BSN INFORMATION SESSION: TRADITIONAL 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
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 100 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

| Mason Application | 
|-------------------|---|
| **Fall:** Prior to January 15 | **Spring:** October 1 |

| BSN Program Application | 
|-------------------------|---|
| **Fall:** January 15 | **Spring:** N/A |

The Mason application must be completed first in order to receive a G#, which you will need for the BSN application.
MAISON APPLICATION PROCESS

• Application available online: http://admissions.gmu.edu/
• If you’ve attended another college or university, 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.
• Non-native English speakers must:
  • Have transcripts evaluated: http://www.naces.org
  • Submit proof of English language proficiency
  • For 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.

• Do not submit a non-degree 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

• Traditional Pathway
  • Fall admission only
  • Full-time program (no part-time option)
  • May apply to only one pathway: Traditional Pathway is for those without a bachelor’s degree or an RN license.
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
- 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 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.
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)*
HESI A2 Exam

• 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](http://www.gmu.edu) to get full details, including information about testing accommodations for students with disabilities who are encouraged to register for the exam by October.
Bsn application process (continued)

• 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.
Deadline: January 15, 2017

• 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.
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).
  • Meet minimum GPA of 3.0 and at least a C or better in each course.
  • Complete by the end of spring semester (May 20) prior to the fall to which you are applying.

Being eligible for consideration does not guarantee admission.
Mason Core

• English Composition (3 cr)
• Communication (3 cr)
• Literature (3 cr)
• Arts (3 cr)
• Social Science (3 cr. PSYC 100 is required for Mason students)
• Western Civilization (3 cr)
• Global Understanding (3 cr)
• Information Technology (3 cr)
• Quantitative Reasoning (3 cr)
• MATH 240 or 241 meets both the Quantitative Reasoning and the nursing pre-req statistics requirement.
• Electives (7 cr. Recommended: Sociology or Anthropology)

See Transfer Equivalency handout for more information.
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 a waiver is not awarded, then the Admissions Office does a course-by-course evaluation.
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
• 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.
Advising tips

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 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

• Consider pursuing an Associate Degree in Nursing (AAS) and then applying to Mason’s 30 credit, online RN to BSN program.
Mason Admission letter mailed by the Office of Admissions.

- Decisions made on 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.
BSN program admission decisions are e-mailed 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.*)
• 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.*
Requirements for Admitted Students (continued)

Immunization requirements:

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

Student cannot begin BSN program unless all immunization requirements are met. No exceptions can be made 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.
PROGRAM COSTS

Traditional Pathway Approximate Cost*
• In-state tuition: approximately $21,000 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees
• Out-of-state tuition: approximately $61,000 for entire program, excluding books and BSN fees

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

* based on spring 2015 tuition rates
### Sample Nursing Student Weekly Schedule

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<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tr>
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<td>6:30 am - 10:30 am</td>
<td>6:30 am - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>6:30 am - 10:30 am</td>
<td>6:30 am - 5:30 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 am - 10:30 am</td>
<td>Nursing Fundamentals Lab</td>
<td>10:30 am - 1:15 pm</td>
<td>10:30 am - 1:15 pm</td>
<td>FREE DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am - 11:00 am</td>
<td>Nursing Fundamentals</td>
<td>6:30 am - 5:30 pm</td>
<td>6:30 am - 10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 am - 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Health Assessment Lab</td>
<td>1:30 pm - 4:15 pm</td>
<td>10:30 am - 1:15 pm</td>
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<td>1:00 pm - 5:30 pm</td>
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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)

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