BSN INFORMATION SESSION: TRADITIONAL PATHWAY

Updated: 4/3/17
AGENDA

• Presentation (30 – 40 minutes)
  • Program background
  • Eligibility guidelines
  • Application process
  • Admission decisions
  • Program information

• Q&A

• Meet with an advisor
WHY MASON’S BSN PROGRAM?

- **State of the art facilities:** Upgraded labs and classrooms in new Peterson Family Health Sciences Hall (opening Spring 2018).

- **Prime location:** National Capital Area (NCA)
  - **Clinical Placements:** Include hospitals, community health, and school settings in Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia (Arlington, Loudoun County, Prince William County)
  - **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)*.

- **Cost-effective education:** Public university with in-state option
FACULTY STRENGTHS

Emphasis on faculty practice and research

- **Underserved populations**: Mason and Partners (MAP) Clinics – students and faculty provide health care and social services (C. Sutter/R. Sutter)

- **Substance abuse and mental health**: $8.3 million grant for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Virginia Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (VA-SBIRT) Project (Peppard)

- **Forensic nursing**: $449,437 grant from the National Institute of Justice to study the impact of skin color, fat, and gender on bruise visibility (Scafide)

- **Pediatric obesity**: Rapid weight gain among infants of low income Hispanic immigrant mothers (Gaffney)

- **Global nursing**: Building nursing capacity in Swaziland (Mallinson)
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.
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).
  • Earn at least a C in each course.
  • Meet minimum GPA of 3.0 in the nursing prerequisites.
  • 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.
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 2018, sciences must have been completed during or after fall 2013.)
  • Must have two out of the three science prerequisites complete by date of application
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 from a VCCS school meets both the Quantitative Reasoning and the nursing prerequisite statistics requirement.
• Electives (7 credits. Recommended: Sociology or Anthropology)
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:
  - Check the Transfer Equivalency handout if your courses were completed at a VCCS school.
  - Use Mason’s Transfer Credit Matrix: [http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/](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](catalog.gmu.edu)).

It is your responsibility to make the determination of whether your course matches the Mason course for BSN Application purposes.
Let’s talk about two-year degree programs and the Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) Mason Core Waiver:

- Degrees that may make you eligible for the waiver:
  - 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 a 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 awarded by Office of Admissions, not the School of Nursing. Visit Mason’s general Office of Admissions website for more information and contact them with any questions.
  - If a waiver is not awarded, then the Admissions Office does a course-by-course evaluation.
Two-step application process:

1) Submit an undergraduate degree-seeking, transfer student application to George Mason University.

2) Submit the online BSN Program Application.

2 applications = 2 decision letters. Must be offered admission to both to be admitted into the nursing program.

Important notes about the Mason application:

- Applicants should submit the Mason application for **fall** admission unless coming to Mason during spring semester to complete prerequisite courses.
- Decisions are made on a rolling basis after all required application materials are received.
- Contact Office of Admissions directly with questions or for more information: [admissions.gmu.edu](http://admissions.gmu.edu) or 703-993-2400.
MASON APPLICATION PROCESS

• Application available online: 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 Mason application; failure to do so will jeopardize admission.
  • Students with international coursework must have transcripts evaluated: www.naces.org
• Non-native speakers of English must meet the university’s English language proficiency requirement
  • For detailed information: https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/how-apply/international
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS

• BSN Application is posted on CHHS website in December: http://admissions.gmu.edu/bsn_app/

• 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.

• Three-part application process
  • Part A: Online BSN Program Application
  • Part B: Slidersroom Submissions
  • Part C: Supporting Documents Package
# APPLICATION DEADLINES

## Mason Application

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

## BSN Program Application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall: January 15*</th>
<th>Spring: N/A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 p.m. Eastern</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* If January 15 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.

**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.
Part A: Online BSN Departmental Application

• Sample application available online: http://admissions.gmu.edu/bsn_app/
• 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.
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

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
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](NACES.org))
  - Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended, including Mason.

- HESI-A2 exam scores
- Slideroom submission email confirmation
Part C: Supporting Documents Package (continued)

The following items should be included if they apply to you:

- Copy of spring class registration (if enrolled in spring classes)
- Copy of active military ID
- Unofficial copy of AP/CLEP scores
- Letter of good standing (if previously enrolled in another nursing program)
- Copy of email correspondence with BSN Admissions Office (bsnapps@gmu.edu)
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

HESI A2 Exam

- Applicants can only take the test once per application cycle.
- Scores taken prior to January 15, 2017, 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.
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS (CONTINUED)

• Submit document package by U.S. mail or hand-deliver by 5 p.m. on January 15*
  
  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 C is mailed.
  
  • Paper confirmation provided if Part C 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 falls on a weekend or a federal holiday, the deadline will be the next business at 5 p.m.
Admissions decisions are holistic and based on an array of factors: academic strength, writing ability, communication skills, and experience.

Academic strength is 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 C package of the BSN application.
- If Part C is submitted before fall grades are posted, applicant is evaluated only on courses COMPLETE at the time of application.
• BSN program admission decisions are emailed 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 specified deadline.
  • Must achieve grade of “C” or better in currently enrolled courses.
  • Must respond to the offer of admission, indicating intent to enroll by deadline specified in offer email.
Competitive applicants typically:

• Have the majority of nursing prerequisites completed at time of BSN application.
• Have *not* repeated nursing prerequisite courses.
• Have *not* received a grade of C or lower in their nursing prerequisites.
If not admitted:

- 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

- Advisors are unable to meet with applicants who are not Mason students and are unable to respond to emails regarding reasons for denial.

- Please have a back-up plan.
Back-up plan option

- Consider pursuing an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing (AAS) and then applying to one of our 30 credit, online programs.
  - **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 veterans and non-veterans
- Both of these programs are 30 credits (10 courses).
- Programs offer flexible, online, part- and full-time options.
- Admission is offered twice a year: fall and spring.
REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMITTED STUDENTS

Specific details and deadlines will be provided by School of Nursing after BSN admission:

- 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.
• **Clinical Information**
  - Sites are located from DC to Loudoun and Prince William Counties; 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.
Sample Nursing Student Weekly Schedule

Monday
- 8:30 am – 10:30 am
  Nursing Fundamentals Lab
- 10:30 am – 11:00 am
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
  Health Assessment Lab
- 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Tuesday
- 10:30 am – 1:15 pm
  Nursing Fundamentals
- 6:30 am – 5:30 pm
  Basic Nursing Care of Adults (Clinical, 11 hours)

Wednesday
- 10:30 am – 1:15 pm
  Adult Pathophysiology and Nursing Care
- 6:30 am – 5:30 pm
  FREE DAY

Thursday
- 1:30 pm – 4:15 pm
  Nursing as a Health Profession and Discipline
- 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm

Friday
- 4:15 pm – 5:30 pm
Approximate cost of Traditional Pathway based on fall 2017 tuition rates (excluding books and BSN fees)

- In-state tuition: approximately $23,937 for entire program
- Out-of-state tuition: approximately $69,764 for entire program

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 for international coursework
  - 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)
FINAL REMINDERS

• 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.

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