

NURSING

<http://chhs.gmu.edu/>

Name and description of the field.

The undergraduate Nursing program is designed to prepare students to meet the challenges of nursing practice in the ever changing and increasingly demanding health care delivery system. Emphasis is placed on health promotion and early detection of potential health problems, care of individuals, families and population groups in ambulatory as well as inpatient settings, and expanded responsibilities for nurses.

The Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree prepares graduates to function in hospitals, nursing homes, and community health settings that include health departments, ambulatory clinics, schools, and health maintenance organizations.

The baccalaureate degree program at George Mason provides its students with a sound background in general education upon which the Nursing major is built. Course work in the major includes theoretical concepts related to nursing, as well as laboratory and clinical experiences on campus and in hospitals and other health agencies. The program places special emphasis on nursing care provided to multicultural and vulnerable populations.

The program is accredited by the Virginia Board of Nursing and the National League for Nursing.

What special skills or abilities are needed to succeed in this major?

Functional skills in nursing are behaviors that are developed and refined through didactic and seminar courses, as well as college and health agency laboratory experiences. These functional skills needed for Nursing include:

- Communication skills--writing, speaking, listening, responding, analyzing and synthesizing verbal and non-verbal messages.
- Critical thinking--synthesizing data gathered to make decisions.
- Information gathering skills--reading, analyzing what to read, collecting data using both people and written materials.
- Interpersonal skills--self-knowledge of values, goals and feelings, as well as knowledge and empathic understanding of others.

If both B.A. and B.S. degrees are offered, what are the differences in career/graduate school opportunities?

Only the B.S.N. degree is offered in nursing at George Mason.

Is it possible to minor in Nursing?

No, it is not possible to minor in nursing at George Mason. Sixty-two credits are required in the Nursing major.

Graduate/Professional School Opportunities

The nursing major is appropriate preparation for students wanting to do graduate work in nursing. Graduates of the nursing program have pursued graduate education in clinical specialties such as adult health, family-child nursing, psychiatric-mental health nursing, gerontological and chronic care oncology. These clinical specialties combined with other course work prepare nurses for advanced practice as a nurse practitioner or clinical specialist. Nurses also pursue advanced degrees in nursing administration and education. The College of Nursing and Health Science at George Mason University offers a Masters of Science Degree (M.S.N.) with individualized graduate studies in three programs: Advanced Clinical Nursing (with concentrations in Chronic Care, Gerontology and Oncology), Nursing Administration, and Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care (Adult/Gerontology, or Family Practice). There is also a combined MSN/NBA degree program.

What other resources should students consult for more information?

A key element in effective decision-making is having sufficient information about the major or career being explored. Sources of information include people in the field of interest, written material in the Career Library, Career Services programs, professional associations such as the American Nurses' Association, the National League for Nursing, the International Council of Nurses, and the Virginia Nurses Association.

EXPLORING MAJORS

Organizations that have hired recent George Mason University Nursing graduates include:

Fairfax Pediatrics Associates	INOVA Fairfax Hospital for Children	Virginia Hospital Center
Fauquier Hospital		INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital
Washington Hospital Center		
INOVA Alexandria Hospital	Mary Washington Hospital	Virginia United Methodist Homes
INOVA Fair Oaks Hospital	Prince William Hospital	Potomac Hospital
INOVA Fairfax Hospital	Providence Hospital	Johns Hopkins Hospital

Printed Resources – http://careers.gmu.edu/careerlibrary/wheretostart/nurs_hsci.pdf

Online Resources – http://careers.gmu.edu/onlineresources/nurs_hsci.htm

Whom should students contact for further information?

Whitney Gaston	Academic Advising Center	Charlotte Strauss
College of Health and Human Services	304 SUB I	University Career Services
413 Robinson Hall B	703-993-2470	348 SUB I
703-993-4621		703-993-2370
wgaston@gmu.edu		