

SICD Program Podcast

Hello, my name is Maggie and I am a staff member in The Graduate School at Grand Valley State University. Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Grand Valley's Student Initiated 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.

The Student Initiated Combined Degree program provides a mechanism that makes it possible to start a master's before you finish your bachelor's degree. The Student Initiated Combined Degree offers students a unique opportunity to combine undergraduate and graduate degree programs that meet their personal, academic, and career goals. Today we're going to cover the basic information about the Student Initiated Combined Degree program including how to get started, the admissions process, degree requirements, and the reasons why students should consider a student initiated combined degree.

First, how to get started. Start by talking about your interest with your faculty advisor. The key is identifying which graduate courses could be applied toward your undergraduate degree program. It may be as simple as having the graduate credit apply toward the minimum credit requirement, or perhaps they may count as electives in your major.

After you have discussed your interest with your faculty advisor, contact the graduate program director to discuss your interests. Next, you must complete a Student Initiated Combined Degree request form and plan of study. This will include a plan to complete your undergraduate degree should you choose not to finish the graduate degree. The Student Initiated Combined Degree request form is available on our website at www.gvsu.edu/sicd. Finally, you must seek approval from your undergraduate faculty advisor, unit head of the undergraduate degree program, the Graduate Program Director, and the Associate Vice Provost of The Graduate School.

After your Student Initiated Combined Degree request form is approved, you will need to seek formal admission into the graduate program by completing the online graduate application and submitting other application materials requested by the Graduate Program Director. Generally, students wishing to pursue a Student Initiated Combined Degree program will be expected to meet the admission requirements of this graduate program.

Students may apply for the Student Initiated Combined Degree program after completing a minimum of 45 undergraduate credit hours.

More program details as well as the online graduate application can be found on the Student Initiated Combined Degree program website, www.gvsu.edu/sicd.

Some great news about Grand Valley's graduate programs is that tuition rates for Michigan resident and non-resident students are the same. In other words, there are no extra costs for being an out of state student. Current tuition costs and information about scholarships and financial aid can be found at www.gvsu.edu/financialaid or by calling 616-331-3234.

Requirements for successful completion of the Student Initiated Combined Degree program are the same as those required to complete both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs separately. For more details on the curriculum for this program, please visit www.gvsu.edu/sicd.

The Student Initiated Combined Degree program allows students to begin a graduate degree program while they are completing their undergraduate degree, thus saving both time and money. The traditional path of completing a master's degree after completing a bachelor's degree can take a student 6 or more years to complete, but the Student Initiated Combined Degree allows students the opportunity to complete both degrees in as few as 5 academic years. The program allows students to respond to emerging job markets and increase their marketability by combining two degrees that meet their specific career goals. Working with faculty advisors, students can combine degrees from different disciplines and tailor their own student-centered and goal-driven educational experience. This program provides students with extraordinary educational freedom and flexibility while reducing the time required to complete both programs separately.

That is just a snapshot of the Student Initiated Combined Degree program at Grand Valley State University. Any questions can be directed to the Graduate School at gradschool@gvsu.edu. Thank you for your time and we hope you have enjoyed this podcast.