

For more than 40 years, the School of Nursing at George Mason University has been setting the standard for nursing in the National Capital Region. Throughout the mid-Atlantic and around the world, a Mason nursing graduate is known for being well prepared to work in the rapidly evolving health care environment. Our students are sought after for leadership roles in hospitals, nonprofits, and government organizations. Since we are located just 15 miles from the heart of the nation's capital, our students are trained in world-class hospital settings and innovative community clinics to serve a diverse patient population.

### **Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)**

The DNP degree is nursing's highest professional practice degree. The DNP program provides an opportunity for nurses to become experts as nurse practitioners and nurse administrators. Emphasis is placed on evaluating and applying the evidence that supports practice, understanding and creating practice delivery systems based on patient outcomes, and assuming leadership roles in practice settings.

Students may draw on the expertise from throughout the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) in such areas as health economics, health policy, and epidemiology. Graduates of the program can assume many roles in the health care system, including direct patient care, clinical nursing faculty, practice management, and policy development. Graduates are eligible for certification from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP) or the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC).

### **MSN to DNP**

Students who enter the MSN to DNP program will complete 72 credits. A maximum of 30 credit hours of relevant graduate credit may be awarded for past master's-level courses, and students will complete the minimum of 42 additional credits. Essential courses building on previous master's education must be completed in the first year of full-time study or two years of part-time study. These courses prepare students to develop and implement the practice inquiry project in the final two semester of study. Individualized plans of study are created based on the content from the student's master's degree academic program and will include a minimum of 19 credits.

### **BSN to DNP**

Students who enter the BSN to DNP program will complete 72 credits and must choose from the following concentrations:

- Family Nurse Practitioner
- Adult-Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
- Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
- Nursing Administration

BSN to DNP students complete core courses in theory, ethics, health care delivery systems, and statistics; advanced-practice competency courses relevant to their chosen concentration; and essential doctoral-level courses in policy, administration, informatics, and evidence-based practice.

All BSN to DNP and MSN to DNP students must complete 1,000 precepted/mentored clinical hours. MSN to DNP students may include documented precepted/mentored clinical hours obtained during previous master's education. The number of hours granted from the master's degree is based on an individual evaluation of master's clinical hours. Students also must complete two **practice inquiry project (PIP)** courses over two semesters resulting in a scholarly product approved by their PIP committees. Students must take additional electives to meet the 72 credits required to complete the program.

## **Application Process**

Applications are considered for the DNP for the **fall semester**. Application requirements and deadlines are outlined on the Graduate Admission website, which can be found at <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/graduate>. For additional program details, visit CHHS Admissions at <http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/index.cfm>. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. Admission to the program is competitive, and a variety of criteria are evaluated in the admissions process, including the strength of the undergraduate record and any post-baccalaureate coursework, the GRE/GMAT (if required), career goals, letters of recommendation, professional and/or volunteer experience, evidence of the ability to write and conduct research at the graduate level, and any additional evidence of potential success in the graduate program.

All applicants will be licensed registered nurses who will have a minimum of one year of experience as an RN prior to admission. Applicants must have completed an undergraduate statistics course with a grade of C or better within the last five years.

## **MSN to DNP**

Applicants to the MSN to DNP program must hold an MSN degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum GPA of 3.5 or better in their graduate program and show evidence they have met coursework requirements consistent with Mason's MSN core curriculum. Applicants must show proof of MSN precepted practice hours (see Departmental Form – <http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/dnp/>). Applicants must also have a minimum of one year of work experience as an RN prior to admission. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission to the DNP program. Please visit the CHHS Graduate Admissions website listed above for detailed application information.

## **BSN to DNP**

Applicants to the BSN to DNP program must hold a BSN degree from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum of 3.0 GPA and a strong record in science and nursing coursework. Applicants must also have a minimum of one year of work as an RN experience prior to admission. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission to the DNP program. Please visit the CHHS Graduate Admissions website listed above for detailed application information.

## **Special Requirements**

All nursing students must maintain a current nursing license. Nursing students must meet certain mandatory requirements, including a certified criminal background check, proof of health insurance coverage, immunizations, and other university requirements. Specific information will be provided once the offer of admission to the nursing program has been accepted.

---

## **Contact Information**

### **School of Nursing/DNP Program**

College of Health and Human Services  
Robinson Hall A367  
George Mason University  
4400 University Drive, MS 3C4  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 703-993-5035

Fax: 703-993-1942

Email: [chhsgrad@gmu.edu](mailto:chhsgrad@gmu.edu)

Web: [nursing.gmu.edu](http://nursing.gmu.edu)

### **Office of Graduate Admissions**

College of Health and Human Services  
Robinson Hall B402  
George Mason University  
4400 University Drive, MS 5A8  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 703-993-1736

Fax: 703-993-3606

Email: [chhsgrad@gmu.edu](mailto:chhsgrad@gmu.edu)

Web: [chhs.gmu.edu](http://chhs.gmu.edu)

*The above information is based on the 2016–2017 University Catalog and is subject to change without notice or obligation. It is not to be regarded as a contract. Please refer to the catalog for full course descriptions, department information, and university policy governing graduate degree programs at [catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu).*