BSN Information Session: Accelerated Second Degree Program

https://chhs.gmu.edu
AGENDA

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

• Q&A
WHY MASON’S BSN PROGRAM?

• **State of the art facilities:** Upgraded labs and classrooms in new Peterson Family Health Sciences Hall

• **Prime location:** National Capital Area (NCA)
  - **Clinical Placements:** Include hospitals, community health, and school settings in Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia (Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties)
  - **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*)
  - Ranked 41 out of 513 for nursing programs nationwide (*College Factual*)

• **Cost-effective education:** Public university with in-state option
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 (*Fersizidis*)

- **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*)
BSN PROGRAM BASICS

Important things to know

• Competitive admissions process
• Admission once a year for fall semester
• Full-time year round program (Fall, Spring, Summer)
• Limited enrollment is due to available clinical spaces (approximately 50 spaces)
• Meeting the eligibility guidelines does not guarantee admission
• Have an alternative plan to achieve your goal
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

Nursing Courses

- Prescriptive – School of Nursing sets your class schedule
- Courses taught Monday through Friday, beginning at 7:30 a.m.

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

*Approximate* cost of Accelerated Second Degree Program based on spring 2020 tuition rates (excluding books and BSN fees)

- In-state tuition: approximately $21,500 for entire program
- Out-of-state tuition: approximately $61,500 for entire program
- For further information regarding tuition and fees refer to the Student Accounts Office website at [https://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/tuition-fees/](https://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/tuition-fees/)


- 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.
APPLICATION PROCESS

- Applicants must submit two separate admission applications
  - Mason’s university admission application
  - BSN Application
- Each application has separate
  - Application requirements
  - Deadlines

Fall Deadlines

Mason Application  Prior to January 15
BSN Application  January 15, 11:59 p.m. (EST)

2 separate applications → 2 separate decision letters
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, if admitted
  • Applicants should submit the Mason application at least 10 business days in advance of starting the BSN Application to ensure you receive your Mason ID Number (G number)
• Transfer admission to Mason is competitive
• Mason Office of Admissions awards transfer credit (not BSN Admissions)
• 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 applicants must complete the following basic eligibility requirements:

- Apply to Mason as degree-seeking transfer student
- Earn a Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution
  - minimum degree GPA of 2.85
  - earned by end of Mason’s spring semester (May 20) prior to fall program start
- Complete Nursing Prerequisites with a grade of C or better
- Take the HESI-A2 Exam and submit the score report
- Prepare an essay on a topic provided by School of Nursing
- Submit a resume
- Submit online BSN Application,
  - upload required materials
  - pay the $60 non-refundable BSN Application fee*

Being eligible for consideration does not guarantee admission.

*Fee subject to change
Nursing Prerequisite Courses

Anatomy and Physiology (8 credits)
  • Anatomy and Physiology I (4 credits)
  • Anatomy and Physiology II (4 credits)
Microbiology (4 credits)
Biomedical Ethics (3 credits)
Developmental Psychology (3 credits)
Nutrition (3 credits)
Statistics (3 credits)
BSN PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

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

• Completion Time Lines
  • Must have two out of the three science prerequisites complete by date of application
  • 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 prerequisites in summer before starting program

• Nursing Science Courses (Anatomy and Physiology I, Anatomy and Physiology II, and Microbiology) cannot be more than 5 years old from the time of BSN enrollment – If applying for fall 2020, sciences must have been completed during fall 2015 or after.
BSN PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

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:
  
  • Accelerated Second Degree Prerequisite Worksheet: [https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/bbcswebdav/orgs/AU_CHHS_CHHSWebDocs/NURS/Admissions/prereq-transfer-equiv-trad-accel.pdf](https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/bbcswebdav/orgs/AU_CHHS_CHHSWebDocs/NURS/Admissions/prereq-transfer-equiv-trad-accel.pdf)
  
  • Use Mason’s Transfer Credit Matrix: [http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/](http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/)
  
  • Use the Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transitions Mason Core-VCCS Equivalency website ([https://advising.gmu.edu/mason-core-vccs-equivalency/](https://advising.gmu.edu/mason-core-vccs-equivalency/))

  • If course is not in the Matrix, compare your course description with the description of the Mason course ([catalog.gmu.edu](http://catalog.gmu.edu))

  • If you have exhausted the above resources and you are still unable to determine if your course is equivalent, please send the course description to BSNapps@gmu.edu, prior to November 1.
HESI-A2 Exam

• Applicants can only take the test once per application cycle
• Scores taken prior to January 15, 2019, will not be accepted
• The following sections on the exam are required:
  • Math, Reading Comprehension, Vocabulary 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
  • We recommend you take the test after completing Anatomy and Physiology I and II and no later than the third week of December

https://nursing.gmu.edu/admissions/bsn-admissions/hesi-a2-exam
Essay Requirement

• Applicants must submit a two-page essay on a topic provided by the School of Nursing
• Topics are posted to the website in early-December
• Format instructions available on the website

Video Requirement

Effective for the fall 2020 BSN Application, the School of Nursing will no longer require a video presentation.

https://nursing.gmu.edu/admissions/bsn-admissions/video-essay
BSN APPLICATION PROCESS

• BSN Application becomes available through the CHHS website in mid-December

• Accelerated Second Degree Program
  • Fall admission only
  • Full-time program (no part-time option)
  • May apply to only one program: Accelerated Second Degree Program is for those with a prior bachelor’s degree
  • Cannot switch from Second Degree to Traditional Pathway

• Application Process
  • Create your online BSN Application Account
  • Complete the online BSN Application
  • Upload supporting materials
  • Pay the $60 non-refundable BSN Application Fee*
  • Finalize your BSN Application and submit

  *Incomplete BSN Applications will not be reviewed.

*Fee subject to change
To create your BSN Application Account you will need to obtain your Mason ID number (G Number)

- You will receive your Mason ID Number once you submit your Mason Admission Application
  - Apply to Mason early, may take 10 business days to receive ID
  - Without a G number you cannot create a BSN Application Account
- Current Mason Students: Login using your Mason Net ID and password
- You may repeatedly login to your application until you submit it.
To complete the online BSN Application, you will need to refer to and upload copies (in PDF format) of the following:

- Unofficial transcripts from each institution attended
  - Students with international background must submit a copy of evaluation of transcripts ([NACES.org](https://naces.org))
  - Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended, including Mason
- HESI-A2 score report
- Essay
- Resume
- If applicable:
  - Unofficial AB, IB, or CLEP scores
  - Licenses or certifications
  - Correspondence with [BSNapps@gmu.edu](mailto:BSNapps@gmu.edu) or other OSA staff
• The application has the following sections
  • Program Selection
  • Academic History
  • Licenses and Certifications
  • Nursing Prerequisites
  • Upload Documents
  • Payment
  • Terms and Conditions
  • Application Submission

• You must complete each applicable section, before you can move to the next one.

• Application begins with basic information
  • Please use proper capitalization
Final Steps to Submit the BSN Application

• Pay the $60 non-refundable BSN Application fee* (VISA or Mastercard accepted)

• Carefully read and understand the Terms and Conditions
  • You will be required to check a box accompanying each statement
  • You will not be able to submit your application until each statement has been read and each box checked

• Submit your BSN Application
  • You can only submit ONE application
  • You must complete each section and upload all supporting materials before you may submit.
  • After submission, you cannot return to the application
  • Once submitted, you will receive an e-mail confirmation

*Fee subject to change
ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

• BSN program admission decisions are emailed by April from the School of Nursing

• Admission offer will be **provisional:**
  • Must respond to the offer of admission, indicating intent to enroll by deadline specified in offer email
  • Must achieve grade of “C” or better in currently enrolled Nursing Prerequisites courses
  • Must submit transcripts for currently enrolled courses by deadline specified in offer letter
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 final grades post to your unofficial before completing the BSN Application.
- If you submit your application with transcripts before your fall grades post, your application is evaluated only on courses COMPLETE at the time of application.
If not admitted:

- Common reasons for denial:
  - Incomplete application
  - Nursing prerequisite/science GPA was not competitive
  - Nursing prerequisites/sciences with multiple repeats
  - Below a C in any of the Nursing Prerequisites
  - Sheer volume: given the volume of applications received for the limited number of clinical spaces, other applicants presented stronger applications
- Please have an alternative path to achieve your goal
Alternative Options to Earn a BSN

- Consider pursuing an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Nursing (AAS) and then applying to one of our online programs
  - **RN to BSN Program**: for those who have finished an AAS-Nursing degree and hold an RN license
  - **Co-enrollment Program**: for those in the process of earning an AAS-Nursing degree and obtaining an RN license

- 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
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.*
FINAL REMINDERS

• Program is a full-time commitment; must have the time and financial resources to be successful
• Applicants with international backgrounds have additional application requirements
  • Evaluation of transcripts
  • English language proficiency
• The following resources are available to assist you in answering transfer course equivalency questions:
  • Transfer Credit Matrix: http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/
  • Accelerated Second Degree Prerequisite Worksheet: https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/bbcswbday/orgs/AU_CHHS_CHHSWebDocs/NURS/Admissions/prereq-transfer-equiv-trad-accel.pdf
  • Use the Center for Academic Advising, Retention, and Transitions Mason Core-VCCS Equivalency website (https://advising.gmu.edu/mason-core-vccs-equivalency/)
  • 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/](http://chhs.gmu.edu/)
  - Facebook [@GMUCHHS](https://www.facebook.com/GMUCHHS)
  - Twitter [@MasonCHHS](https://twitter.com/MasonCHHS)
  - LinkedIn [linkedin.com/school/masonchhs/](https://linkedin.com/school/masonchhs/)
  - Instagram [@masonchhs](https://www.instagram.com/masonchhs/)
  - YouTube [youtube.com/c/MasonCollegeofHealthandHumanServices](https://youtube.com/c/MasonCollegeofHealthandHumanServices)

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

Advising Opportunities

Prospective Student Walk-in hours: First Tuesday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Questions?

If you have specific questions, please email them to BSNapps@gmu.edu

Thank you for your time today.