



# What Happens After the Accreditation Visit and Report?

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# Grand Valley Overview...

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- ▶ Established in 1960, 50<sup>th</sup>-yr celebration in 2010-11
  - ▶ History as an undergraduate institution serving west Michigan
- ▶ Current total enrollment is 24, 408; ~15% graduate
- ▶ 123 doctoral and 3,435 masters students for 2009-10
- ▶  $\leq 25\%$  of degrees awarded annually are graduate degrees
- ▶ 28 graduate degree programs
  - Clinical doctorates
    - DPT in Physical Therapy
    - DNP in Nursing
  - EdS program in Educational Leadership
  - 25 Master's degree programs; 46 degree options



# Prior NCA concern...

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- ▶ Who speaks for graduate education at GVSU?
- ▶ 1999 Challenge - “...the institution should very strongly consider appropriate high-level, campus-wide administrative structures to safeguard standards and protect institutional integrity...”
- ▶ Prior to 1999...
  - ▶ Admissions, records, policies, and curricular matters were handled by other entities



# Institutional Response since 1999

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- ▶ Hiring of inaugural Graduate Dean in 2000
  - ▶ Creation of Office of Graduate Studies & Grants Administration (2 FT staff)
  - ▶ Dean reports to Provost; member of Deans Council
  - ▶ Grad Program Directors Advisory Group
  - ▶ Graduate Assistantship policies and oversight
- ▶ Graduate Council (shared governance model; 2004)
  - ▶ Elected representatives from each academic college; 2 graduate students
  - ▶ Ex-officio members (Admissions, Registrar, Student Services)
  - ▶ Policy and Curriculum Sub-committees
- ▶ Graduate and Professional Student Association (2006)
- ▶ Associate Dean for Graduate Studies (2008)



# Focused visits since 1999

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- ▶ 2004 Focused Visit for Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT)
- ▶ 2006 Focused Visit for Ed Specialist degree
  - ▶ Given the institution's clearly stated commitment to baccalaureate education, a comparable commitment to graduate education needs to be developed
    - ▶ Clear expectations for teaching, scholarship, and service for faculty involved in graduate education



# 2008 NCA Site Visit and Final Report

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- ▶ Challenge #4 – “GVSU needs appropriate high level, campus-wide structures for graduate programs...”
- ▶ Final Report Findings
  - ▶ Although the team recognized that a general challenge to the institution is the graduate education infrastructure, they recommended no follow-up based on their findings
  - ▶ Administrative view... NCA ‘trusts’ us to continue addressing the remaining issues



# Challenges for Graduate Education

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- ▶ Despite creation of graduate dean/office, no change in roles/responsibilities regarding admissions, records, etc.
- ▶ No change in philosophy or structure
- ▶ Graduate Dean's role remains more of service to lead entities, no support for academic and administrative leadership
- ▶ Graduate Council's influence unchanged
  - ▶ Growing need for policy issues to be resolved
    - ▶ Example: Process and appointment of Graduate Faculty





# How does our institutional culture change to address NCA's challenge?

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