AGENDA

• Presentation (30 – 40 minutes)
  • Application process
  • Eligibility guidelines
  • Program information
• Q&A
• Meet with an advisor (transcript review)
WHY MASON’S BSN PROGRAM?

• Program began over 40 years ago
• Over 7,000 graduates/BSN alumni
• 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
WHAT DO BSN GRADUATES DO FOLLOWING GRADUATION?

Employed nation-wide (VA, DC, CA, FL, TN, TX)

- Staff nurses in clinics, hospitals, schools, community health, health department, home health, hospice settings
- Nurse educators
- Graduate School
FACULTY STRENGTHS

Emphasis on faculty practice and research

• MAP Clinics – Mason and Partner’s Clinics – serving the underserved (C. Sutter/R. Sutter)
• $920K SAMHSA Training Grant (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration),
• SBIRT - Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (Peppard)
• Bruising – impact of skin color, fat, and gender in the changes in bruise color (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.
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 the January 15 deadline.

*Note:* 2 separate applications = 2 separate decision letters. Students must be admitted to both to enroll in the Nursing program.
**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mason Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall: Prior to January 15</td>
<td>Spring: October 1</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BSN Program Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall: January 15</td>
<td>Spring: 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/
• 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 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: http://admissions.gmu.edu/global
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 the time of your application rather than at the time of your 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

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

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

• 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.
Part A: Online BSN Departmental Application

- 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**

- Résumé
- Essay
- Three-minute video (uploaded via Slideroom)
- Payment of $5 Slideroom fee
- See our website for Slideroom guidelines: [http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/admissions/video-submission.cfm](http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/admissions/video-submission.cfm)
Part B: Supporting Documents

- 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).
  - Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended, including Mason.
- Résumé
- Essay
Part C: Supporting Documents Package (continued)

• HESI-A2 exam scores
• 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)
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)
  • Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended, including Mason.
Part B: Supporting Documents (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*)
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.
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:
  • Email 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.
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

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 or hand-delivered by 5:00 p.m. on January 15.

No Exceptions.
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 U.S.

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

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

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

• Applicants are responsible for meeting eligibility guidelines 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.
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.
If not admitted:
• Advisors are unable to meet with applicants or 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
• Consider pursuing an 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 the Office of Admissions directly with questions or for more information: admissions.gmu.edu or 703-993-2400.
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 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.
Immunization requirements:

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

Student cannot begin the 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 77% (C+) is passing; anything below is not passing.
• One unsatisfactory grade is allowed; second failure will lead to termination from program.
Cost of Accelerated Second Degree Pathway*
  • In-state tuition: approximately $17,100 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees
  • Out-of-state tuition: approximately $48,900 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees

Financial Aid: http://financialaid.gmu.edu/

* based on spring 2015 tuition rates
Accelerated Pathway Sample Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<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 Application of Basic Nursing Care (Clinical, 9 hours)</td>
<td>6:30 am - 4:15 pm FREE DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 1:10 pm Pathophysiological Basis for Nursing Care</td>
<td>10:30 am - 11:00 am Pathophysiological Basis for Nursing Care</td>
<td>10:30 am - 1:10 pm Pathophysiological Basis for Nursing Care</td>
<td>10:30 am - 1:10 pm Pathophysiological Basis for Nursing Care</td>
<td>6:30 am - 4:15 pm FREE DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30 pm - 4:15 pm Comprehensive Health Assessment</td>
<td>1:00 pm - 4:15 pm Comprehensive Health Assessment</td>
<td>1:30 pm - 4:15 pm Comprehensive Health Assessment</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 4:15 pm Comprehensive Health Assessment</td>
<td>3:30 pm - 4:15 pm Comprehensive Health Assessment</td>
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ADDITONAL QUESTIONS

• Email bsnapps@gmu.edu for nursing application questions
• Allow 10-14 days for response
• Full transcript reviews can take up to 30 days
• Please note that evaluation requests sent November 15—February 15 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 the number of requests, advisors cannot schedule individual appointments outside of this info session.
• Best of luck in the application process!