BSN INFORMATION SESSION: ACCELERATED SECOND DEGREE PATHWAY

Updated: 2/3/17
AGENDA

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

• Q&A

• Meet with an advisor
WHY MASON’S BSN PROGRAM?

- Program began more than 40 years ago.
- More than 7,000 graduates from the BSN program
- Largest BSN program in Virginia
- High retention and low attrition rates
- State-of-the-art simulation labs
- 1:8 faculty-to-student ratio in clinical settings
- Low cost – public vs. private university tuition
- Clinical settings include hospitals, community health, and school settings in Northern Virginia, Arlington, Loudoun County, Prince William County, and DC.
- Graduates are employed nationwide as staff nurses in clinics, hospitals, schools, community health, health department, home health, hospice settings.
FACULTY STRENGTHS

Emphasis on faculty practice and research

• MAP (Mason and Partners) Clinics – serving the underserved (C. Sutter/R. Sutter)
• $8.3 million SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) Virginia Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (VA-SBIRT) Project Grant (Peppard)
• $449,437 grant from the National Institute of Justice to study the impact of skin color, fat, and gender on bruise visibility (Scafide)
• Pediatric obesity (Gaffney)
• HIV/AIDS and caregivers in Swaziland (Mallinson)
• Racial/ethnic disparities in cancer screening practices (Oh)
BSN PROGRAM

Important things to know

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

Basic Eligibility Requirements

• Admission to Mason as degree-seeking transfer student
• 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 four-year bachelor’s degree in the U.S.
• Completion of bachelor’s degree and nursing prerequisite course requirements by deadline of May 20 (prior to the fall to which you are applying)

Being eligible for consideration does not guarantee admission.
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)
Nursing Prerequisites

• Grades
  • Must earn a grade of C (not C-) in EACH nursing prerequisite course
  • Must earn at least a 3.0 GPA in the nursing prerequisite courses

• 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-requisites 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 2017, sciences must have been completed during or after fall 2012.)
  • Must have two out of the three science prerequisites complete by date of application
Transfer Courses

• All transfer course equivalencies are determined by the Mason Office of Admissions after a student has been admitted to Mason and paid the enrollment deposit.

• To determine whether your course matches the Mason course needed for the BSN Application, you can do the following:
  • Use Mason’s Transfer Credit Matrix: [http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/](http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/)
  • If course is not in the Matrix, compare your course description with the description of the Mason course ([catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu)).

It is your responsibility to make the determination of whether your course matches the Mason course for BSN Application purposes.
APPLICATION PROCESS

Two-step application process:

1) Submit an undergraduate degree-seeking, transfer student application to Mason.

2) Submit the BSN program application.

2 applications = 2 decision letters. Must be offered admission to both to be admitted into the nursing program.

Important notes about the Mason application:

• Applicants should submit the Mason application for fall admission unless coming to Mason during spring semester to complete prerequisite courses.

• Decisions are made on a 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.
MASON APPLICATION PROCESS

• Application available online: 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 Mason application; failure to do so will jeopardize admission.
• Applicants with a bachelor’s degree from outside of the U.S. must apply as an international student.
  • Must have transcripts evaluated: www.naces.org
  • Submit proof of English language proficiency.
  • More information: https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/international
# APPLICATION DEADLINES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mason Application</th>
<th>BSN Program Application</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall: Prior to January 15</td>
<td>Fall: January 15*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring: October 1</td>
<td>Spring: N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If January 15 falls on a weekend or the university is closed that day for a holiday or inclement weather, the deadline will be the next business day.

**Important Note:** Admission to Mason is not required prior to submitting the BSN application. You simply must have submitted the Mason application in order to receive a G#, which you will need for the BSN application.
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS

• BSN Application is posted on CHHS website in December: http://admissions.gmu.edu/bsn_app/

• 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.

• Three-part application process
  • Part A: Online BSN Program Application
  • Part B: Slideroom Submissions
  • Part C: Supporting Documents Package
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

Part A: Online BSN Departmental Application

• Sample application available online:  
  http://admissions.gmu.edu/bsn_app/

• Complete and submit online application by January 15.

• Submit $50 non-refundable BSN application fee through online payment system.

• Print Confirmation and Application Checklist page upon completing online BSN application.
Part B: Slideroom Submissions

- Resumé
- Essay
- Three-minute video
- Payment of $5 Slideroom fee
- See our website for Slideroom guidelines: http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/admissions/video-submission.cfm
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

Part C: Supporting Documents Package

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

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

• HESI-A2 exam scores

• Slideroom submission email confirmation
The following items should be included if they apply to you:

- Copy of spring class registration (if enrolled in spring classes)
- Copy of active military ID
- Unofficial copy of AP/CLEP scores (if used for nursing prereqs)
- Letter of good standing (if previously enrolled in another nursing program)
- Copy of email correspondence with BSN Admissions Office (bsnapps@gmu.edu)
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

HESI A2 Exam

• Can only take the test once per application cycle.
• Scores taken prior to January 15, 2016, 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 for information about testing accommodations for students with disabilities who are encouraged to register for the exam by October.
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

• Submit document package by U.S. mail or hand-deliver by 5:00 p.m. on January 15*
  
  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:
  • Email will be sent 7-10 days after submission if Part C is mailed.
  • Paper confirmation provided if Part C is delivered in person.

• Application process is self-managed. Students will not be contacted for missing documents. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

* If January 15 falls on a weekend or a federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business at 5:00 p.m.
• BSN program admission decisions are emailed 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 respond to the offer of admission, indicating intent to enroll by deadline specified in offer email.
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 C package of the BSN application.
- If Part C is submitted before fall grades are posted, applicant is evaluated only on courses COMPLETE at the time of application.
Competitive applicants typically:

• Have the majority of nursing prerequisites completed 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.
If not admitted:

• Advisors are unable to meet with applicants who are not Mason students and are unable to respond to emails 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

• Please have a back-up plan.
Back-up plan option

- Consider pursuing an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing (AAS) and then applying to one of our 30 credit, online programs.
  - **RN to BSN Pathway**: for those who have finished an AAS-Nursing degree and hold an RN license
  - **Co-enrollment Programs**: for those in the process of earning an AAS-Nursing degree and obtaining an RN license; options available for veterans and non-veterans
- Both of these programs are 30 credits (10 courses).
- Programs offer flexible, online, part- and full-time options.
- Admission is offered twice a year: fall and spring.
Specific details and deadlines will be provided by School of Nursing after BSN admission:

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

No exceptions to these mandatory requirements.
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 77% (C+) is passing; anything below is not passing.
- One unsatisfactory grade is allowed; second failure will lead to termination from program.
## Accelerated Pathway Sample Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6:30 am - 10:30 am</td>
<td>6:30 am - 8:30 am</td>
<td>6:30 am - 10:30 am</td>
<td>6:30 am - 3:30 pm</td>
<td>6:30 am - 4:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:30 am - 10:30 am Nursing Fundamentals Lab</td>
<td></td>
<td>Application of Basic Nursing Care (Clinical, 9 hours)</td>
<td>FREE DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 1:10 pm</td>
<td>10:30 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>10:30 am - 1:10 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pathophysiological Basis for Nursing Care</td>
<td>11:00 am - 1:00 pm Health Assessment Lab</td>
<td>10:30 am - 1:10 pm Introduction to Basic Nursing Care</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm - 4:15 pm</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 4:15 pm</td>
<td>1:30 pm - 4:15 pm</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 4:15 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Health Assessment</td>
<td></td>
<td>Nursing as a Health Profession and Discipline</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3:30 pm - 4:15 pm</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Approximate cost of Accelerated Second Degree Pathway based on fall 2016 tuition rates (excluding books and BSN fees)

- In-state tuition: approximately $19,500 for entire program
- Out-of-state tuition: approximately $56,700 for entire program


- Federal financial aid is limited to students who have completed less than 150% of credits required for a degree (180 credits). Students with more than 180 credits of undergraduate coursework do not qualify for federal financial aid.
FINAL REMINDERS

• Applicants with international background have additional application requirements.
  • Evaluation of transcripts
  • English language proficiency

• While the BSN Admissions staff cannot answer transfer course equivalency questions, the following resources are available to assist you in this process –
  • Transfer Credit Matrix (http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/)
  • Transfer Equivalency sheet (provided at this session)
  • Course Catalog (catalog.gmu.edu)

• Program is a full-time commitment; must have the time and financial resources to be successful.
FINAL REMINDERS

• Follow us on social media and check our website for reminders and updates:
  • Facebook
  • Twitter
  • LinkedIn
  • Instagram
  • http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/

• Questions?
  • Email bsnapps@gmu.edu for nursing application questions and allow 10-14 days for response.
QUESTIONS?

Q & A

• General questions and clarifications on information presented

Meet with an advisor

• Questions specific to your individual situation
• Please have your specific questions ready before meeting with an advisor today. You can use the gray hand-out as a checklist to make note of which requirements you have already completed and which ones are in question.
• Unfortunately, due to the number of requests, advisors cannot schedule individual appointments outside of this info session.

Thank you for your time today. Best of luck in the application process!