Accelerated Veteran LPN to BSN Information Session

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, Population Health Center
- **Prime location:** National Capital Area (NCA)
  - **Clinical Placements:** Include hospitals, community health, and school settings in Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia
  - **Employment:** 7,000+ graduates employed nationwide as staff nurses in clinics, hospitals, schools, community health, health department, home health, and 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 (Ferssizidis)

- **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

Important things to know

• Admission once a year for fall semester
• One-year, full-time program (Fall, Spring, Summer)
• For veterans with previous military health training
• LPN License
Clinical Information

- Sites are located from DC to Loudoun and Prince William Counties; currently no Maryland sites.
- Approximately **500 clinical hours** completed in Medical Surgical, Long-Term Care, Obstetrics, Pediatrics, Community Health, Critical Care, Psychiatric Care
- School of Nursing schedules your clinical assignments

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 INFORMATION (CONTINUED)**

*Approximate* cost of Accelerated Veteran LPN to BSN Pathway based on spring 2020 tuition rates (excluding books and BSN fees)

- In-state tuition: approximately $17,300 for entire program
- Out-of-state tuition: approximately $50,000 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/)


*Opportunity to receive UP TO $15,000 to assist with tuition and fees not covered by VA education benefits*
APPLYING TO MASON'S NURSING PROGRAM

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Fall Deadlines

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

Applications:
- Two separate applications
  - Mason’s university admission application
  - BSN Application

Each application has separate:
- Application requirements
- Deadlines

2 separate applications ➔ 2 separate decision letters

MASON UNIVERSITY
College of Health and Human Services
MAISON 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
  • 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 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
- Complete Nursing Prerequisites, Mason Core, and electives 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 online BSN Application and upload required materials
- $60 non-refundable BSN Application fee will be waived
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)
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 enrolled in remaining 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.
Mason Core and Elective Courses

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Courses</th>
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<tr>
<td>English Composition (3 credits)</td>
<td>Western Civ./World Hist. (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Communication (3 credits)</td>
<td>Global Understanding (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature (3 credits)</td>
<td>Information Technology (3 credits)</td>
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<td>Arts (3 credits)</td>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning (3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science (3 credits)</td>
<td>Electives (10 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Science (3 credits)</td>
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<td>• PSYC 230, 231, or 232 from a VCCS school meets both the Social Science and the nursing prerequisite Human Lifespan Development requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>• PSYC 211 from Mason meets both the Social Science and the nursing prerequisite Human Lifespan Development requirement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning (3 credits)</td>
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<td>• MATH 155, 240, 241, or 245 from a VCCS school meets both the Quantitative Reasoning and the nursing prerequisite statistics requirement</td>
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<td>• STAT 250 from Mason meets both the Quantitative Reasoning and the nursing prerequisite statistics requirement</td>
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<td>Electives (10 credits, Recommended: Sociology or Anthropology)</td>
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<td>A previous, U.S.-based, 4-year bachelor’s degree will satisfy the Mason Core and Elective course requirements</td>
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LPN Bridge Course

- Mason is working with our VCCS community partners to establish an LPN Bridge Course
- 12 credits/300 clock hours
- Upon completion, students will be awarded a Practical Nursing Certificate and will be eligible to sit for the NCLEX-PN
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 should do the following:
  • Accelerated Veteran LPN to BSN Program Prequisite Worksheet: https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/bbcswebdav/xid-166461503_1
  • 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)

• 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, no later than November 1.
BSN APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

HESI-A2 Admissions Assessment 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
BSN APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

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 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

• Application Process
  • Create your online BSN Application Account
  • Complete the online BSN Application
  • Upload supporting materials
  • Finalize your BSN Application and submit

*Incomplete BSN Applications will not be reviewed.*
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
• The application has the following sections
  • Program Selection: Traditional
  • Academic History
  • Licenses and Certifications
  • Nursing Prerequisites
  • Mason Core and Elective Requirements
  • Upload Documents
  • 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
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](http://NACES.org))
  - Current Mason students must submit transcripts from each institution attended, including Mason
- HESI-A2 Admissions Assessment Exam score report
- Copy of LPN License
- Copy of DD-214 (Copy 4 or Service Copy 2)
- 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
Final Steps to Submit the BSN Application

• 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
BSN ADMISSIONS DECISIONS

• BSN program admission decisions are emailed at the end of April from the School of Nursing
• 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 Mason Core Requirements, Nursing Prerequisites, and elective courses
  • Must respond to the offer of admission, indicating intent to enroll by deadline specified in offer email
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.
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
Alternative Options to Earn a BSN

Pursue another BSN program at Mason

- Traditional: A two year program (fall, spring, fall, spring) for those who do not hold a Bachelor’s degree or an RN license
- Accelerated Second Degree: A one year program (fall, spring, summer) for those who hold a prior Bachelor’s degree, but do not hold an RN license

Programs are both full-time

Admission is offered only once a year in the fall
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.
Program is a full-time commitment; must have the time and financial resources to be successful

Opportunity to receive UP TO $15,000 to assist with tuition and fees not covered by VA education benefits

Applicants with international background have additional application requirements

- Evaluation of transcripts for international coursework
- English language proficiency

The following resources are available to assist you in answering transfer course equivalency questions:

- Traditional Program Prerequisite Worksheet: (https://mymasonportal.gmu.edu/bbcswebdav/orgs/AU_CHHS_CHHSWebDocs/NURS/Admissions/prereq-transfer-equiv-trad.pdf)
- Transfer Credit Matrix (http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/)
- 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 (linkedin.com/school/masonchhs/)
  • Instagram (@masonchhs)
  • YouTube (youtube.com/c/MasonCollegeofHealthandHumanServices)

• Questions?
  • Email bsnapps@gmu.edu for nursing application questions and allow 10-14 days for response
Q & A
• General questions and clarifications on information presented

Advising Opportunities
• Prospective Student Summer Walk-in hours: Every Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
• If you have specific questions you do not wish to address during this session, please email your questions to BSNapps@gmu.edu

Thank you for your time today.