BSN INFORMATION SESSION: RN TO BSN PATHWAY

Updated: 4/19/16
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)
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.

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

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<th>Mason Application</th>
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<td><strong>Fall:</strong> Prior to January 15</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/
• 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 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.
• 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 only
  • Fall and spring admission
  • Full and part-time program options
Part A: Online BSN Departmental Application

- Complete and submit online application by deadline (Fall: January 15, Spring: October 1).
- Submit $50 non-refundable BSN application fee through online payment system.
- Print Confirmation and Application Checklist page upon completing the online departmental application.
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](http://NACES.org)).
  - Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended, including Mason.
Bsn application process (continued)

Part B: Supporting Documents (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)
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:
- Email 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 (continued)

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 December 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 and 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-requisites
  • Students are allowed to complete these courses at Mason while enrolled in the RN to BSN program.
    • This is new beginning with the Fall 2016 admission cycle. Previously, applicants had to have all Mason Core and elective classes complete prior to beginning 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 the waiver is not awarded, then the 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-requisites: [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](http://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
If not admitted:

• Advisors are unable to meet with applicants or respond to emails 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
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.
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 a 7-week format; students are expected to plan accordingly.
- Grades:
  - Grade of 77% (C+) 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 website at: http://distance.gmu.edu/
Although the 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
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.
PROGRAM COSTS

RN to BSN Pathway Approximate Cost*

- In-state tuition: approximately $13,500 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees
- Out-of-state tuition: approximately $39,000 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees

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

*based on spring 2016 tuition rates
ADDITIONAL 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)

*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!