



***FIND YOUR PURPOSE<sup>®</sup>***

MaricopaNursing and Grand Canyon University

# **AAS IN NURSING TO MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING**

*Concurrent Enrollment Pathway 2024-25*



**GRAND CANYON  
UNIVERSITY<sup>®</sup>**

COLLEGE OF NURSING & HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS



**MARICOPA**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

# AAS-MSN NURSING

## Concurrent Enrollment Pathway (NCEP)

If you're a prospective nurse who brings a bachelor's degree in another field to your pursuit of a nursing career, the MaricopaNursing-Grand Canyon University Associate in Applied Science in Nursing to Master of Science in Nursing Concurrent Enrollment Pathway (AAS-MSN NCEP) could be for you.

Building on the academic foundation of your previous degree, the AAS-MSN NCEP allows you to take seven core nursing courses from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at GCU concurrently with your AAS courses at MaricopaNursing. Once you complete your AAS, pass the NCLEX and complete BSN course requirements, including the practicum experience, you will move into the MSN portion of your pathway.

## Why Choose This Path?

### ▶ JUMPSTART YOUR NURSING CAREER:

By concurrently enrolling in the AAS with MaricopaNursing and the GCU bridge to MSN courses, you'll learn hands-on nursing skills as well as meet the prerequisite requirements for entry into the MSN program of your choosing.

### ▶ TAKE A STEP FORWARD, NOT SIDEWAYS:

You've already earned a bachelor's degree, so advancing to the master's level is the efficient next step toward your educational goals. This path to your MSN may allow you to put your prior education and experience to work sooner.

### ▶ POTENTIALLY SET YOURSELF APART:

Your commitment to earning your master's degree can give you opportunity to gain more skills, like clinical reasoning, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Additionally, by obtaining your MSN you can position yourself for possible leadership roles and taking on more responsibility.<sup>1</sup>

### ▶ SPECIALIZE IN AN AREA OF INTEREST:

GCU offers multiple emphasis options allowing you to specialize in your preferred area of interest. You may also choose to use the NCEP to move into the MBA/MSN Leadership dual degree. This is a pathway toward completion of the MSN and MBA. The required BSN courses are prerequisites that can prepare students to begin the MSN track.

### ▶ SAVE MONEY:

You'll receive a tuition reduction on your MSN-bridge pathway courses while enrolled in the NCEP. As a MaricopaNursing graduate, you'll also be eligible for a discount on your MSN pathway at GCU.

## Things You Should Know

1. You will need to apply for acceptance into the NCEP and provide documentation showing that you have met eligibility requirements. Participation in the NCEP is limited to a select number of applicants who have demonstrated completion of prerequisite coursework and have met eligibility requirements specific to the MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP.
2. If accepted into the NCEP, you will be enrolled in MaricopaNursing and GCU at the same time. You will be responsible for financial obligations to both schools.
3. Most GCU MSN-bridge courses are five weeks in length and delivered in a convenient online modality (clinical, practicum and immersion hours completed locally).
4. When you start your master's program, you may choose an emphasis in either Education, Health Informatics, Health Care Quality and Patient Safety, Leadership in Health Care Systems, Public Health or a dual degree MSN/MBA. See descriptions on page 7.
5. MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN graduates will have the opportunity to be prepared with the expected professional knowledge and skills of a new graduate master's prepared nurse.
6. Students accepted into this pathway will have a previous bachelor's degree and will not receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) as part of this pathway.
7. Midpoint entry is available to students who are currently in the MaricopaNursing nursing program between blocks 2 and 3. Contact your GCU university counselor for a midpoint entry application.

## Eligibility

To be considered for participation in the AAS-MSN NCEP, the following is required:

- ▶ Acceptance into the MaricopaNursing pool
- ▶ Completion of all MaricopaNursing and GCU prerequisite requirements
- ▶ Previous bachelor's degree from a GCU approved school
- ▶ Meet the minimum 3.0 GPA in all MaricopaNursing and GCU courses that are noted on the top of page 3

<sup>1</sup> NurseJournal. 2023, Jan. 31. [25 reasons to get a master's in nursing](#). Retrieved Nov. 2, 2023.

# Required Prerequisites and Corequisites

MaricopaNursing Prerequisites and Corequisites <sup>1</sup>
First Year Composition (ENG101 and ENG102 or ENG107 and ENG108) <sup>2</sup>
Critical Reading (CRE101) or test exempt
Chemistry (CHM130, CHM130LL) or high school chemistry with a lecture and lab component
Intermediate Algebra (MAT140 or higher)
Introduction to Psychology (PSY101 or PSY240) <sup>2</sup>
Human Anatomy & Physiology I and II (BIO201; BIO202) <sup>2</sup>
Microbiology (BIO205) <sup>2</sup>
Nurse Assisting (NUR158 or equivalent nurse assistant course)
Humanities Elective (2 credits)

<sup>1</sup>To ensure that prerequisites meet program requirements you are encouraged to meet with MaricopaNursing and GCU college advisors.

<sup>2</sup>Course used for GPA calculation. Course can be in-progress at the time of application.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

MaricopaNursing and GCU have health and safety requirements that must be met prior to enrolling and participating in any clinical experience. Health care agencies throughout the state require vaccinations, titers and other prerequisites such as background checks, CPR, substance screening, etc. These requirements are subject to change per health care agency contracts with the educational institution. You must be compliant (with no exception) with agency requirements prior to and throughout the program.

## Key Information

- ▶ You must have a current application in the MaricopaNursing pool before being considered for the pathway.
- ▶ You must complete all prerequisites and corequisites for MaricopaNursing and GCU.
- ▶ You must have a previous bachelor's degree from a GCU approved school.
- ▶ You are required to meet with MaricopaNursing and GCU university counselors to ensure your prerequisites meet pathway requirements.
- ▶ You must review and confirm the NCEP Information located at [nursing.maricopa.edu](http://nursing.maricopa.edu) under Concurrent Enrollment Pathways before applying to the MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP.
- ▶ All MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP nursing courses will be taught at the MaricopaNursing pathway location or online. MaricopaNursing coursework may be offered in a hybrid format (a portion of classes in person and a portion online).
- ▶ Final determinations of transfer credits will be made by both MaricopaNursing and GCU admissions personnel.

# Maricopa Nursing-GCU AAS-MSN Nursing Concurrent Enrollment Pathway

Previous Bachelor's Degree Required

Semester I	FALL ENTRY	Credits
(MN) NUR152	Maricopa Nursing Block 1	9
(GCU) NRS-415	Nursing Leadership and Interprofessional Collaboration (online five-week course)	3
Semester II	Spring	
(MN) NUR172	Maricopa Nursing Block 2	9
(GCU) NRS-420	Health Assessment (online five-week course)	3
Summer		
(GCU) HLT-362V	Applied Statistics for Health Care Professionals (online five-week course)	3
(GCU) NRS-445	Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice (online five-week course)	3
Semester III	Fall	
(MN) NUR252	Maricopa Nursing Block 3	9
(GCU) NRS-425	Health Promotion and Population Health (online five-week course)	3
Semester IV	Spring	
(MN) NUR283	Maricopa Nursing Block 4	9
(GCU) NRS-455	Pathophysiology (online five-week course or upper division equivalent credits)	3
Graduate from Maricopa Community College District with AAS; Pass NCLEX-RN Complete Remaining Bridge Course Requirements Enroll into MSN and complete Remaining Course Requirements <sup>1</sup>		
(GCU) NRS-465	Applied Evidence-Based Project and Practicum (10-week course; practicum completed locally) <sup>2</sup>	6
(GCU) NUR-513	Introduction to Advanced Registered Nursing (online eight-week course)	4
(GCU) NUR-514	Operational Leadership and Informatics (online eight-week course)	4
(GCU) NUR-550	Translational Research and Population Health Management (online eight-week course)	4
(GCU) NUR-590	Evidence-Based Practice Project (online eight-week course)	4
<b>Remaining MSN Courses Based on Emphasis Selected</b>		<b>20 – 24</b>

Semester I	SPRING ENTRY	Credits
(MN) NUR152	Maricopa Nursing Block 1	9
(GCU) NRS-415	Nursing Leadership and Interprofessional Collaboration (online five-week course)	3
Summer		
(GCU) HLT-362V	Applied Statistics for Health Care Professionals (online five-week course)	3
(GCU) NRS-445	Nursing Research and Evidence Based Practice (online five-week course)	3
Semester II	Fall	
(MN) NUR172	Maricopa Nursing Block 2	9
(GCU) NRS-420	Health Assessment (online five-week course)	3
Semester III	Spring	
(MN) NUR252	Maricopa Nursing Block 3	9
Summer		
(GCU) NRS-425	Health Promotion and Population Health (online five-week course)	3
Semester IV	Fall	
(MN) NUR283	Maricopa Nursing Block 4	9
(GCU) NRS-455	Pathophysiology (online five week course; or upper division equivalent credits)	3
Graduate from Maricopa Community College District with AAS; Pass NCLEX-RN Complete Remaining Bridge Course Requirements Enroll in MSN and Complete Remaining Course Requirements <sup>1</sup>		
(GCU) NRS-465	Applied Evidence-Based Project and Practicum (10-week course; practicum completed locally) <sup>2</sup>	6
(GCU) NUR-513	Introduction to Advanced Registered Nursing (online eight-week course)	4
(GCU) NUR-514	Operational Leadership and Informatics (online eight-week course)	4
(GCU) NUR-550	Translational Research and Population Health Management (online eight-week course)	4
(GCU) NUR-590	Evidence-Based Practice Project (online eight-week course)	4
<b>Remaining MSN Courses Based on Emphasis Selected</b>		<b>20 – 24</b>

<sup>1</sup> A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a previous bachelor's degree are required. Students will select a graduate program concentration and complete graduate-level coursework in their chosen graduate emphasis. Student may choose from the following graduate program emphases: Nursing Education, Nursing Leadership in Health Care Systems, Public Health, and Health Care Informatics. Students completing this concurrent enrollment program pathway will not receive a BSN but rather, GCU will confer an MSN upon completion of graduate program concentration requirements.

<sup>2</sup> 100 Direct Practicum Hours (50 Leadership / 50 Community – Public Health); Clinical Placement Requirements and Field Experience Counselor Support





# 11 STEPS *to Completion*

- 1.** Decide to pursue application to MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP.
- 2.** Meet with MaricopaNursing and GCU university counselors to determine your eligibility for the NCEP.
- 3.** Apply and be accepted into the MaricopaNursing applicant pool.
- 4.** Review the AAS-MSN NCEP information materials online and attend an information session at one of the MaricopaNursing colleges.
- 5.** Upload NCEP application, HESI A2 scores, fingerprint clearance card and unofficial transcripts from all educational institutions attended to the NCEP application found on the MaricopaNursing website.
- 6.** MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP Acceptance Committee reviews applications and selects applicants for admission into MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP for the upcoming semester.
- 7.** Applicants selected for placement are notified of application status and may accept or refuse placement.
- 8.** Work with your GCU university counselor to complete the GCU admission process.
- 9.** Study and maintain minimum GPA requirements for satisfactory academic progress into the MSN.
- 10.** Graduate with an AAS in Nursing from MaricopaNursing and take NCLEX-RN licensure exam within 60 days. Notify GCU of successful completion of NCLEX-RN exam and complete capstone NRS-465 course.
- 11.** Select MSN specialization, complete final credits of GCU MSN courses and graduate with an MSN from GCU.

# Frequently Asked

# QUESTIONS

## ▶ WHO CAN APPLY TO THE MARICOPA-GCU AAS-MSN NURSING CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PATHWAY (NCEP)?

All students who have completed the eligibility requirements for the MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP are encouraged to apply. A previous bachelor's degree is required.

## ▶ WILL I RECEIVE A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING (BSN) DEGREE ALONG THIS PATHWAY?

Students who are accepted into this NCEP will have a previous bachelor's degree in another subject and will not be granted a BSN. The coursework will result in an AAS in Nursing (from MaricopaNursing) and an MSN (focus to be determined by student) from GCU.

## ▶ WHERE DOES THE PROGRAM TAKE PLACE?

The AAS courses will be offered at MaricopaNursing pathway sites. GCU courses will be taught online. Clinical, practicum and immersion hours will be completed locally.

## ▶ IS THERE A WAITING LIST FOR THE MARICOPA-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP?

There is no waiting list for the MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP. If you are not accepted into the pathway for the semester to which you applied, you must reapply to be considered for enrollment in future semesters. Admittance is based on the MaricopaNursing point system.

## ▶ DO I HAVE TO ATTEND AN AAS-MSN NCEP INFORMATION SESSION?

Yes. All students who wish to apply to AAS-MSN NCEP must attend either an information session or review and confirm their understanding of the materials presented online at [nursing.maricopa.edu](http://nursing.maricopa.edu). The applications can be downloaded from the MaricopaNursing website.

## ▶ WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CONSULT WITH THE NURSING ADVISOR PRIOR TO APPLYING?

Bring your completed NCEP application, HESI A2 scores and copies of unofficial transcripts from all educational institutions attended. The MaricopaNursing advisor will review your application and will send it to the GCU university counselor for review.

## ▶ WHAT DO YOU LOOK FOR IN A POTENTIAL CANDIDATE THAT IS APPLYING FOR THE MARICOPA-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP?

We look for applicants who have demonstrated strong academic achievement and the ability to balance personal, academic and professional commitments. Student selection is based on GPA, HESI A2, completed prerequisites and corequisites and point system. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a previous bachelor's degree are required.

## ▶ IF I AM NOT SELECTED FOR THE MARICOPA-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP, CAN I REAPPLY?

As long as you meet the current NCEP requirements, you are eligible to reapply.

## ▶ DO I NEED TO BE ADMITTED TO THE MARICOPANURSING POOL AND TO GCU?

To be eligible to apply for the MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP, you must be in the MaricopaNursing applicant pool. Following your acceptance into the MaricopaNursing-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP, you should apply to GCU. Official transcripts from all educational institutions previously attended must then be submitted to both the MaricopaNursing college location you will attend and to GCU.

## ▶ IF I WILL NOT BE FINISHED WITH ALL OF MY PREREQUISITE AND COREQUISITE (MARICOPA) COURSES THE SEMESTER BEFORE I PLAN TO START THE PROGRAM, CAN I STILL APPLY FOR THE MARICOPA-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP?

No. To be eligible to apply, all prerequisite and corequisite courses must already be completed. The only exception is the HCR-240 course, which must still be completed before the start of block 1 of nursing school.



### ▶ HOW MUCH DOES THE MARICOPA-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP COST?

Tuition costs for the (approximate) 36 credits of MaricopaNursing AAS courses are approximately \$3,060.<sup>1</sup> Textbooks, supplies, registration and course fees are additional. During the concurrent enrollment pathway, students are charged for each course individually.

Tuition costs for the required credits of GCU BSN courses are significantly reduced to \$250 per credit hour.<sup>2</sup> Textbooks, supplies and course fees are additional. The remaining BSN courses are currently \$340 per credit.

### ▶ IF I AM RECEIVING FINANCIAL AID, HOW WILL IT BE DISBURSED BETWEEN THE TWO SCHOOLS?

You will need to apply for financial aid through Maricopa Community Colleges for the first four blocks of the program. You will be responsible for arranging payment for the concurrent GCU courses. At the completion of the MaricopaNursing blocks, you will have the ability to apply for financial aid through GCU for the completion of the MSN coursework. Financial aid is dependent on many factors that vary from student to student such as previous degrees, number of courses previously taken, etc. Aid or loans for this program are not guaranteed. You will need to be prepared to pay your GCU program tuition out of pocket or by arrangement with GCU until the balance of your financial aid is awarded by GCU.

### ▶ HOW ARE CLASSES SCHEDULED?

You will be registered for your MaricopaNursing classes through the community college admissions and records department. Course schedules will be posted on Canvas. A GCU university counselor will help you register for the GCU nursing courses. You will complete your GCU nursing courses online (with clinical, practicum and immersion hours completed locally). Your university counselor will help you get started and make sure you are comfortable with this interactive online classroom.

### ▶ WHEN DO I CHOOSE MY MSN SPECIALIZATION?

You will choose your MSN specialization when you enroll for the graduate portion of your program at GCU from one of the following:

**Health Informatics** — Learn to apply patient and health data to achieve better patient outcomes, reduce costs and optimize operational efficiency.

**Health Care Quality and Patient Safety** — Equip yourself to make a positive impact on the field of health care by developing the skills necessary to help ensure the safety and wellbeing of patients.

**Nursing Education** — Prepare yourself for a variety of roles in nursing education including patient education, as well as nurse educator in clinical and academic settings.

**Nursing Leadership in Health Care Systems** — Opportunity to develop skills to position yourself to potentially lead or manage teams of health care providers and organizations in today's rapidly changing health care environment.

**Public Health Nursing** — Prepare yourself for a potential career coordinating, planning, developing, implementing and evaluating health programs and services in the public sector.



<sup>1</sup> The cost of attendance (COA) takes into account expenses beyond tuition, fees and other costs paid directly to the university. It provides an aggregate of estimated expenses a student could incur during an academic year. Your academic year is determined by your modality (campus or online) and your program of study. Please visit our cost of attendance page at [gcu.edu/COA](http://gcu.edu/COA)

<sup>2</sup> MOU 7434: This scholarship is only valid for applicants who are current students of a Maricopa Community College Associate Degree Nursing Program, have a previously earned bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, submit a complete application for a program beginning on or before May 19, 2025. By committing to start your RN-MSN CEP through our online offering, Grand Canyon University will offer you a scholarship rate of \$250 per credit hour for the credits required to complete your CEP. This scholarship will be applied at the same time the tuition charges occur.



# CONTACT US TODAY *to Get Started!*

**Grand Canyon University  
Representatives for Each  
MaricopaNursing Site:**

**Paradise Valley CC**

Zach Short  
Transfer Specialist  
480-243-0067  
[zach.short@gcu.edu](mailto:zach.short@gcu.edu)

**Phoenix College**

Cheryl Galligan  
Transfer Specialist  
480-487-0421  
[cheryl.galligan@gcu.edu](mailto:cheryl.galligan@gcu.edu)

**Estrella Mountain CC**

Matt McFadden  
Transfer Specialist  
602-689-7349  
[matt.mcfadden@gcu.edu](mailto:matt.mcfadden@gcu.edu)

**Chandler-Gilbert CC**

Kristine Chinchon  
Transfer Specialist  
480-263-1983  
[kristine.chinchon@gcu.edu](mailto:kristine.chinchon@gcu.edu)

**Scottsdale CC**

Nicole Porter  
Transfer Specialist  
602-770-4364  
[nicole.porter@gcu.edu](mailto:nicole.porter@gcu.edu)

**Mesa CC**

Nichole Jacobson  
Transfer Specialist  
480-371-6210  
[nichole.jacobson@gcu.edu](mailto:nichole.jacobson@gcu.edu)

**Kasey Villalpando**

Transfer Specialist  
602-639-6068  
[kasey.villalpando@gcu.edu](mailto:kasey.villalpando@gcu.edu)

**GateWay CC**

Caylie Sandillo  
Transfer Specialist  
602-359-9119  
[caylie.sandillo@gcu.edu](mailto:caylie.sandillo@gcu.edu)

**Glendale CC**

Ryan Ruiz  
Transfer Specialist  
480-652-6737  
[ryan.ruiz@gcu.edu](mailto:ryan.ruiz@gcu.edu)

**Glendy Munoz-Medina**

Transfer Specialist  
602-206-6788  
[glendy.munozmedina@gcu.edu](mailto:glendy.munozmedina@gcu.edu)

**Maricopa Community Colleges  
District Office**

2411 W. 14th St.  
Tempe, AZ 85281  
480-731-8264  
[nursing@domail.maricopa.edu](mailto:nursing@domail.maricopa.edu)  
[nursing.maricopa.edu](mailto:nursing.maricopa.edu)

**Grand Canyon University**

3300 W. Camelback Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85017  
[NCEP@gcu.edu](mailto:NCEP@gcu.edu)  
[gcu.edu/CONHCP](http://gcu.edu/CONHCP)