

NURSING, BSN

Banner Code: HH-BSN-NURS

Academic Advising

Website: chhs.gmu.edu/students/advising-nursing.cfm

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) Program is accredited by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The undergraduate nursing program prepares students to deliver superior nursing care and provide leadership in nursing in the increasingly complex and challenging field of modern health care. Graduates are in demand as professional nurses in hospitals, long-term care facilities, and community health and other health care agencies. The program emphasizes health promotion and disease prevention, capitalizing on early detection of potential health problems, health maintenance in ambulatory and acute-care agencies, and preparation for the managerial responsibilities of nursing.

The School of Nursing offers three pathways to complete the BSN, all of which lead to completion of the objectives of the undergraduate program. The traditional pathway is a two-year curriculum following the completion of the Mason Core and prerequisite requirements. An accelerated RN-to-BSN pathway for students holding current registered nurse (RN) licenses may be completed in one year (full-time) following completion of the Mason Core and prerequisite requirements. The accelerated, second degree pathway is a 12-month curriculum for students holding a baccalaureate degree outside of nursing. The traditional and accelerated pathways in nursing must be completed on a full-time basis.

Admissions & Policies

Admissions

General Requirements

To be admitted to the BSN program, students must complete a pre-nursing curriculum during their first two years and be admitted to junior standing. Students admitted in the traditional and accelerated, second degree pathways will enter the program in the fall of their junior year and at that point are considered nursing majors. Students admitted to the RN-to-BSN pathway may enter in the fall or spring semester.

Application to the BSN program is a process involving two applications: the George Mason University Undergraduate Application and the BSN Departmental Application. (Currently enrolled Mason students need only apply using the BSN Departmental Application.) Acceptance to the nursing program is contingent upon admission to the university, but *admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program*. Application to the BSN major is a competitive admission process. Prospective applicants are responsible to meet all BSN admission requirements at the time of application. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the nursing program—it only allows an application to be considered. Students who are interested in pursuing a major in nursing are strongly encouraged to attend an information session provided by the CHHS Office of Student Affairs for advising prior to applying to the nursing major.

Attendance at the first meeting of all nursing courses (lectures, on-campus laboratories, and agency laboratories) is mandatory.

Traditional BSN Pathway Requirements

To be eligible to apply for the traditional BSN program, applicants must have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the designated nursing prerequisite coursework and must have earned a C or better in each of the following courses:

Anatomy and Physiology

BIOL 124	Human Anatomy and Physiology
BIOL 125	Human Anatomy and Physiology

Microbiology

BIOL 246	Introductory Microbiology
BIOL 306	Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory

Statistics

Nutrition

NUTR 295	Introduction to Nutrition (Mason Core)
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Developmental Psychology

Bioethics

PHIL 309	Bioethics (Mason Core)
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Applicants must have completed two of the three science prerequisite courses (anatomy and physiology I, anatomy and physiology II, and microbiology) by the submission date of the BSN Departmental Application. Coursework in anatomy and physiology and microbiology cannot be more than five years old by the time of BSN enrollment. Additional eligibility requirements include a grade of C or better in all Mason Core courses and electives.

Application to the BSN program is a process involving two applications: the George Mason University Undergraduate Application and the BSN Departmental Application. (Currently-enrolled Mason students need only apply using the BSN Departmental Application.) Acceptance to the nursing program is contingent upon admission to the university. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program. See the CHHS undergraduate admissions website (<http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate>) for the latest information on applications and deadlines.

Application to the BSN major is a competitive admission process. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the nursing program - it only allows an application to be considered in the review process.

The traditional BSN pathway is a full-time program beginning in the fall semester and is completed in two years (four semesters).

Accelerated, Second Degree BSN Pathway Requirements

The Accelerated, Second Degree BSN Pathway is designed for applicants already holding a bachelor's degree who are interested in pursuing an undergraduate degree in nursing. This full-time accelerated program begins in the fall semester and is completed in 12 months.

Applicants must have a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and must have earned a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.85 in their first degree. The non-nursing baccalaureate degree must be completed by the end of the spring semester of the year a student desires to be considered for fall admission.

Applicants to the second degree pathway must have achieved a minimum GPA of 3.00 in the designated nursing prerequisite coursework and must have earned a C or better in each of the following courses:

Anatomy and Physiology

BIOL 124	Human Anatomy and Physiology
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BIOL 125	Human Anatomy and Physiology
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Microbiology

BIOL 246	Introductory Microbiology
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BIOL 306	Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory
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Statistics

Nutrition

NUTR 295	Introduction to Nutrition (Mason Core)
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Developmental Psychology

Bioethics

PHIL 309	Bioethics (Mason Core)
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Applicants must have completed two of the three science prerequisite courses (anatomy and physiology I, anatomy and physiology II, and microbiology) by the submission date of the BSN Departmental Application. Course work in anatomy and physiology and microbiology cannot be more than five years old by the time of BSN enrollment.

Application to the BSN program is a process involving two applications: the George Mason University Undergraduate Application and the BSN Departmental Application. (Currently enrolled Mason students need only apply using the BSN Departmental Application.) Acceptance to the nursing program is contingent upon admission to the university. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program. See the CHHS undergraduate admissions website (<http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate>) for the latest information on applications and deadlines.

Application to the BSN major is a competitive admission process. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the nursing program - it only allows an application to be considered in the review process.

RN-to-BSN Pathway Requirements

The Accelerated RN-to-BSN Pathway allows RNs to progress quickly through the program through online coursework while meeting the objectives of the undergraduate curriculum. On completion of the Mason Core requirements and designated nursing prerequisites, RN students can complete the BSN in two semesters of full-time study. The program can also be completed on a part-time basis.

RN students must satisfy all Mason Core requirements and designated nursing prerequisites. For some students, the Mason Core requirements (except ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core)) may be met by completing the Associate's degree (i.e., AA – Associate of Arts, AS – Associate of Science, or AA&S – Associate of Arts and Science) from the Virginia community college system with a qualifying GPA and specific admissions criteria. The Associate of Applied Science (AAS degree) does not waive Mason Core requirements. Contact Mason's general Office of Admissions for more information and see the Guaranteed Admission Agreement (<http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/gaa.asp>) for details. RN-licensed students enrolled in the RN-to-BSN pathway are required to submit a copy of their current state-based/US license prior to the first day of class. RN-licensed students must maintain current licensure throughout the academic program.

Application to the BSN program is a process involving two applications: the George Mason University Undergraduate Application and the BSN Departmental Application. (Currently enrolled Mason students need only apply using the BSN Departmental Application.) Acceptance to the nursing program is contingent upon admission to the university. Admission to the university does not guarantee admission to the nursing program. See the CHHS undergraduate admissions website (<http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate>) for the latest information on applications and deadlines.

Students admitted with a prior bachelor's degree are required to complete at least 30 hours at Mason beyond the first degree. Students should meet with their academic advisor to review degree requirements.

Application to the BSN major is a competitive admission process. Meeting the minimum requirements does not guarantee admission into the nursing program - it only allows an application to be considered in the review process.

Mason Veterans Program in Nursing and Co-enrollment in Nursing Program

The Mason Veterans Program in Nursing and Co-enrollment in Nursing Program allow students to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree online while concurrently enrolled in an Associate of Applied Science nursing degree (AAS Nursing) program at a partner community college. Nursing classes in the CEP are offered online in seven-week and full-semester formats.

Students take the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) after completing their AAS in nursing while enrolled in Mason's BSN program. After a student passes the NCLEX and upon successful completion of NURS 336, students are awarded 33 nursing transfer credits toward their BSN degree. Students complete Mason's BSN program the semester following graduation with the AAS degree.

Application Process

Admission to the Mason Veterans Program in Nursing or Co-enrollment in Nursing Program involves two applications: the George Mason University Undergraduate Application (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now>) and the BSN Departmental Application. The BSN Departmental Application, instructions, and deadlines are available online (<https://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/admissions/bsn-overview.cfm>). Please use the Transfer Search Engine (<http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/transferCreditSearch.asp>) to check course equivalency.

Eligibility Guidelines

To be eligible to apply for the Co-enrollment in Nursing Program, applicants must:

- Receive admission to Mason
- Provide a copy of a letter of admission to a pre-licensure nursing program at a partner community college
- Provide proof of enrollment in a partner community college AAS-Nursing program (i.e., copy of an unofficial transcript)
- Have completed all Mason nursing prerequisite courses at any regionally accredited institution with a grade of C (not C-) or better in EACH course prior to the beginning of the CEP
- Mason Core and elective courses may be completed at any regionally accredited institution and can still be in progress at the time of admission. These courses must be completed with a grade of C (not C-) or better in EACH course prior to completing the CEP. ENGH 302 must be completed at Mason.

- Earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 at partner community college institution
- Submit an online BSN departmental application and non-refundable fee through online payment system by the deadlines. See the CHHS undergraduate admissions website (<http://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/undergraduate>) for the latest information on applications and deadlines.

In addition, to be eligible to apply for the Mason Veterans Nursing Program, applicants must be a veteran of the US military.

Policies

Degree Requirements

Students must fulfill all requirements for bachelor's degrees, including the Mason Core requirements. For policies governing all undergraduate degrees, see AP.5 Undergraduate Policies.

Writing Intensive Requirement

Mason requires all students to complete at least one 300- or 400-level "writing intensive" course as designated by their department. Students majoring in nursing fulfill this requirement by successfully completing NURS 465.

Academic Grade Standards

The passing grade is a C+ or above in undergraduate nursing didactic courses in the School of Nursing. A grade of satisfactory (S) is the passing grade for NURS 310 and NURS 312. After admission to junior-year standing and to the nursing program, a student who earns a grade of C or below must repeat the course and earn a grade of a C+ or above in that course. This will alter or halt further progression in the nursing program and affect the expected graduation date. A student may repeat only one nursing course, one time. A student who fails to earn a grade of C+ or above in the repeated course is terminated from the BSN nursing program. In addition, earning a grade of C or below in a second nursing course results in termination from the BSN nursing program. Termination from any one of the nursing undergraduate pathways constitutes termination from the undergraduate (BSN) nursing major in the School of Nursing.

Because of the sequential nature of the nursing curriculum, students are not allowed to progress to the next semester of nursing course work while a grade of "IN" (incomplete) remains on their academic record. A passing grade must be recorded before beginning the next semester's courses. Academic dismissal is governed by university policy.

Professional Conduct Policy

All students in the School of Nursing are expected to adhere to the Professional Conduct Policy of the College of Health and Human Services.

Appeal Process

Although faculty members in the nursing program are generally the best judges of a student's professional performance, there may be times when a student believes a grade is unfair. Students in the School of Nursing wishing to appeal a grade are expected to follow the Mason guidelines for grade appeals.

NCLEX Readiness Preparation and Testing

Throughout the BSN program, all students, with the exception of RN-to-BSN students, participate in preparation for the NCLEX-RN licensing exam through opportunities provided during nursing courses. These

opportunities are included as integrated components of select courses and include practice NCLEX-style exams and content-specific testing. A final cumulative assessment exam is given toward the end of the program to provide the student with guidance about their chance for success on the licensing exam. A final course in critical thinking and test-taking strategies is required in the senior year, and remediation in select content areas may be required as a component of this course.

Special Requirements

Fees and expenses related to the nursing program include: skills laboratory fee, standardized testing and course materials, uniforms, stethoscope, name pin, books, CPR certification, health forms, health insurance, immunizations, and criminal background check fees. *The availability of personal transportation to and from clinical agencies is required of all students.* For a summary of all current fees and estimated expenses, see the School of Nursing website (<https://chhs.gmu.edu/nursing>).

All BSN students are required to obtain a health clearance and complete the immunizations required by Mason as listed in the Student Health Services section of the Mason catalog. In addition, the BSN program has additional health and immunization requirements to meet the requirements of its clinical agency partners. See the Undergraduate Program, School of Nursing website for the most current information. *Students are not allowed into any clinical setting without the completed immunization series as prescribed by Mason or the School of Nursing and may have an offer of admission withdrawn for inability to meet these requirements.* The School of Nursing reviews health records and reserves the right to refuse admission or continued enrollment to any student who is unable to comply with these requirements.

All students must have CPR certification before entering the first clinical nursing course and maintain it through the remainder of the program. The American Heart Association Basic Life Support - Health Care Provider is required. On-line renewal of CPR certification is not accepted. Any cost incurred is the responsibility of the student.

All students must have current health insurance before entering the first clinical nursing course and maintain it through the remainder of the program. All students are required to have an active Mason e-mail account.

No student or faculty member will be discriminated against or denied admission to the nursing program for the sole reason that the student or faculty member has been exposed to, infected with, or diagnosed with HIV or HBV. All students are expected to practice Universal Precautions with all clients, and failure to do so will result in termination from the nursing major. In the event that a student is exposed to body fluids of a client during a clinical experience or practicum, procedures and appropriate reports are completed according to institutional and nursing policies. Information related to exposure or infection is confidential, and dissemination of such information is based on the need-to-know criteria that apply in health care situations. HIPAA and FERPA regulations apply. A complete and detailed HIV/HBV policy is available in the CHHS Office of Student Affairs.

RN-licensed students enrolled in the RN-to-BSN pathway are required to submit a copy of their current license prior to the first day of class. RN-licensed students must maintain current licensure throughout the academic program.

Requirements

Degree Requirements

Total credits: 120

Mason Core

Written Communication ¹

ENGH 101	Composition (Mason Core)	3
ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core)	3

Oral Communication

Any Mason Core Oral Communication course.	3
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Information Technology

Any Mason Core Information Technology course	3
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Literature

Any Mason Core Literature course	3
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Arts

Any Mason Core Arts course	3
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Western Civilization

Any Mason Core Western Civilization course	3
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Global Understanding

Any Mason Core Global Understanding course	3
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The recommended course is GCH 205 Global Health

Social and Behavioral Sciences

Any Mason Core Social and Behavioral Sciences course	3
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The recommended course is PSYC 100 Basic Concepts in Psychology

Total Credits	27
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¹ Non-native speakers of English with limited proficiency in the language may substitute ENGH 100 for ENGH 101. Students must attain a minimum grade of C in ENGH 100 or ENGH 101, as well as in ENGH 302, to fulfill degree requirements.

Designated Nursing Prerequisites

Anatomy and Physiology

BIOL 124	Human Anatomy and Physiology ¹	4
BIOL 125	Human Anatomy and Physiology ¹	4

Microbiology

BIOL 246	Introductory Microbiology	3
or BIOL 305	Biology of Microorganisms	
BIOL 306	Biology of Microorganisms Laboratory	1

Bioethics

PHIL 309	Bioethics (Mason Core)	3
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Statistics

STAT 250	Introductory Statistics I (Mason Core) (or a statistics course in another discipline with the approval of the advisor) ²	3
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Human Lifespan Development

Any 3-credit human lifespan development course or equivalent as approved by advisor (PSYC 211 is recommended)	3
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Nutrition ³

NUTR 295	Introduction to Nutrition (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		24

- ¹ Fulfills Mason Core Natural Science requirement for students in this degree program.
- ² STAT 250 fulfills the quantitative reasoning Mason Core requirement. If STAT 250 is not taken, an approved Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course is required.
- ³ Other nutrition transfer courses may meet this requirement as approved by the advisor.

Electives

Students will complete 7 credits of electives. A course in sociology or anthropology is recommended.

Total Credits	7
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Traditional BSN Major, Required Courses

NURS 312	Basic Nursing Care of Adults	4
NURS 330	Nursing Fundamentals	3
NURS 334	Nursing as a Health Profession and Discipline	3
NURS 337	Application of Nursing Fundamental Technologies	1
NURS 343	Pharmacology	3
NURS 344	Intermediate Nursing Technologies	1
NURS 347	Adult Pathophysiology and Nursing Care	2
NURS 348	Maternal-Newborn Physiology, Pathophysiology, and Nursing Care	2
NURS 349	Pediatric Pathophysiology and Nursing Care	2
NURS 358	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Maternal/Infant Nursing	2
NURS 359	Health Promotion and Disease Prevention in Pediatric Nursing	2
NURS 388	Problem-Based Clinical Inquiry	3
NURS 410	Nursing Care of Clients with Pathological Conditions	3
NURS 425	Comprehensive Health Assessment	3
NURS 436	Leadership and Management of Health Care	3
NURS 451	Advanced Clinical Preceptorship	5
NURS 453	Research in Nursing	3
NURS 455	Advanced Technologies in Nursing	1
NURS 465	Examination and Integration of Professional and Health Care Issues (Mason Core)	3
NURS 466	Community Health Nursing	2
NURS 467	Clinical in Community Health Nursing	2
NURS 468	Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing	2
NURS 469	Clinical in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing	2
NURS 488	Inquiry-Based Clinical Seminar	2
NURS 491	Critical Thinking and Analysis of Test Taking Strategies	3
Total Credits		62

Accelerated, Second Degree BSN Pathway (SEC)

Students who are eligible for an alternative pathway to the BSN must meet the nursing course requirements for the pathway to which they have been admitted rather than those for the traditional BSN pathway. Candidates for the degree must present at least 120 credits via:

- Mason Core requirements, to be satisfied by the initial degree and fulfilled through transfer credit.
- Designated nursing prerequisites
- Concentration requirements below

Concentration Requirements

NURS 305	Application of Basic Nursing Techniques	1
NURS 309	Introduction to Basic Nursing Care	3
NURS 310	Application of Basic Nursing Care	4
NURS 319	Pathophysiological Basis for Nursing Care of Individuals and Small Groups	4
NURS 334	Nursing as a Health Profession and Discipline	3
NURS 343	Pharmacology	3
NURS 350	Application of Nursing Care for Individuals and Small Groups	4
NURS 351	Application of Intermediate Nursing Technologies	1
NURS 419	Pathophysiological Basis for Nursing Care of Individuals and Small Groups II	3
NURS 425	Comprehensive Health Assessment	3
NURS 427	Advanced Technologies for the Accelerated Pathway	1
NURS 428	Community Health Clinical for the Accelerated Pathway	2
NURS 429	Preceptorship for the Accelerated Pathway	3
NURS 436	Leadership and Management of Health Care	3
NURS 440	Community Health and Epidemiology	3
NURS 453	Research in Nursing	3
NURS 465	Examination and Integration of Professional and Health Care Issues (Mason Core)	3
Total Credits		47

Accelerated RN-to-BSN Pathway (RN)

Candidates for the degree must present at least 120 credits. A minimum of 30 credits must be earned at Mason to fulfill requirements for graduation. These include:

Mason Core and general electives	57
Concentration-specific requirements	24
ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core)	3
Electives earned at Mason	3
"Credit by Exam"	33
Total Credits	120

For some students, the Mason Core requirements (except ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core)) may be met by completing the Associate's degree (i.e., AA – Associate of Arts, AS – Associate of

Science, or AA&S – Associate of Arts and Science) from an approved Virginia community college with a qualifying GPA and specific admissions criteria. The Associate of Applied Science (AAS degree) does not waive the Mason Core requirements. Contact Mason's general Office of Admissions for more information and see the Guaranteed Admission Agreement (<http://admissions.gmu.edu/transfer/gaa.asp>) for details.

RN-to-BSN Pathway, Required Courses

ENGH 302	Advanced Composition (Mason Core) ¹	3
NURS 336	Concepts in Professional Nursing as a Discipline	3
NURS 425	Comprehensive Health Assessment	3
NURS 436	Leadership and Management of Health Care	3
NURS 440	Community Health and Epidemiology	3
NURS 434	Vulnerable Populations	3
NURS 453	Research in Nursing	3
NURS 457	Introduction to Nursing Informatics	3
NURS 465	Examination and Integration of Professional and Health Care Issues (Mason Core)	3
Elective		3
Total Credits		30

¹ Students must complete ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core), listed above under Mason Core requirements. Only students holding a previous baccalaureate degree are not required to take ENGH 302 Advanced Composition (Mason Core).

Credit by Exam		33
NURS 336	Concepts in Professional Nursing as a Discipline ¹	
Total Credits		33

¹ RN students will be awarded 33 nursing credits upon completion of NURS 336 Concepts in Professional Nursing as a Discipline.