BSN Information Session

RN to BSN 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?

• Program began more than thirty years ago
  • First students were RNs wanting to complete their bachelor’s degree.
• Accredited by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education
• High retention and low attrition rates
• 30-credit online program with the option to study full-time or part-time
Multi-Step Application Process

Two applications:

- Submit a degree-seeking application to Mason and meet Mason admission requirements.
- Submit the online BSN Program Application and all supporting documents by the deadline.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mason Application</th>
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<td><strong>Fall:</strong> Prior to Jan. 15</td>
<td>Spring: Prior to October 1</td>
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<table>
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<th>BSN Program Application</th>
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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/

• RN to BSN 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 university application; failure to do so will jeopardize admission.

• Applicants with a bachelor’s degree from outside of the US must apply as an international student.
  • Must have transcripts evaluated – http://www.naces.org/
  • Submit proof of English language proficiency
  • More information: 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.
- Submit the Mason application for the same semester you plan to apply to the BSN program unless you plan to complete prerequisite courses at Mason prior to applying to the BSN program.
- Submit a degree-seeking, transfer student application.
BSN Application Process

• Application available on CHHS website about one month prior to deadlines: [http://chhs.gmu.edu/](http://chhs.gmu.edu/)

• Two-part application process
  • Part A: Online BSN Departmental Application
  • Part B: Confirmation and Application Checklist with supporting documents

• RN to BSN Pathway only
  • Fall and spring admission
  • Full- and part-time program options
BSN Application Process

• Part A: Online BSN Departmental Application
  • Complete and submit online application by deadline (Fall: 1/15, Spring: 10/1).
  • Submit $50 non-refundable BSN application fee through online payment system.
  • Print Confirmation and Application Checklist page upon completing the online departmental 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).
  • Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended including Mason.
BSN Application Process

• Part B: Continued

• Résumé

• Copy of current RN license
  • Applicants must have proof of license prior to the start of classes

• Copy of class registration for currently enrolled courses (if applicable)

• Copy of active military ID (if applicable)

• Unofficial copy of AP/CLEP scores (if applicable)
BSN Application Process

• Submit documents by U.S. mail or hand-deliver to:
  
  Attention: BSN Applications
  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 package 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

Deadlines:

• Fall Admission – January 15
• Spring Admission – October 1

Two Parts:

• Part A: Online BSN Departmental Application
• Part B: Confirmation and Application Checklist form with all supporting documents must be postmarked or hand-delivered by deadline date.

No Exceptions.
Eligibility Guidelines

Basic Eligibility Requirements:

• Admission to Mason as degree-seeking student
• Successful completion of nursing prerequisite courses:
  • Transferred courses must come from a regionally-accredited institution (online courses are acceptable).
  • Minimum GPA of 2.85 and at least a C or better in each course.
  • Complete all nursing pre-requisite coursework:
    • For Fall admission – by May 20
    • For Spring admission – by Dec 20

Being eligible for consideration does not guarantee admission.
Eligibility Requirements

Nursing Prerequisites (total 18 cr):

- Anatomy and Physiology I (4 cr)
- Anatomy and Physiology II (4 cr)
- Microbiology (4 cr)
  - The 3 sciences above can be met with NAS 161 & 162 for RN to BSN pathway only.
- Statistics (3 cr)
- Biomedical Ethics (3 cr)

Note: Nutrition and Developmental Psychology are not required for RN to BSN pathway application.
Eligibility Requirements

Mason Core and Elective Courses

• 39 – 46 credits total
  • Total depends upon whether or not the applicant used NAS 161 and 162 for science pre-reqs

• Students are allowed to complete these courses at Mason while enrolled in the RN to BSN program.
  • This is a new policy as of the fall 2016 admission cycle. Previously, applicants had to complete all Mason Core and elective classes prior to beginning the nursing program.
Eligibility Guidelines

Mason Core (total 39-46 cr)

- English Composition (3 cr)
- Communication (3 cr)
- Literature (3 cr)
- Arts (3 cr)
- Social Science (3 cr)
- Western Civilization (3 cr)
- Global Understanding (3 cr)
- Information Technology (3 cr)
- Quantitative Reasoning (3 cr)
  - NVCC’s MATH 240 or 241 meets both the Quantitative Reasoning and the nursing pre-requisite statistics requirement.
- Electives (15-19 cr)
  - Sociology or Anthropology course is recommended.
  - Applicants using the NAS 161/162 sequence will need a total of 19 credits of electives.

See Transfer Equivalency handout for additional information.
Eligibility Guidelines

How to get the Mason Core Waiver

• Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA)
  • Earn Associate of Arts (AA), Associate of Science (AS), or Associate of Arts and Science (AA&S) and meet all other criteria for GAA.
    – Associate of Applied Science (AAS) does not waive Mason Core requirements.
  • GAA Mason Core Waiver is awarded by the university’s Office of Admissions.
    – Visit their website for more information: https://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/gaa.asp
  • If waiver is not awarded, then Admissions Office does a course-by-course evaluation of transfer credits.

• Previous Bachelor’s Degree
  • Waives Mason Core, lower-level electives, and ENGH 302. Students who receive this waiver must still complete 6 credits of upper-level electives along with the 24 credits of nursing (NURS) coursework in the program. (See Nursing Major courses listed on program hand-out.)
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.

- Be sure to **regularly** check our website (**chhs.gmu.edu**) for updates.
Admissions Decisions

- Completion of all Nursing pre-requisite courses
  - Must earn grade of “C” or better in EACH course, including courses in progress at time of application.
- OVERALL academic history and performance
- History of repeating courses
- Résumé
- Must have current RN license prior to the start of the program
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
  • Failure to meet eligibility guidelines
    • Below 2.85 overall career GPA (including all institutions)
    • Below a C in any of the required Mason Core, elective, or nursing prerequisite courses
Admissions Decisions

• Mason offer letter is mailed by the Office of Admissions.
  • Decisions made after all required application materials are received.
  • Contact Office of Admissions directly for more information: admissions.gmu.edu or 703-993-2400

• BSN program admission decisions are sent via email by the School of Nursing:
  • Fall Admission: Sent in late May
  • Spring Admission: Sent in late December
  • Decisions are not given over the phone.
Requirements for Admitted Students

- BSN program 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 nursing prerequisite courses.  
  - Must submit *Admissions Contract* indicating intent to enroll by deadline specified in offer letter.  
  - Must pay Mason Enrollment Deposit by deadline specified in BSN offer letter.
Program Information

• Program is 30 credits, completely online.
• Classes are offered in 7-week format; students are expected to plan accordingly.
• Grades:
  • Grade of 83% or higher is passing; anything below is not passing.
  • One unsatisfactory grade is allowed; second failure will lead to termination from program.
• Participation in the program involves minimal technology requirements. For more information, visit Mason’s Distance Education web site at: http://distance.gmu.edu/
While program is offered online, these courses provide opportunities for clinical-based projects in the workplace:

- NURS 434: Vulnerable Populations
- NURS 440: Community Health and Epidemiology
- NURS 457: Introduction to Nursing Informatics
Program Information

• Students admitted to the RN to BSN program with a prior bachelor's degree are required to complete **at least 30 hours at Mason beyond their first degree.**
  • If previous credits earned at Mason have been used for a degree here *or any other university*, they cannot be used as electives for the 30-credits in the RN to BSN degree.
  • Effective spring 2015, students who have previously completed NURS courses at Mason will not be able to use these courses toward their BSN degree if the courses are more than three years old at the time of BSN enrollment.

• Students should meet with their academic advisor to review degree requirements.
Cost of Program

• RN to BSN Pathway Approximate Cost*
  • In-state tuition: about $13,500 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees
  • Out-of-state tuition: about $39,000 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees

• Financial Aid:
  • [http://financialaid.gmu.edu/](http://financialaid.gmu.edu/)

* based on spring 2016 tuition rates
Additional Questions

• Use 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)

*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

• It’s important to ensure you have the time and financial resources to be successful in the program.

• 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!