

Pima Community College and Grand Canyon University

# AAS in Nursing to Master of Science in Nursing Concurrent Enrollment Program



**GRAND CANYON**  
UNIVERSITY™

College of Nursing and Health Care Professions

## Pima Community College-Grand Canyon University AAS-MSN Nursing Concurrent Enrollment Program (NCEP)

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

Building on the academic foundation of your previous degree, the AAS-MSN NCEP allows you to take six core nursing courses from the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program at GCU concurrently with your AAS courses at Pima Community College. Once you complete your AAS and BSN courses and pass the NCLEX, you will move into the MSN portion of your program.

### Why Choose This Path?

- **Jump start your nursing career.** By concurrently enrolling in the AAS with Pima Community College and the GCU MSN Bridge (the core courses from the BSN), you'll learn hands-on nursing skills, as well as gain the core competencies of the highly sought-after bachelor's-prepared nurse.
- **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 career goals. This accelerated path to your MSN allows you to put your prior education and experience to work sooner.
- **Set yourself apart from the competition.** NCEP courses will help you develop clinical reasoning, critical thinking and problem solving skills—all highly valued skills in the marketplace. With these skills, you'll put yourself ahead of 60% of other nurses who graduate with an associate degree or diploma in nursing<sup>1</sup>. Additionally, your commitment to earning your master's degree can give you an advantage especially with hospitals that have or are seeking Magnet status.
- **Specialize in an area of interest.** The MSN is the new standard for positions of leadership in a variety of health care environments (MSN with an Emphasis in Leadership in Health Care Settings) and is the required degree for higher education and many roles in clinical and community settings (MSN with an Emphasis in Education). You can also develop your expertise to pursue a career in a key nursing area with emphases in Public Health or Informatics. You may also choose to use this NCEP to move into the dual degree MSN/MBA.
- **Save money.** You'll receive a significant tuition reduction on your BSN-bridge courses while enrolled in the NCEP. As a PCC graduate, you'll also be eligible for a discount on your MSN program at GCU.

### Things You Should Know

- 1) You will need to apply for acceptance into the NCEP and also 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 Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP.
- 2) If accepted into the NCEP, you will be enrolled in PCC and GCU at the same time. You will be responsible for financial obligations to both schools.
- 3) GCU MSN-bridge courses are five weeks and delivered in a convenient online modality.
- 4) When you enter your master's program, you can choose an emphasis in either Nursing Education, Nursing Leadership in Health Care Systems, Public Health or Health Care Informatics. See descriptions on page 7. requirements specific to the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP.
- 5) Pima-GCU AAS-MSN graduates will 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's of Science in Nursing (BSN) as part of this program.**

### Eligibility

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

- Acceptance into the Pima Community College pool.
- Completion of all Pima Community College and GCU prerequisite requirements.
- Have a previous bachelor's degree.
- Meet the minimum GPA of 3.0 in all Pima Community College and GCU courses that are noted with one asterisk (\*) on the following page.
- Register for and attend an Application Session after attending a CEP Information Session.

## REQUIRED PREREQUISITES AND COREQUISITES:

Pima Community College Prerequisites and Corequisites	Additional Prerequisites
Accuplacer $\geq$ 92 within 2 years of program application	BIO 218 Pathophysiology* (Pima) or NRS 410V (GCU)
Documented Math at MAT 151 by Assessment Exam or MAT 097 (not older than 4 years)*	
BIO 201IN or BIO 202IH (not older than 4 years)*	
BIO 202IN (not older than 4 years)*	
BIO 205IN*	
PSY 101* (not older than 4 years)*	
PSY 240* (ECE107* qualifies if the student has been awarded a bachelor's degree or AGEC-A)	
WRT 101*	
WRT 102*	
Humanities/Fine Art/Leadership & Ethics Global Awareness AGEC-A, C or G	

\*Courses used for GPA calculation

### KEY INFORMATION

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

- You must have a current application in the Pima Community College pool before being considered for the program.
- You must complete all prerequisites and corequisites for Pima Community College and GCU.
- You must have a previous bachelor's degree.
- To ensure that prerequisites meet program requirements, you are encouraged to meet with PCC and GCU advisors.
- Attendance at a NCEP Information Session and a NCEP Application Session are mandatory before application to the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP program.
- All Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP nursing courses will be taught at the Pima Community College program location or online. Pima Community College 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 Pima and GCU admissions personnel.
- Application deadline for entry into the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP is Feb. 1 annually.



### HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Pima Community College and Grand Canyon University 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 requirements such as background checks, CPR, drug and nicotine testing, 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.

<sup>1</sup>\* U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration. (September 2010) Nurse Population Findings from the 2008 National Sample Survey of Registered Nurses. Retrieved from <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/rnsurveys/rnsurveyfinal.pdf>



## Pima-GCU AAS-MSN Nursing Concurrent Enrollment Program

(Previous Bachelor's Degree Required)

Course of Study: Fall Entry

Semester I	Fall	Total: 15 credits
(PCC) NRS 104	Nursing Process I	8 Credits
(PCC) NRS 108	Drug Calculations	1 Credit
(PCC) NRS 155	Pharmacology	3 Credits
(GCU) NRS430V	Professional Dynamics	3 Credits
Semester II	Spring	Total: 12 credits
(PCC) NRS 105	Nursing Process II	9 Credits
(GCU) NRS434VN	Health Assessment	3 Credits
Semester III	Summer	Total: 6 credits
(GCU) HLT362V	Statistics	3 Credits
(GCU) NRS433V	Nursing Research	3 Credits
Semester IIV	Fall	Total: 12 credits
(PCC) NRS 201	Nursing Process III	9 Credits
(GCU) NRS427VN	Community and Public Health	3 Credits
Semester V	Spring	Total: 12 credits
(PCC) NRS 202	Nursing Process IV	9 Credits
(GCU) NRS451VN	Nursing Leadership and Management	3 Credits
<b>Graduate from Pima Nursing with AAS degree; take NCLEX-RN within 60 days.</b>		
<b>Notify GCU of successful completion of NCLEX-RN</b>		
	Each four-credit master's course is completed in 8 weeks.	
GCU Graduate Core NUR513, NUR514, NUR550	NUR-513 Intro to Advanced Registered Nursing NUR-514 Organizational Leadership and Informatics NUR-550 Translational Research, Population Health Management	12 credits
	Graduate program concentration	24-36 credits

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP

### Who can apply to the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN Nursing Concurrent Enrollment Program (NCEP)?

All students who have completed the eligibility requirements for the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP, and are not currently enrolled in a Pima Community College program, are encouraged to apply. A previous bachelor's degree is also required.

### Will I receive a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree along this pathway?

No. 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 Pima Community College and an MSN (focus to be determined by student) from GCU.

### Where does the program take place?

The Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP will be offered at all Pima Community College program sites and AAS courses will be offered at the selected Pima Community College campus. All GCU courses will be taught online.

### Is there a waiting list for the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP?

There is no waiting list for the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP. If you are not accepted into the program for the semester to which you applied, you must reapply to be considered for enrollment in future semesters.

### Do I have to attend an AAS-MSN NCEP Information Session?

Yes. All students who wish to make application to AAS-MSN NCEP must attend an information session. The applications can be downloaded from the Pima Community College website – [www.nursing.Pima.edu](http://www.nursing.Pima.edu). Check your student status page for locations, dates, times and registration instructions. You must be in attendance for the entire Information Session in order to have your name placed on the list for program consideration, so plan to arrive on time and remain for the entire session.

### How do I register to attend a Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP Information Session?

Registration for the NCEP Information Session is completed through your Pima Community College student status page.

### Do I have to attend a Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP Application Session?

Yes. Representatives will be on site for these evaluation sessions to determine if your courses meet all eligibility requirements, so it is essential that you attend one. Registration for an Application Session is completed through your Pima Community College student status page.

### What should I bring to the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP Application Session?

Bring your completed NCEP Application, HESI A2 scores and copies of unofficial transcripts from all educational institutions attended.

### What do you look for in a potential candidate that is applying for the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP?

We look for applicants who have demonstrated strong academic achievement and the ability to balance personal, academic and professional commitments. Specifically, student selection will be based on GPA and HESI A2 scores. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and a previous bachelor's degree is required.

### If I am not selected for the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP, can I reapply?

As long as you meet the current NCEP requirements and are not enrolled in a Pima Community College program, you are eligible to reapply.

### Do I need to be admitted to the Pima Community College pool and to GCU?

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

### If I will not be finished with all of my prerequisite and corequisite (Pima) courses the semester before I plan to start the program, can I still apply for the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP?

To be eligible to submit an application, all prerequisite and Pima corequisite courses must be completed.



**How much does the Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP cost?**

Tuition costs\* for the (approximate) 39 credits of Pima Community College AAS courses = approximately \$4114.50. Textbooks, supplies, registration and course fees are additional. Tuition costs\* for the required credits of GCU BSN bridge courses are significantly reduced to \$250 per credit hour. Textbooks, supplies and course fees are additional. Graduate Nursing Program tuition is currently \$495 per credit (not including the PCC alumni discount). A GCU representative can help you determine your total cost of tuition and fees with our Net Price Calculator.

\* Pima tuition

Credit Hours	General Tuition	Differential Tuition A*	Differential Tuition B*
1	\$78.50	\$102	\$110

**If I am receiving financial aid, how will it be disbursed between the two schools?**

Because federal regulations require that financial aid can only be disbursed through one college at a time, you will need to apply for financial aid through Pima 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 Pima Community College 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 degree(s), number of courses previously taken, etc., and 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 Pima Community College classes through the community college admissions and records department. A GCU student services counselor (SSC) will help you register for the GCU nursing courses. You will conduct your GCU nursing courses online in LoudCloud. Your SSC will help you get started and make sure you are comfortable with this interactive online classroom.

**When do I choose my MSN emphasis?**

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

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



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

**Nursing Leadership in Health Care Systems**—Develop skills to lead or manage teams of health care providers and organizations in today’s rapidly changing health care environment

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

**Where do I go for academic advisement for this program?**

There are GCU counselors assigned to each PCC campus who are available to meet with students while at PCC or at a location convenient to you. Once accepted into the program, you will be assigned a GCU student services counselor to assist you with any scheduling or financial questions you may have. Pima Community College advisors are available on each Pima campus.

<b>Pima Community College</b>	West Campus Advising Center or Division of Nursing 520-206-6661
<b>Grand Canyon Representatives for each Pima Community College campus</b>	Luis Ordonez Transfer Specialist 520-268-4011 luis.ordonez@gcu.edu

**12 Steps to Successful Completion of Pima-GCU AAS-MSN Nursing Concurrent Enrollment (NCEP) Program**

<b>1:</b>	You decide to pursue application to Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP.
<b>2:</b>	Meet with Pima Community College and GCU advisors to determine that course prerequisites and corequisites for Pima Community College and GCU College of Nursing and Health Care Professions are met.
<b>3:</b>	Apply and get accepted into the Pima Community College pool.
<b>4:</b>	Register for and attend the AAS-MSN NCEP Information Session.
<b>5:</b>	Register for the AAS-MSN NCEP Application Session. Gather HESI A2 scores and unofficial transcripts from all educational institutions attended.
<b>6:</b>	Attend the Application Session and submit admission checklist, NCEP application, HESI A2 scores and unofficial transcripts.
<b>7:</b>	Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP Acceptance Committee reviews applications and selects applicants for admission into Pima-GCU AAS-MSN NCEP for the upcoming semester.
<b>8:</b>	Applicants selected for placement are notified of application status and accept/refuse placement.
<b>9:</b>	Apply to GCU and enroll in the first two courses. Enroll in the first Pima nursing course.
<b>10:</b>	Study and maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA for progression into the MSN.
<b>11:</b>	Graduate with AAS in Nursing from Pima and take NCLEX-RN licensure exam within 60 days. Notify GCU of successful completion of NCLEX-RN.
<b>12:</b>	Select MSN specialization and complete final credits of GCU MSN courses and graduate with MSN from GCU.





Pima Community Colleges  
West Campus Advising Center  
Division of Nursing  
520-206-6661  
Web: <https://pima.edu/programs-courses/credit-programs-degrees/health-professions/nursing/nursing-aas.html>



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Web: [gcu.edu/CONHCP](http://gcu.edu/CONHCP)

**Contact Us Today to Get Started!**

For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at [gcu.edu/disclosures](http://gcu.edu/disclosures). Please note, not all GCU programs are available in all states and in all learning modalities. Program availability is contingent on student enrollment. Grand Canyon University is regionally accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. (800-621-7440; <http://www.ncahlc.org/>). The baccalaureate degree in nursing, master's degree in nursing, and post-graduate APRN certificates at Grand Canyon University are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/accreditation>). GCU's College of Nursing and Health Care Professions is also approved by the Arizona State Board of Nursing.  
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