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 over thirty years ago
  • First students were RN’s 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
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>
<th>BSN Program Application</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall:</strong> Prior to Jan. 15th</td>
<td><strong>Fall:</strong> January 15(^{th})</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Spring:</strong> Prior to October 1(^{st})</td>
<td><strong>Spring:</strong> October 1st</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/)

- 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 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.
  - Submit proof of English language proficiency.
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/

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

• RN to BSN Pathway
  • 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 $50.00 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-delivery 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

• 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 Mason Core, electives, and nursing prerequisite course requirements:
  • 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 pre-requisite coursework (except ENGH 302):
    • For Fall admission – by May 20
    • For Spring admission – by Dec 20

Being eligible for consideration does not guarantee admission.
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

Let’s talk about two-year degree programs:

- AA: Associate of Arts
- AS: Associate of Science
- AA&S: Associate of Arts and Science
- AAS: Associate of Applied Science *(does not waive* Mason Core requirements)*
- Earning an AA, AS or AA&S from approved Virginia community college with a qualifying GPA *does not guarantee that a Mason Core Waiver* (which waives all Mason Core requirements except for ENGH 302) will be awarded. **Mason Core Waivers are ultimately awarded by Office of Admissions, not the School of Nursing.** Contact Mason’s general Office of Admissions for more information and see Guaranteed Admission Agreement for details.
- If waiver is not awarded, then Admissions Office does a course-by-course evaluation.
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 is not required for RN 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/

• 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-reqs and Mason Core/Elective courses, except ENGH 302
  - 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 e-mail 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 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 B is passing; anything below is not passing.
  • One unsatisfactory day 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/
Program Information

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 GMU have been used for a degree at GMU or any other University, they cannot be used as electives for the RN to BSN degree.
  • Effective spring 2015, students who have completed NURS courses at Mason will not be able to use these courses towards 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 $12,700 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees
  • Out-of-state tuition: about $37,000 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees

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

* based on spring 2015 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)
• **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

• 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 number of requests, advisors cannot schedule individual appointments outside of this info session.
• Best of luck in the application process!