-granting institution.
- International Student Support
 - Providing international students with workshops/presentations, expanded services and support, including skills for critical thinking, analytical writing and creative problem solving
- Recruitment, Admission, Retention, Graduation discussion and overview going forward
- New programs: Recreational Therapy, Water Resource Policy
- Employee Ombuds Officer Presentation-Elisa Salazar
- Presentation by the Cook Leadership Academy
- Graduate School Staff Changes
 - Departure-Jennifer Palm, Graduate School Assistant, PSS Staff
 - New Hire-Trista Bergerud; Assistant Director of Programming and Communication for The Graduate School, AP Staff
- Graduate Student Mental Health, Guidance for Faculty Support presentation by the University Counseling Center.



The Graduate School Information and Activities

Periodically, The Graduate School provides financial support to units, programs, events, and individuals for travel, conference registration, and other matters relating primarily to graduate education. In the fiscal year 2021-22, the Graduate School sponsored the following:

Table 9: Membership Support

International Student Golf Outing	\$1,287.00
Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Annual Conference	\$1,000.00
Total Support	\$3,287.00



The Graduate School Staff

Jeffrey Potteiger, Associate Vice-provost of the Graduate School

Dr. Jeffrey A. Potteiger joined Grand Valley State University in July of 2010 and is a professor in the Department of Movement Science. He received his Ph.D. from Auburn University, his M.S. degree from McDaniel College, and his B.S. degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Potteiger has been a faculty member at Indiana State University, the University of Kansas, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Miami University. Dr. Potteiger has served in university administrative roles as a laboratory director, graduate program director, department chairperson, dean, and associate provost for research.

Dr. Potteiger began his professional career as a public school teacher in Pennsylvania before becoming involved in education at the university level. He has over 100 published research articles, books, and book chapters much of which has involved work with students. Dr. Potteiger recently published the 4th edition of the textbook titled ACSM's Introduction to Exercise Science. His broad research interest is in how physical activity and nutrition influence health and disease. Much of Dr. Potteiger's recent research activity has been focused on the role of exercise and dietary intake on the use of carbohydrates and fats by the body.

In addition to his role as Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Potteiger serves as the GVSU Authorizing Institutional Official for all research activities and as the university's Research Integrity Officer. Dr. Potteiger contributes to his profession by serving on the editorial boards of several journals and as a leader in the American College of Sports Medicine.

Irene Fountain, Assistant to the Dean of the Graduate School

Irene Fountain has been with the Graduate School since the department was formed in 2000 as "Graduate Studies and Grants Administration." She holds a master's degree in Public Administration from GVSU and a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Davenport University.

Irene serves as Dr. Potteiger's administrative assistant. She coordinates The Graduate School financial and operational records, organizes meetings with various constituent groups such as the graduate program directors' advisory group and

the Graduate Council and its subcommittees, and keeps the official minutes and records of the Graduate Council. As the primary administrative support person for the Graduate Council, she is responsible for coordinating external reviewer site visits for programs undergoing graduate program review.

She also coordinates and administers the Graduate Presidential Research Grant (PRG) program, oversees the Academic Conference Fund (ACF) for Graduate Students, and works with the Graduate Student Association's (GSA) funding board by assisting with the review of funding requests and approvals. She maintains the budgets and tracks expenditures for the PRG, ACF, and GSA and serves as the dean's designee for expense reimbursements.

Irene manages the graduate assistantship program, ensuring adherence to the graduate assistantship policy, communicates with constituents and coordinates assistantship appointments with Financial Aid, Student Employment, GA supervisors, and students, and organizes the New Graduate Assistantship Orientation.

Jennifer Palm, Assistant to the Graduate School

Jenn joined GVSU as a staff member in 2005 and began working with graduate studies in January 2008. She earned a Master of Science in Communications (2017) and a Bachelor of Arts in Advertising and Public Relations (2004), both from GVSU. Jenn left The Graduate School in January 2022.

In The Graduate School, Jenn was responsible for department publications and major events. This included the Advising Guidebooks, Graduate Student Guidebook, Graduate Faculty Handbook, Graduate Directors Handbook, the Graduate Policies & Procedures Manual, and the Graduate School's Annual Report. She coordinated department events such as the Graduate Student Celebration, the Graduate Showcase, New Graduate Student Orientations, and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

Jenn maintained the Graduate School's social media presence, maintained the Graduate Student Blackboard group, and created the monthly 6 in 60 Newsletter. She maintained and created content for the department webpages, including News and Information, Success Stories, Events, and resources for students, faculty, and staff. She also coordinated the department's presence at internal and external recruitment events.

She was the primary contact for graduate student issues and served as the department contact for requests for exceptions to university policies. Jenn assisted faculty applying for Graduate Faculty Status and maintained the database of approved faculty. She also served as the department's Thesis and Dissertation Coordinator and organized the Thesis and Dissertation Workshops.

Jenn is approved as an Inclusion Advocate and served as the department liaison for issues relating to inclusion and equity. She is part of the Leadership Team of the Women's Commission affinity group at GVSU and an active participant in the GVSU Teach-In.

Trista Bergerud, Assistant Director, Programming and Communications

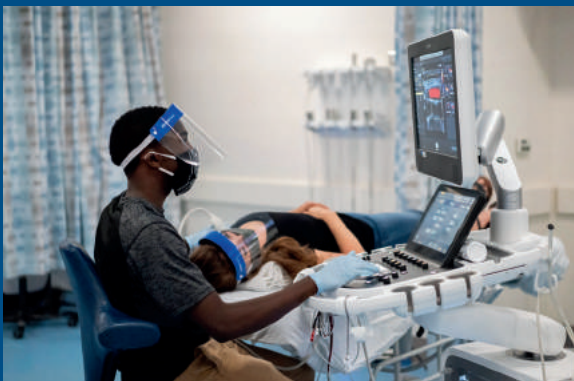
Trista joined Grand Valley State University in July of 2021 and The Graduate School in February 2022. She earned her master's degree in International Education from New York University, and her bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of North Dakota.

Trista has a background in global education and diversity that she developed while teaching abroad in Ghana and Morocco. She also taught students from pre-K to college in the US and has been an international student herself in London and Paris. Her experience as both teacher and student gives her a unique perspective that helps to guide her in supporting all students.

Trista is responsible for conducting market research in support of GVSU's ability to offer new graduate programming, as well as expanding graduate faculty and graduate student engagement in curricular and co-curricular activities. She provides creative and strategic direction and project/content management for all Graduate School communications. In

addition, Trista plans and facilitates special events and functions, including New Graduate Student Orientations, the Graduate School Celebrations, and the Graduate Showcase event. She also administrates the Michigan Intercollegiate Graduate Studies (MIGS) Program, reviewing applications from non-degree seeking graduate students, preparing and reviewing petitions for exceptions to university graduate education policies and leave of absence requests, and processing professional learning credit requests. Trista also supervises and manages the Graduate Assistants of The Graduate School.

In addition to managing the programming and communication of The Graduate School, Trista is the Thesis and Dissertation Coordinator. She manages the 3-minute Thesis Competition, designing and facilitating the project, thesis and dissertation workshops, and other co-curricular activities. She also reviews all final thesis and dissertation documents for compliance with university policies, continuous enrollment requirements, and coordinates the approval and dissemination of all final documents.



The Graduate School Graduate Assistants and Student Assistants

Maggie Scannell, Graduate Assistant

Maggie joined the Graduate School as a Resources and Marketing Graduate Assistant in Fall 2020 and transitioned to the Specialized Programs and Resources role in Fall 2021. Born and raised in Grand Rapids, she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from Western Michigan University and completed a Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership from GVSU.

Maggie was responsible for the creation, maintenance, and research report generation from databases in The Graduate School. She assisted with podcasts for graduate programming and was a member of the Graduate Council as well as the University Technology Committee. Maggie supported the management of events such as the Graduate Showcase and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition. Maggie was the President of the Nonprofit Professional Graduate Student Organization and likes to spend time outside with friends and family, volunteer, and listen to music.

Kassie Nguyen, Graduate Assistant

Kassie joined the Graduate School as a Resources and Marketing Graduate Assistant in the Fall of 2021. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Communication and a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Grand Valley State University in December of 2020. She is currently pursuing a Master of Public Health with an emphasis in Epidemiology from GVSU.

She is responsible for coordinating The Graduate School's social media, the 6 in 60 Newsletter, graduate student success stories, and other marketing projects. Kassie also supports the management of events such as the Graduate Showcase and the 3-Minute Thesis Competition.

Kassie is also working part-time as a patient services representative for a hospital. She likes to spend her time going to the gym, watercolor painting, and enjoying the outdoors with her six-year-old corgi.

Long Ho, Student Assistant

Long became the Student Assistant to the Graduate School in May 2019. He graduated in Winter 2022 with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management. He is continuing his education at Grand Valley with a Master of Public Administration. He likes to play games, listen to K-pop music, and hang out with friends.

Long joined the Graduate School to maintain department databases related to graduate assistantships, graduate thesis and dissertations, and student petitions. He assists with data entry, filing, communication with students and faculty, and special projects to help the office run efficiently.

Sarah Spencer, Student Assistant

Sarah joined the Graduate School in October of 2019. She completed her undergraduate degree at Grand Valley studying Writing with a minor in Theater. While still exploring the many facets of the field, working as a Medical Translator or as an Editor are careers she would like to pursue. She enjoys camping, spending time with friends and family, and performing.

Sarah joined the Graduate School to maintain department databases related to graduate assistantships, graduate thesis and dissertations, and student petitions. She assists with data entry, filing, communication with students and faculty, and special projects to help the office run efficiently.



The Graduate School extends its appreciation to the students, faculty, and staff who further the mission of quality graduate education at Grand Valley State University. Comments, questions, or suggestions regarding this Annual Report may be directed to The Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu or (616) 331-7105.