BSN Information Session

• RN to BSN Pathway
• Co-enrollment Programs
  • Veteran and civilian options
AGENDA

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

• **Prime location:** National Capital Area (NCA)
  - **Employment:** More than 7,000 graduates employed in the NCA and nationwide as staff nurses in clinics, hospitals, schools, community health, health department, home health, hospice settings.

• **Exceptional student experience:**
  - Virginia’s largest public research university.
  - 1:8 faculty-to-student ratio in clinical settings.
  - High retention and low attrition rates.
  - BSN program offered for more than 40 years.
  - Largest BSN program in Virginia.
  - One of the most diverse public universities in the country (*U.S. News & World Report*).
  - Flexible, online, part-and full-time options.
  - Co-enrollment programs allow students to complete a BSN in only one or two semesters after graduating from a partner community college AAS-Nursing program.
  - Mason is designated a military friendly school by Victory Media and a “top school” by Military Advance Education & Transition.

• **Cost-effective education:** Public university with in-state option
Program Overview

- Programs offer flexible, online, part- and full-time options.
- Admission is offered twice a year: fall and spring.
- **RN to BSN Pathway**: for those who have finished an AAS-Nursing degree and hold an RN license
- **Co-enrollment Programs**: for those in the process of earning an AAS-Nursing degree and obtaining an RN license
  - Options available for both veterans and civilians.
  - While enrolled in the partner community college AAS-Nursing program students apply to Mason’s Co-enrollment Program.
  - Applicants must have completed at least one semester of the partner community college AAS-Nursing program prior to starting the Mason Co-enrollment Program.
  - Students will take the NCLEX after completing the AAS-Nursing program.
  - Most students will graduate from the Co-enrollment program with their BSN degree one or two semesters after completing the partner community college AAS-Nursing program.
Curriculum for RN to BSN and Co-enrollment Programs
(10 courses, 30 credits total):

- NURS 336 Concepts in Professional Nursing
- NURS 425 Comprehensive Health Assessment
- NURS 436 Leadership & Management in Health Care
- NURS 440 Community Health & Epidemiology
- NURS 434 Vulnerable Populations
- NURS 453 Research in Nursing
- NURS 457 Intro to Nursing Informatics
- NURS 465 Examination and Integration of Professional Health Care Issues
- ENGH 302
- Elective

- Most classes are offered in a 7-week format, so students are expected to plan accordingly.
- Students who have already completed ENGH 302 prior to the program will replace that class with a 3-credit elective.
• Grade Requirements:
  • 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.
  • **Co-enrollment Program students** must remain in good standing in the partner community college AAS-Nursing program.

• Participation in the program involves minimal technology requirements. For more information, visit Mason’s Office of Digital Learning website at [http://masononline.gmu.edu/](http://masononline.gmu.edu/).
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES

Basic Eligibility Requirements:
• Admission to Mason as an undergraduate degree-seeking student
• 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
• **RN to BSN only:** Completion of AAS-Nursing degree and current RN license
• **Co-enrollment Programs only:** Admission to and current enrollment in a partner community college AAS-Nursing program
  • **Veterans option only:** U.S. Military Veteran

*Being eligible for consideration does not guarantee admission.*
Nursing Prerequisites

- List of courses:
  - 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.
  - Statistics (3 cr)
  - Biomedical Ethics (3 cr)
- 14 -18 credits total
- Must be completed prior to starting all pathways

Note: Nutrition and Developmental Psychology are not required for these pathways.
Mason Core and electives (total 39-43 credits):

- 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 prerequisite 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.
Mason Core and Elective Courses

- 39 – 43 credits total
  - Total depends upon whether or not the applicant completed NAS 161 and 162 for science prerequisites
  - We recommend that students have these Mason Core and electives complete *prior to* entering one of these pathways. However, students are allowed to complete the Mason Core and elective courses after admission.
    - **RN to BSN Pathway** students must complete any unfinished Mason Core and elective courses *at Mason* while enrolled in the RN to BSN program.
    - **Co-enrollment Program** students can complete any unfinished Mason Core and elective courses at the community college while enrolled in the AAS-Nursing program. *Once the AAS degree is complete, any unfinished Mason Core and electives must be completed at Mason.*
Students with a prior bachelor’s degree

- All of the Mason Core, lower-level electives, and ENGH 302 requirements are satisfied by previous degree.
- Students are required to complete at least 30 hours at Mason beyond their first degree (6 credits of upper-level electives and 24 credits of nursing (NURS) coursework in the BSN program).
  - If previous credits earned at Mason have been used for a degree here or at any other university, they cannot be used as electives for the 30 credits in the RN to BSN degree.
  - 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.
Transfer Courses

• All transfer course equivalencies are determined by the Mason Office of Admissions after a student has been admitted to Mason and paid the enrollment deposit.

• To determine whether your course matches the Mason course needed for the BSN Application, you can do the following:
  • Refer to the Transfer Equivalency handout
  • Use Mason’s Transfer Credit Matrix: http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/
  • If course is not in the Matrix, compare your course description with the description of the Mason course: catalog.gmu.edu.

It is your responsibility to make the determination of whether your course matches the Mason course for BSN application purposes.
Two-step application process:

• Submit an undergraduate degree-seeking application to Mason for the semester you plan to start the BSN program.

• Submit the online BSN Program application and all supporting documents by the deadline.

2 applications = 2 decision letters

Must be offered admission to both to be admitted into the nursing program.
Mason Application

Fall: Prior to January 15  
Spring: Prior to October 1

BSN Application*

Fall: January 15*  
5 p.m. Eastern  
Spring: October 1

*If the BSN application deadline falls on a weekend or the university is closed for a holiday or inclement weather, the deadline will be the following business day.

**Important Note:** Admission to Mason is not required prior to submitting the BSN application. You simply must have submitted the Mason application in order to receive a G#, which you will need for the BSN application.
MASON APPLICATION PROCESS

• Mason application available online: admissions.gmu.edu
• Applicants must apply as a degree-seeking, transfer student.
  • Submit the Mason application for the same semester you plan to begin the BSN program if admitted.
  • 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 or coursework from outside of the U.S. must:
  • Have transcripts evaluated: www.naces.org
  • Submit proof of English language proficiency
  • For information: https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/international
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS

• BSN Application available online: http://admissions.gmu.edu/bsn_app/

• Two-part application
  • Online BSN Departmental Application
  • Supporting Documents Package

• Online BSN Departmental Application
  • Sample application available online: http://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/admissions/bsn-application-process.cfm
  • Submit by January 15th or October 1st deadline
  • Submit $50 non-refundable BSN application fee through online payment system.
  • Print and save the Confirmation and Checklist page after completing the BSN online departmental application.
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

• Supporting Documents Package
  • Confirmation and Checklist Page
  • 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**.
  • Résumé
  • Copy of class registration for currently enrolled courses (if applicable)
  • Unofficial copy of AP/CLEP scores (if applicable)
  • **RN to BSN Pathway only**: Copy of current RN license prior to the start of classes
  • **Co-enrollment Programs only**: Proof of admission to and enrollment in a partner community college AAS-Nursing program
  • **Veterans only**: Proof of military service (copy of DD-214, Member Copy 4 or Service 2)
Submit document package by U.S. mail or hand-deliver by 5 p.m. on January 15 or October 1*:  
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 C is mailed.  
- Paper confirmation provided if Part C package is delivered in person.  

Application process is self-managed. Students will not be contacted for missing documents. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

* If January 15 or October 1 falls on a weekend or the university is closed that day for a holiday or inclement weather, the deadline will be the next business day at 5 p.m.
Admissions decisions are **holistic** and based on an array of factors.

- Completion of all nursing prerequisite 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
If not admitted

• 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 nursing prerequisite courses

• Advisors are unable to meet with applicants or respond to emails regarding reasons for denial.
Admissions Recap

• Mason offer letter is sent by the Office of Admissions.
  • Decisions made on a rolling basis 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 from BSNapps@gmu.edu 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 BSN offer letter.
- Must achieve grade of “C” or better in currently enrolled nursing prerequisite courses.
- **Co-enrollment Program students:** Must achieve and maintain at least a 3.0 average in AAS-Nursing program.
- Must respond to the offer of admission, indicating intent to enroll by deadline specified in offer email.
- Must pay Mason Enrollment Deposit by deadline specified in BSN offer letter.
PROGRAM COSTS

Approximate cost based on fall 2017 tuition rates (excluding books and BSN fees):

- **In-state:** approximately $15,000 for entire program
- **Out-of-state:** approximately $43,000 for entire program

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

- Federal financial aid is limited to students who have completed less than 150% of credits required for a degree (180 credits). Students with more than 180 credits of undergraduate coursework **do not** qualify for federal financial aid.
- **Co-enrollment Students:** The VCCS partner community college serves as the primary institution for financial aid purposes until completion of the AAS degree. After earning the AAS degree, Mason will be the primary institution.
FINAL REMINDERS

• Applicants with international background have additional application requirements.
  • Evaluation of transcripts
  • English language proficiency

• While the BSN Admissions staff cannot answer transfer course equivalency questions, the following resources are available to assist you in this process –
  • Transfer Credit Matrix (http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/)
  • Transfer Equivalency sheet (provided at this session)
  • Course Catalog (catalog.gmu.edu)

• Unfortunately, due to number of requests, advisors cannot schedule individual appointments outside of this info session.
QUESTIONS

• Follow us on social media and check our website for reminders and updates:
  • Website (http://chhs.gmu.edu/)
  • Facebook (@GMUCHHS)
  • Twitter (@MasonCHHS)
  • LinkedIn
  • Instagram (@masonchhs)

• Questions?
  • Email bsnapps@gmu.edu for nursing application questions and allow 10-14 days for response.
QUESTIONS

Q & A

• General questions and clarifications on information presented

Meet with an advisor

• Questions specific to your individual situation
• Please have your specific questions ready before meeting with an advisor today. You can use the gray hand-out as a checklist to make note of which requirements you have already completed and which ones are in question.
• Unfortunately, due to the number of requests, advisors cannot schedule individual appointments outside of this info session.

Thank you for your time today. Best of luck in the application process!