BSN Information Session

Accelerated Second Degree Pathway
Today’s Program

• Presentation (30 – 40 minutes)
  • Application process
  • Eligibility guidelines
  • Program information

• Q&A

• Meet with an advisor (transcript review)
Why get your BSN at Mason?

• Reputation
  • Program began over 30 years ago

• Student Success
  • NCLEX pass rate of 85.68% in recent years
  • High retention and low attrition rates

• The Faculty
  • 1:8 faculty to student ratio in clinical settings
  • Faculty practice emphasis

• State-of-the-art simulation labs
Application Process

Important things to know

• Competitive admissions process
• Limited enrollment is due to available clinical spaces (approx. 50 spaces).
• Meeting the eligibility guidelines does not guarantee admission.
• Have a back-up plan.
Application Process

Two-step application process:

• Submit a degree-seeking application to Mason and meet Mason admission requirements.

• Submit the online BSN Program Application and all supporting documents by January 15th deadline.

2 separate applications = 2 separate decision letters. Must be admitted to both to be in the Nursing program.
### Application Deadlines

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<tr>
<th><strong>Mason Application</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Fall:</strong> Prior to Jan. 15th</td>
<td><strong>Spring:</strong> October 1(^{st})</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BSN Program Application</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Fall:</strong> January 15(^{th})</td>
<td><strong>Spring:</strong> N/A</td>
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The Mason application must be completed first in order to receive a G# which you will need for the BSN application.
Mason Application Process

• Application available online: [http://admissions.gmu.edu/](http://admissions.gmu.edu/)

• Accelerated pathway applicants must apply as a **degree-seeking, transfer student**.
  • Transfer admission to Mason is competitive.
  • Research and meet Mason admission requirements and deadlines.
  • Disclose all institutions you have attended (or plan to attend) on initial Mason university application; failure to do so will jeopardize admission.

• Applicants with a bachelors degree from outside of the US must apply as an international student.
  • Must have transcripts evaluated – [http://www.naces.org/](http://www.naces.org/).
  • Submit proof of English language proficiency.
  • More information: [http://admissions.gmu.edu/global/](http://admissions.gmu.edu/global/)
Mason Application Process

Important: Admission to Mason is not required prior to submitting BSN application. You simply must have completed the Mason application.

- G# will be assigned at time of application rather than at time of admission.
- Applicants should submit the Mason application for **fall** admission unless coming to Mason during spring semester to complete prerequisite courses.
- Submit a degree-seeking, transfer student application.
BSN Application Process

• Available in December on CHHS website: http://chhs.gmu.edu

• Two-part application process
  • Part A: Online BSN Program Application
  • Part B: Supporting Documentation

• Accelerated Second Degree Pathway
  • Fall admission only
  • Full-time program (no part-time option)
  • May apply to only one pathway: Accelerated Second Degree Pathway for those with a bachelor’s degree.
  • Cannot switch from Accelerated to Traditional Pathway.
BSN Application Process

Part A: Online BSN Program Application

• Complete and submit online application by January 15.
• Pay $50.00 non-refundable BSN application fee via online payment system.
• Print Confirmation and Application Checklist page upon completing online BSN application.
BSN Application Process

Part B: Supporting Documents

• Confirmation & Application Checklist Form
  • Form acts as cover sheet for supporting documents package.

• Unofficial transcripts from **every** institution attended
  • Students with international background must submit copy of evaluation of transcripts ([NACES.org](NACES.org)).
  • Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended **including Mason**.

• Résumé
• Essay
BSN Application Process

Part B (continued)

• HESI-A2 exam scores
• Three minute video
• Copy of spring class registration (if applicable)
• Copy of active military ID (if applicable)
• Unofficial copy of AP/CLEP scores (if applicable)
• Letter of good standing (if previously dismissed from another nursing program)
BSN Application Process

HESI A2 Exam

• Scores taken prior to January 15, 2015, will not be accepted.
• The following sections on the exam are required:
  • Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocab and General Knowledge, Grammar, Anatomy and Physiology, Learning Style, Personality Profile
• We will not accept Test of Essential Academic Skill (TEAS) scores in place of HESI-A2 exam scores.
• Register for the exam before December - Testing centers have space limitations and it is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that a seat is secured prior to BSN application deadline.
• Visit the CHHS admissions website to get full details, including information about testing accommodations for students with disabilities who are encouraged to register for the exam by October.
BSN Application Process

• Submit documents by U.S. mail or hand-deliver to:

  Attention: BSN Application  
  CHHS Office of Student Affairs  
  4400 University Drive, MS 6C4  
  Fairfax, VA 22030  
  Campus Location: Robinson Hall B402

• Confirmation of receipt of application:
  • E-mail will be sent 7-10 days after submission if Part B is mailed.  
  • Paper confirmation provided if Part B is delivered in person.

• Application process is self-managed—students will not be contacted for missing documents.

• Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.
BSN Application Process

Deadline - January 15, 2016

• Part A: Online BSN Program Application submission

• Part B: Confirmation and Application Checklist form with all supporting documents must be postmarked by January 15\textsuperscript{th} or hand-delivered by 5:00 p.m. on January 15\textsuperscript{th}.

No Exceptions.
Eligibility Guidelines

3 Basic Eligibility Requirements:

1) Admission to Mason as a degree-seeking transfer student

2) Bachelor’s degree and any other transferred courses must come from a **regionally accredited** institution.
   - Online courses are acceptable.
   - International bachelor’s degree must be equivalent to a 4-year bachelor’s degree in the US.

3) Completion of nursing prerequisite course requirements by deadline of May 20th

Being eligible for consideration **does not** guarantee admission.
Eligibility Guidelines

Nursing Prerequisites

- Anatomy and Physiology I (4 cr)
- Anatomy and Physiology II (4 cr)
- Microbiology (4 cr)
- Biomedical Ethics (3 cr)
- Developmental Psychology (3 cr)
- Statistics (3 cr)
- Nutrition (3 cr)
Eligibility Guidelines

Nursing Prerequisites

• Grades
  • Must earn a grade of C (not C-) in EACH nursing prerequisite course

• Timeframes
  • May be currently enrolled in prerequisites for spring term
  • All must be complete by May 20 (end of the Mason’s spring term) before starting program in the fall
  • *Cannot* take pre-reqs in summer before starting program

• 3 Science Courses (A&P I, A&P II, and Microbiology)
  • Cannot be more than 5 years old from the time of BSN enrollment. (e.g. If applying for Fall 2016, sciences must have been completed during or after Fall 2011.)
  • Must have two out of the three science prerequisites complete by date of application
Eligibility Guidelines

• Use Mason’s **Transfer Credit Search Engine** to evaluate courses you have taken elsewhere to see if they will count toward your nursing pre-reqs:
  
  [http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/](http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/)

• Applicants are responsible for meeting eligibility guidelines at the time of application.
Advising Tips

Competitive applicants typically:

• Have the majority of nursing prerequisites complete at time of BSN application.
• Have *not* repeated nursing science prerequisite courses.
• Have *not* received a grade of C or lower in their nursing prerequisites.
Admissions Decisions

- Admissions decisions are **holistic** and based on an array of factors: academic strength, writing ability, communication skills, and experience.

- Academic strength determined by evaluating all coursework completed **by the date of application**.
  - If enrolled in fall courses, WAIT until fall grades have been posted before beginning the BSN application process.
  - Fall grades must be posted on transcripts submitted with Part B package of the BSN application.
  - If Part B is submitted before fall grades are posted, applicant is evaluated only on courses COMPLETE at the time of application.
Admissions Decisions

If not admitted:

• Advisors are unable to meet with applicants or respond to e-mails regarding reasons for denial.

• Common reasons for denial:
  • Incomplete application
  • Nursing prerequisite/science GPA was not competitive
  • Below a C in any of the required nursing prerequisites
  • Sheer volume – given the volume of applications received for the limited number of clinical spaces, other applicants presented stronger applications

• Consider pursuing Associate Degree in Nursing (AAS) and then applying to Mason’s 30 credit, online RN to BSN program.
If Admitted

Mason Admission letter mailed by the Office of Admissions.

• Decisions made on rolling basis after all required application materials are received.
• Contact Office of Admissions directly with questions or for more information: admissions.gmu.edu or 703-993-2400.
If Admitted

BSN program admission decisions are e-mailed by late April from the School of Nursing.

- Decisions not given via phone.
- Admission offer will be **provisional:**
  - Must submit transcripts for currently enrolled courses by deadline specified in offer letter.
  - Must achieve grade of “C” or better in currently enrolled courses.
  - Must submit *Admissions Contract* indicating intent to enroll by deadline specified in offer letter.
Requirements for Admitted Students

Items to be completed by School of Nursing deadline:

- Attendance at mandatory nursing orientation one week prior to start of fall classes *(Note: Please plan summer vacation accordingly)*
- Attend a university orientation
- CPR certification
- Successful completion of health immunization requirements
- Cleared criminal background check
- Cleared drug screen

No exceptions to these mandatory requirements.
Requirements for Admitted Students

Immunization requirements:

• Measles, Mumps, Rubella
• Tetanus-Pertussus-Diptheria (Tdap)
• Varicella
• Hepatitis B
• Hepatitis A
• Tuberculin Skin Test
• Meninigococal (Recommended)
• Seasonal Flu Shot

Student cannot begin BSN program unless all immunization requirements are met. No exceptions can be made to these mandatory requirements.
Program Information

• Clinical Information
  • Sites are located from DC to Loudoun County; currently, no Maryland sites.
  • Weekend clinical assignments are possible.
  • Approximately **600 clinical hours** completed in Medical Surgical, Long-Term Care, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Community Health, Critical Care, Psychiatric Care.

• Grade Requirement
  • Grade of B is passing; anything below is not passing.
  • One unsatisfactory grade is allowed; second failure will lead to termination from program.
Program Information

Cost of Accelerated Second Degree Pathway*

- In-state tuition: about $17,100 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees
- Out-of-state tuition: about $48,900 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees

Financial Aid

- [http://financialaid.gmu.edu/](http://financialaid.gmu.edu/)

* based on spring 2015 tuition rates
# Program Information

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Accelerated Pathway Sample Schedule
Additional Questions

- Email bsnapps@gmu.edu for nursing application questions
- Allow 10-14 days for response
- Full transcript reviews can take up to thirty days
- **Please note that evaluation requests sent November 15th-February 15th cannot be accommodated due to the high volume of these requests sent near the BSN application deadline and during the application processing period.**
- May inquire about prerequisite courses if course is not listed in Transfer Credit Search Engine
- Course transfer equivalency questions* must include:
  - Name of institution where course was taken
  - Course Title and Course Number
  - Number of credit hours
  - Course description from catalog
  - Course syllabus (if available)
- **Note: We can only provide a preliminary review of your course. The final decision regarding transfer equivalency will be made by Mason’s Office of Admissions after admission to the university is earned.**
Final Reminders

- Program is a full-time commitment. Must have the time and financial resources to be successful.
- Applicants with international background have additional application requirements.
  - Evaluation of transcripts
  - English language proficiency

Check our website regularly for updates:
http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/
Questions

• Thank you for your patience.
• Please have your transcripts and questions ready before meeting with an advisor today.
• Unfortunately, due to number of requests, advisors cannot schedule individual appointments outside of this info session.
• Best of luck in the application process!