

# NURSING, MSN

**Banner Code:** HH-MSN-NURS

## Academic Advising

Website: <https://chhs.gmu.edu/students/academic-advising/graduate-advising#nurs>

The Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program is approved by the Virginia State Board of Nursing and accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. The program prepares nurses for a variety of leadership and practice roles in the health care system. The adult gerontology and family nurse practitioner primary care concentrations have been approved by the state boards of nursing and medicine in Virginia. The nursing administration concentration prepares nurses to be leaders in health care organizations. The nurse educator concentration prepares graduates for educational positions in health care organizations.

## Admissions & Policies

### Admissions Requirements

Applicants must meet the admission standards and application requirements specified in Graduate Admissions (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-policies/>) and must apply using the online Application for Graduate Admission (<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/>). Applicants must be graduates of an accredited baccalaureate (BSN) program in nursing, except for the applicants to the RN-to-MSN program. In addition, applicants must have an active state-based/US license as a registered nurse (RN), a current CPR card, and documented work experience as an RN. The application process is competitive, and applications are considered for the fall and spring semesters. For application deadlines and detailed application requirements, refer to the CHHS Admissions website (<https://chhs.gmu.edu/admissions/graduate-admissions/standards-requirements-and-deadlines/>).

### Policies

#### Transfers Between Concentrations

Approval from the school and college is required for students who wish to transfer between concentrations of the MSN. Students must meet the residency requirements stated in AP.6.9 Requirements for Master's Degrees (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-9>).

#### Transfer of Credit

Students may transfer a maximum of 9 credits into the MSN program from other institutions or taken at Mason in non-degree status, including graduate courses offered through the CHHS Academic Outreach program. Transfer credit is subject to university policies found in AP 6.5.3 Transfer of Credit (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-5-3>) and college policies and must be approved by the program director and the dean/director of the School of Nursing. Students who enroll initially through non-degree studies or the Academic Outreach program should seek course advising through the School of Nursing

and should submit their application to the MSN program in their first semester of study.

### Special Requirements

Additional fees and expenses related to the nursing graduate program may include: laboratory fee, standardized testing and course materials, name pin, books, CPR certification, health forms, health insurance, immunizations, and criminal background check fees. **All students must provide their own personal transportation to and from clinical agencies.** For a summary of all current fees and estimated expenses, see the School of Nursing website.

All MSN students are required to obtain a health clearance and complete the immunizations required by George Mason University as listed in the Student Health Services (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/student-services/student-health-services/>) section of the catalog. Additional health and immunization requirements are imposed by clinical agency partners. The additional health requirements are included in the School of Nursing welcome letter. See the Graduate Program, School of Nursing website (<https://nursing.gmu.edu/>) for the most current information. **Students are not allowed into any clinical setting without the completed immunization series as prescribed by Mason's School of Nursing.** The School of Nursing will refuse admission or continued enrollment to any student who is unable to comply with these requirements. No student will attend practicum courses unless all the requirements for CPR, health exams, immunizations, and criminal background checks are met. Students must be in the process of completing a hepatitis B immunization series when they enroll for their first practicum course

All students must have CPR certification before entering their first course and maintain it through the remainder of the program. The American Heart Association Basic Life Support - Health Care Provider is required. Any cost incurred is the responsibility of the student.

All students must have current health insurance before entering the first practicum 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.

MSN students are required to submit a copy of their current RN license prior to the first day of class and must maintain licensure throughout the academic program.

### Professional Conduct

All students in the School of Nursing are expected to adhere to the Professional Conduct Policy (

schools/health-human-services/#requirementspoliciestext) 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, some students may feel that the faculty member's judgment is unfair. Students in the School of Nursing wishing to appeal a grade are expected to follow the Mason guidelines for grade appeals, found in AP 3.9 Grade Appeals (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/grading/#ap-3-9>).

## Honor System and Code

The School of Nursing supports academic integrity and follows the standards and procedures as described in the University catalog and available online (<http://oai.gmu.edu/>).

## Academic Termination

Academic termination is governed by university policy described in AP6.6.2 Academic Termination (<http://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/academic/graduate-policies/#ap-6-6-2>). Additionally, a failing grade of "F" in a practicum course may result in termination from the program. Any graduate course in which a student earns a C grade or below must be repeated to earn a grade of B or better in order to progress. A course may be repeated only once. A student may also be terminated from the program due to a finding of violation of the university Honor Code or after demonstrating a significant lack of progress.

## Grading

Throughout the semester, students are assessed on how well they have met curricular outcomes. Consistent with the university, the MSN in Nursing program does not provide a D grade. Final grades for all MSN in Nursing courses are submitted to the university as letter grades.

Grade	Quality Points	Graduate Courses
A (90-100%)	4.00	Passing
B (80-89%)	3.00	Passing
C (70-79%)	2.00	Failing
F (69% or lower)	0.00	Failing

A graduate course in which a grade of C or below is earned must be repeated to earn a grade of B or better in order to progress, and a course may be repeated only once. Graduate students (both master's and doctoral) may repeat no more than two courses in their total program of study.

## Curriculum

The master's program in nursing requires 39 to 49 graduate credits. Of these, a 15-credit core consists of coursework in the theoretical and ethical foundations of nursing, nursing research and biostatistics, nursing informatics, and the organization of nursing and health care delivery systems. The remaining 24-34 credits are satisfied by completing one of the concentrations:

Code	Title	Credits
	Nursing Administration Concentration	24
	Advanced Clinical Nursing Concentration	27-30
	Nurse Educator Concentration	26
	Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner Concentration	34
	Family Nurse Practitioner Concentration	34

Actual practicum course hours may exceed those listed in the catalog. Actual practicum hours will meet the requirements for certification purposes. Requirements in the catalog reflect the minimum number of credits or practicum hours.

## Requirements

### Degree Requirements

Total credits: 39-49

Students must complete all Level I courses and the requirements for one concentration.

#### MSN Level I Core Courses (Required of all students)

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 665	Theoretical and Ethical Foundations Related to Nursing	3
NURS 715	Nursing Informatics Inquiry	3
NURS 757	Nursing Research and Biostatistics I	3
NURS 758	Nursing Research and Biostatistics II	3
NURS 688	Organization of Nursing and Health Care Delivery Systems	3
Total Credits		15

#### Concentration in Adult Gerontology Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care (AGNP)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Level II Courses Core</b>		
NURS 643	Community-Oriented Primary Care	3
NURS 713	Decision Making and Pharmacologic Management in Practice	3
NURS 714	Health Assessment in Clinical Practice	2
NURS 724	Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 761	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NURS 769	Physiology and Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice	3
<b>Required Courses</b>		
NURS 787	Adult Gerontology Primary Care I	2
NURS 786	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Practicum I	2
NURS 789	Adult Gerontology Primary Care II	3
NURS 788	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Practicum II	4
NURS 791	Adult Gerontology Primary Care III	4
NURS 790	Adult Gerontology Primary Care Practicum III	4
Total Credits		34

#### Concentration in Advanced Clinical Nursing (NUAC)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Level II Courses Core</b>		
NURS 714	Health Assessment in Clinical Practice	2
NURS 724	Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 761	Pharmacotherapeutics	3

NURS 769	Physiology and Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice	3
----------	---	---

**Required Courses**

NURS 773	Clinical Applications of Theory in Advanced Clinical Nursing	3
NURS 775	Advanced Specialty Practice I	3
NURS 776	Development of Advanced Practice Nursing Role	3
NURS 778	Advanced Specialty Practice II	3

**Elective Courses**

Select six credits of cognates in area of expertise <sup>1</sup>		6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>27</b>

<sup>1</sup> Students may take NURS 740 Clinical Nurse Specialist Internship for 3 elective credits.

**Clinical Nurse Specialist Emphasis**

Students in the advanced clinical nursing concentration who opt for the clinical nurse specialist emphasis must accrue 500 clinical hours by completing NURS 740. The course may be repeated once if necessary to accrue 500 hours (for a total of 6 credits).

Code	Title	Credits
NURS 740	Clinical Nurse Specialist Internship	3

**Concentration in Family Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care (FNUP)**

Code	Title	Credits
------	-------	---------

**Level II Courses Core**

NURS 643	Community-Oriented Primary Care	3
NURS 713	Decision Making and Pharmacologic Management in Practice	3
NURS 714	Health Assessment in Clinical Practice	2
NURS 724	Health Assessment Practicum	1
NURS 761	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NURS 769	Physiology and Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice	3

**Required Courses**

NURS 738	Family Primary Care I	2
NURS 742	Family Primary Care Practicum I	2
NURS 739	Family Primary Care II	4
NURS 744	Family Primary Care Practicum II	4
NURS 741	Family Primary Care III	3
NURS 749	Family Primary Care Practicum III	4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>34</b>

**Concentration in Nursing Administration (NUAD)**

Code	Title	Credits
------	-------	---------

**Required Courses**

NURS 763	Administrative Theory in Nursing	3
NURS 765	Practicum in Nursing Administration I	3
NURS 766	Administrative Strategies in Nursing	3
NURS 768	Practicum in Nursing Administration II	3

**Nursing Administration Support Courses**

Financial Management:

NURS 654	Nursing Administration Financial Management	3
or HAP 703	Financial Management in Health Systems	

Management/Organizational Theory:

HAP 621	Organization Behavior and Healthcare Leadership	3
---------	---	---

Select six credits from Nursing or related discipline electives		6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>24</b>

**Nurse Educator Concentration (NURE)**

Code	Title	Credits
------	-------	---------

**Level II Courses Core**

NURS 714	Health Assessment in Clinical Practice	2
NURS 716	Principles of Assessment and Evaluation in Nursing Education	3
NURS 761	Pharmacotherapeutics	3
NURS 769	Physiology and Pathophysiology in Advanced Practice	3

**Required Courses**

NURS 726	Perspectives in Nursing Education	3
NURS 727	Application of Nursing Education Principles to Curriculum and Program Development	3
NURS 728	Practicum and Seminar in Nursing Education I	3
NURS 729	Practicum and Seminar in Nursing Education II	3

**Elective Courses**

Select three credits in Nursing or related disciplines.		3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>26</b>

**RN-to-MSN Pathway**

This pathway allows RNs who have completed the Mason Core requirements (as listed in the undergraduate RN-to-MSN Pathway described in the Nursing, BSN program) and have demonstrated substantial involvement in professional nursing within the past two years to earn the MSN degree. Students entering a concentration through this pathway must meet all the requirements for admission to that concentration.

In addition to fulfilling admission requirements for degree status at Mason, applicants must:

1. Hold a current state-based/US license to practice nursing.
2. Be graduates of an accredited nursing program.
3. Have earned a 3.00 GPA in
  - a. the nursing prerequisites,
  - b. the nursing curriculum from the graduating institution, and
  - c. Mason Core/general education courses at an accredited institution.
4. Demonstrate involvement in professional nursing within the past two years as an RN in clinical practice.

Students in the RN-to-MSN pathway are required to take the following bridge course:

<b>Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Credits</b>
NURS 440	Community Health and Epidemiology	3

After completion of the bridge course, students choose one of the concentrations and meet all requirements of the graduate program.