The School of Nursing is a teaching/learning organization with a national and international academic reputation, grounded in sound general education. It develops and supports a diverse faculty who are visionary and competent practitioners, scholars, and researchers, excellent in teaching in academic and practice settings, and responsive to the needs of students and the community. Specifically, the nursing programs prepare graduates to function as providers, coordinators, and managers of care and for leadership, advanced practice, and nurse scholar roles, as well as members of the nursing profession. Graduates of the School of Nursing are prepared to function as interdisciplinary health professionals and citizens who provide leadership, care, and service to the community. The school promotes health and well-being through its programs and centers, engaging in scholarly activities and research with the aim of maximum health for all people.

**Graduate Degrees**

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) prepares nurses for a variety of leadership roles in the health care delivery system. MSN concentrations include nurse educator, nurse practitioner, and nursing administration.

The MSN program offers two nurse practitioner concentrations: adult-gerontology nurse practitioner in primary care and family nurse practitioner in primary care. Graduates provide primary care to clients in a variety of settings, including health maintenance organizations, specialty clinics, public health clinics, hospital emergency departments, nursing homes and home care settings, family practice settings, and neighborhood and community clinics for the medically underserved. Both concentrations include a curriculum that can be completed in 2 years of full-time study. Part-time options are available. Please note that a summer session is included. For each concentration, students must complete a substantial number of clinical hours.

The School of Nursing is CCNE accredited, and the Virginia State Board of Nursing has approved the nurse practitioner concentrations. Graduates of these programs are eligible for certification as an adult-gerontological or family nurse practitioner. Students who complete the program are eligible to take the certification examination as specified.

The nurse educator concentration is designed to prepare students to meet established nurse educator competencies. Students develop skills to teach as faculty members in pre-licensure programs and continuing education settings for clinical staff and patient education. The program develops teaching/learning principles, curriculum/program development and evaluation, methods to evaluate learning, and implementation of the educator role. The program prepares graduates to assume these roles with competence and confidence.

The concentration in nursing administration prepares nurses for a role in advanced management and helps students develop the skills to effectively utilize technology as well as the capacity to guide and lead other nurses in any healthcare setting. Students can apply professional interests, medical knowledge and clinical skills as they lead and mentor the next generation of nurses, guiding their workforce and working with top-level administration at hospitals to achieve efficiency in healthcare provision. This concentration offers students the opportunity to have tremendous influence on the future of nursing and to distinguish themselves as highly-qualified candidates for management positions such as Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), Nurse Administrator, Nurse Executive or Director of Administration.

**Graduate Certificates**

The department also offers three graduate certificates in Nursing Education, Nursing Administration, and Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. These certificates may be completed by students
holding a master’s degree or students currently completing their graduate degree. Please visit http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/index.cfm for detailed information about these certificates. Students applying to a certificate program must hold a graduate degree or be currently enrolled in a graduate program.

**Application Requirements**

Admission to each 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, 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 program. Information regarding CHHS application guidelines can be found at chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate.

For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, please refer to the CHHS Graduate Admissions website at http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate/deadlines.cfm. Meeting the minimum application criteria does not guarantee admission. Late applications will be considered on a space-available basis. The application for graduate study is available at admissions.gmu.edu.

Applications are considered for the **fall semester only**. Applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree in Nursing from a regionally accredited institution with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA in the last 60 credits of undergraduate coursework, hold an active U.S. RN license, and have completed an undergraduate statistics course to be considered. Applicants must apply to one of the concentration areas described above, and offers of admission are made only for the concentration area selected. Students may apply to switch concentration areas after enrollment; however, approval for such requests is not guaranteed. Applicants are strongly encouraged to select the concentration that is best suited to their career goals.

**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.

**Non-Degree Study**

Students interested in enrolling in graduate-level nursing courses prior to applying to a program may have the option to do so through non-degree study. Please note that non-degree enrollment requires a formal application to the university, and no more than nine credits of non-degree coursework may be applied to a degree. For more information, please visit the CHHS Non-Degree website at: http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/non-degree.cfm

---

**Contact Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School of Nursing</th>
<th>CHHS Graduate Admissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Health and Human Services</td>
<td>College of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robinson Hall A359</td>
<td>Robinson Hall B402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Mason University</td>
<td>George Mason University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4400 University Drive, MS 3C4</td>
<td>4400 University Drive, MS 5A8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfax, VA 22030</td>
<td>Fairfax, VA 22030</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Phone: 703-993-1947  
E-mail: chhsgrad@gmu.edu  
Web: http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/programs

Phone: 703-993-1736  
Fax: 703-993-3606  
Web: http://admissions.gmu.edu/grad/

The above information is based on the 2013–2014 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.