

Overview Addendum

Georgia College & State University

Georgia College & State University (GC) is Georgia's only designated public liberal arts university. The university is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral degrees. The University has a rich history in higher education that began in 1889, when it was originally chartered as Georgia Normal and Industrial College, a two-year college for women. At that time, it was the state's only women's college with an emphasis on teacher training and business skills.

In keeping with its liberal arts mission, the University strives to have small classes that give many opportunities for individual student attention. Community based learning is an important concept at the university and the students, faculty and staff members collaborate with the communities of middle Georgia to provide unique educational experiences for our students that contribute to the local area and beyond. This involvement in community is evident in Georgia College's Quality Enhancement Plan, [ENGAGE](#), which provides a blueprint for building a culture of engaged learning through the development of structured and assessable Community based Engaged Learning experiences that connect students with the liberal arts and the wider community.

Tuition and fees (FY19) for a full-time undergraduate student who is a resident of the state of Georgia are \$4,673 per semester. Out-of-state tuition for full-time undergraduate students is \$14,030 per semester. The MSN and DNP programs are distance learning and students pay instate tuition rates which are extremely competitive at \$4,819.00 for 12 semester credit hours in Appendix I E.2.d. Compared to private liberal arts universities of similar size, GC offers a similar educational experience while being able to offer affordable tuition rates that are a fraction of the rates of those institutions. [The Graduate School](#) is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as one of the best master's level universities in the south. More than 70 percent of students receive some form of financial assistance. Additional information can be located in the Georgia College Fact Book 2018 https://irout.GC.edu/factbook16/Fact_Book_2018.pdf

Currently the SON offers the following degree programs: pre-licensure, RN/BSN completion, MSN (Family Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner and Nurse Educator) and a post-master's Doctor of Nursing Practice. Additionally, the SON offers a post-master's certificate for all APRN focuses. Because of declining enrollment and interest in the RN-BSN program and the availability of this degree at other University System of Georgia institutes, the program is being deactivated in December of 2019. This will enable the GC SON to focus additional resources on the high demand BSN, MSN, and DNP programs.

The new post-baccalaureate MSN nurse midwifery (MSN-NM) program and NM post-master's certificate is projected to begin in summer, of 2020, enrolling five to six students, eventually growing to 12 students per cohort. The Georgia College MSN-NM is a 45 credit program designed to meet the *ACNM Core Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice*. The MSN-NM consists of six semesters of full time study or nine semesters part-time. For students who already hold an MSN, DNP, or Ph.D. in Nursing degree but are not board certified APRNs and are missing the "3 Ps" (Physical assessment, pathophysiology, pharmacology), the course requirements can take up to two years to complete for a total of 31 credit hours.

For students who hold an APRN license and are board certified in a specialty area, an individualized program of study will be developed by the program coordinator in the School of Nursing after determining equivalency of courses. A possible plan of study ranges from 16 to 27 credit hours. Residency requirement of 11 credit hours is the minimum number required by GC to obtain the post-master certificate.

The MSN-NM program and post masters certificate will be offered fully online (didactic content) with the clinical component of the program being face-to-face campus immersion experiences in the Simulation and Translational Research Center and faculty supervised/precepted clinical hours. Clinical experiences are obtained in a variety of locations and settings in Georgia.

Planning for the MSN-NM program and post master's certificate began in 2017 when the School of Nursing was approached by area stakeholders to consider offering a midwifery program to address the shortage of providers in this area. Currently the state of Georgia has only one university who offers a midwifery program and that is at a private institution that only offers a face-to-face program. Located in Milledgeville, Georgia College School of Nursing is in close

proximity to a number of rural and medically underserved counties. Georgia College is well positioned to help address this critical shortage in our state. Currently the School of Nursing has three experienced and qualified Certified Nurse Midwives on faculty who are available to develop and head the nurse midwifery program.

Information about Georgia College & State University is available at <https://www.gcsu.edu> and information about the School of Nursing Graduate and Doctoral Programs is available at <https://www.gcsu.edu/health/nursing/nursing-msn>

