

First Look

**at Rush University
College of Nursing**

**Generalist Entry Masters (GEM)
in Nursing Program**



First Look



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Dear Future Cohort 30,

Thank you for your interest in Rush University's College of Nursing Generalist Entry Masters (GEM) in Nursing Program and we are excited to get to know you better during your interview. You are entering the field of nursing at a unique time in our world's history. Now more than ever, the importance and value of the incredible work of nurses is being recognized and celebrated.

We are excited to welcome you to this distinguished nursing community. While we wish we could meet you in person, this document will give insight into who we are and the student experience here at Rush. Rush University College of Nursing continues to receive [top rankings by U.S. News & World Report](#) and we are thrilled that you are considering Rush for your nursing education. Among the nation's 578 nursing colleges with graduate programs, Rush ranks in the top five percent for Master of Science in Nursing programs. In addition, [Rush University Medical Center earned a top spot on U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Hospitals Honor Roll](#). This year, Rush holds the 17th spot among the nearly 3,000 U.S. hospitals evaluated, with 11 programs ranked among the nation's best.

In March 2020, Rush University quickly and efficiently made the decision to conduct all learning remotely. We have excellent capabilities to provide instruction online, and have excelled as leaders in online learning throughout the university. Additionally, all Rush campus services have gone digital and are available to students just as they would be on campus. Students were given remote access to all University campus resources such as the Office of the Registrar, Financial Aid, Center for Academic Excellence, Nursing Learning Lab tutoring, Office of Accommodations and Wellness Resources.

The College of Nursing is no stranger to remote and distance learning. Almost all of our nursing programs are conducted online and we are currently ranked [#1 in the nation by U.S. News and World Report for online graduate nursing](#).

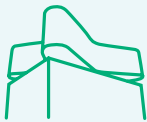
COVID-19 Update

On behalf of the MSN team, we understand how many have been impacted by COVID-19 — this includes not only those diagnosed with the virus, but also their friends and family, those whose jobs and schools have been impacted and so many more. Our focus is, as always, on the health and safety of our students, patients, faculty, staff and communities. Throughout the upcoming months of the pandemic, we will continue to communicate any changes and how they will affect you and

your education for future terms. To adhere to local COVID-19 safety guidelines, there may be changes to in-person learning opportunities. We will communicate any changes to you as information becomes available. For example, COVID-19 changes for the 20-21 academic year included all first term activities to be held in the remote learning environment and all term 2-6 didactic coursework to be held remotely, while maintaining in-person clinical courses.

Rush has been recognized as a national leader in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about Rush's response to this global health care crisis and see how our nursing faculty and students have used their voices and expertise to make an impact nationally and at the local level in Chicago communities:

- [Rush University Medical Center was built for a moment like this.](#) Take a look inside the calm at the center of Chicago's coronavirus storm with the Chicago Tribune.
- [Nurses Are Playing a Crucial Role in this Pandemic—as Always.](#) Nursing faculty Janice Phillips, PhD, and Cathy Catrambone, PhD, take a look back at nursing's contributions to improving the public's health during times of crisis dating back to the days of Florence Nightingale to the present COVID-19 pandemic in the Scientific American.
- [Black Chicagoans have been dying of COVID-19 at an alarmingly high rate, forcing leaders to confront a system of neglect.](#) Watch this Washington Post interview with nursing faculty Angela Moss, PhD, about her work that is addressing health-care gaps in Chicago neighborhoods.
- [Who Goes First? Vaccine Mistrust Historic and Rooted in Injustice.](#) Katherine Buaron, RN, community health nurse in the College's Office of Faculty Practice, writes about why COVID-19 vaccine mistrust is high among minority populations in an op-ed for Ms. Magazine.



We are dedicated to providing a high-quality student experience, and are committed to equipping you with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to be successful in your nursing career.

Throughout this time, we have confirmed that nurses are strong, hopeful and most importantly, resilient. We've had to be flexible and adapt to the changing world around us in order to best protect our communities and those most vulnerable around us.

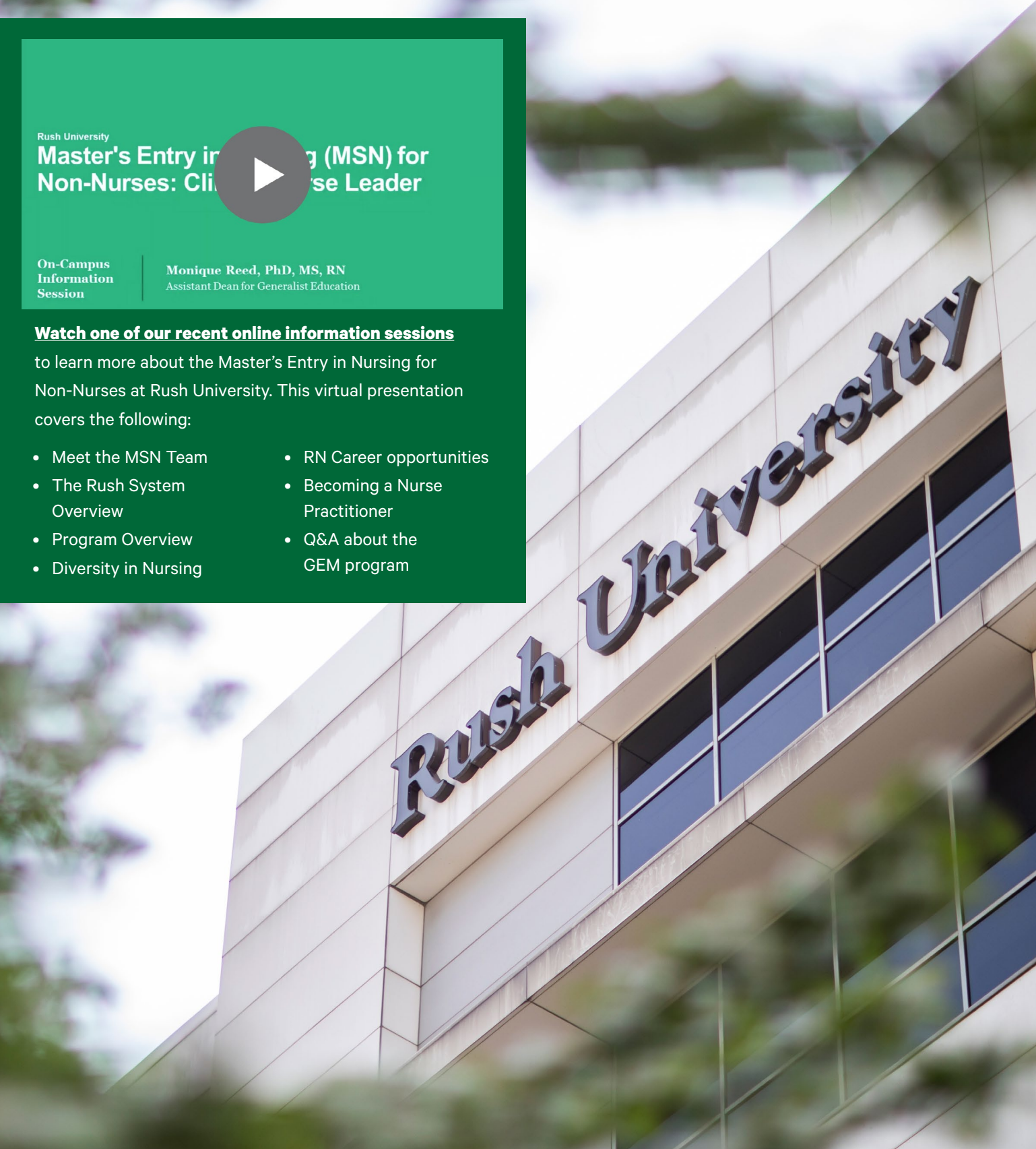
We look forward to virtually welcoming you to Rush University and appreciate your understanding during these times.

Sincerely,



Monique Reed, PhD, RN
Associate Professor & Assistant Dean, Generalist Education
Community, Systems and Mental Health Nursing

Program Information



Rush University Master's Entry in Nursing (MSN) for Non-Nurses: Clinical Nurse Leader

On-Campus
Information
Session

Monique Reed, PhD, MS, RN
Assistant Dean for Generalist Education

Watch one of our recent online information sessions

to learn more about the Master's Entry in Nursing for Non-Nurses at Rush University. This virtual presentation covers the following:

- Meet the MSN Team
- The Rush System Overview
- Program Overview
- Diversity in Nursing
- RN Career opportunities
- Becoming a Nurse Practitioner
- Q&A about the GEM program

Rush University System for Health

The Rush University System for Health is comprised of Rush University Medical Center, Rush Copley Medical Center, Rush Oak Park Hospital, Rush University Children's Hospital, and numerous outpatient facilities across the Chicagoland area in addition to Rush University. Rush University Medical Center is attached to Rush University and located on the west side of Chicago. It is a 700-bed nonprofit academic medical center serving adults and children as well as Rush University.



Rush University is home to one of the nation's top ranked nursing colleges, one of the first medical colleges in the Midwest (founded in 1837) in addition to graduate programs in allied health, health systems management and biomedical research. It is comprised of the College of Nursing (over 1,200 students), the Medical College, College of Health Science and the Graduate College.

Mission and Vision



Our mission is to educate a broadly diverse student body who will deliver exceptional health care, generate innovative knowledge, and provide transformative leadership to improve health outcomes for all populations. Our vision is to lead healthcare transformation through innovative nursing education, practice, research, and scholarly inquiry.





Master’s Entry in Nursing: Clinical Nurse Leader (GEM) Program

Within the College of Nursing, our Master’s Entry in Nursing: Clinical Nurse Leader (GEM) program is designed for students who already have a bachelor’s degree in another field, and want to pursue a career in nursing. Our program focuses on clinical leadership and prepares students to successfully sit for the NCLEX (RN licensure exam, 98% first time pass rate) and Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) certification.

This is a full-time program, 24 months in length. Our fast-paced curriculum combines didactic and clinical coursework throughout the program. Classes and clinicals are generally held Monday to Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Critical elements in the role of a Clinical Nurse Leader are promoting health, reducing risk, and improving point-of-care outcomes. The program includes the comprehensive clinical leadership content — evidence-based practice, quality improvement, clinical outcomes management, care coordination, team building and delegation, inter-professional communication, informatics and fiscal accountability — that will allow you to deliver quality patient care and improved outcomes.

In today’s complex health care environments, from acute to chronic to community settings, nurses are taking on more responsibility for the delivery of quality patient care. In addition to being prepared to function at a high level as a nurse in an inpatient, outpatient or community setting, you will also be poised to pursue an advanced practice DNP or PhD in nursing degree.

DNP or PhD Tuition Reimbursement

Currently after one year of employment at Rush University Medical Center or Rush Oak Park Hospital your DNP or PhD tuition is reimbursed at 100% while employed as an RN working at Rush University Medical Center or Rush Oak Park Hospital and enrolled in a DNP or PhD program part time. Additionally, up to five of your GEM courses will transfer over to these programs.



Clinical Experience

The program integrates education, practice and research in order to prepare you to become a nurse. By the time you graduate you will have completed 1,140 clinical hours, affording rich clinical experiences with adults, children and older adults in a variety of health care settings. This will include your immersion in Term 6. In immersion, you will be you will be taking on the majority of the work of a nurse in a specialty area aligned with your interests for a total of 200 hours. During this term, you will also be conducting research for your Capstone presentation. We will arrange all of your clinicals. Clinical practice sites include Rush University Medical Center and other health care facilities in the Chicago metropolitan area.

Our Faculty

At Rush, a top-tier academic medical center, you will learn from practitioner-teachers who actually practice what they teach. You will have a different clinical experience every term providing a broad overview of all of the major specialties in which nurses work, as well as a variety of settings across the health care continuum and it starts in the first two weeks. You’ll also have volunteer opportunities to expand your education beyond Rush University Medical Center.

New Advisor Model

Our new advisor model was first trialed with the post-licensure MSN program. Due to its success we decided to implement it for the Master’s Entry in Nursing: Clinical Nurse Leader (GEM) Program.

With this model you will be assigned two advisors. One will be a Professional Nursing Advisor. This person will serve as a support for your future nursing career. They will connect you to a mentor in your interest area and to volunteer opportunities. You will also be assigned to an Administrative Advisor. The purpose of the Administrative Advisor is to insure that you are compliant with as well as receive guidance on all of our policies such as academic progression. They will provide proactive support as in connecting you with resources within the college to help you in the program. These resources provide support in areas such as study skills, time management, and connecting you with the Nursing Learning Lab. They will also support any issues that may arise while you are in the program such as taking a leave of absence, withdrawing from a course, revision of your plan of study etc.

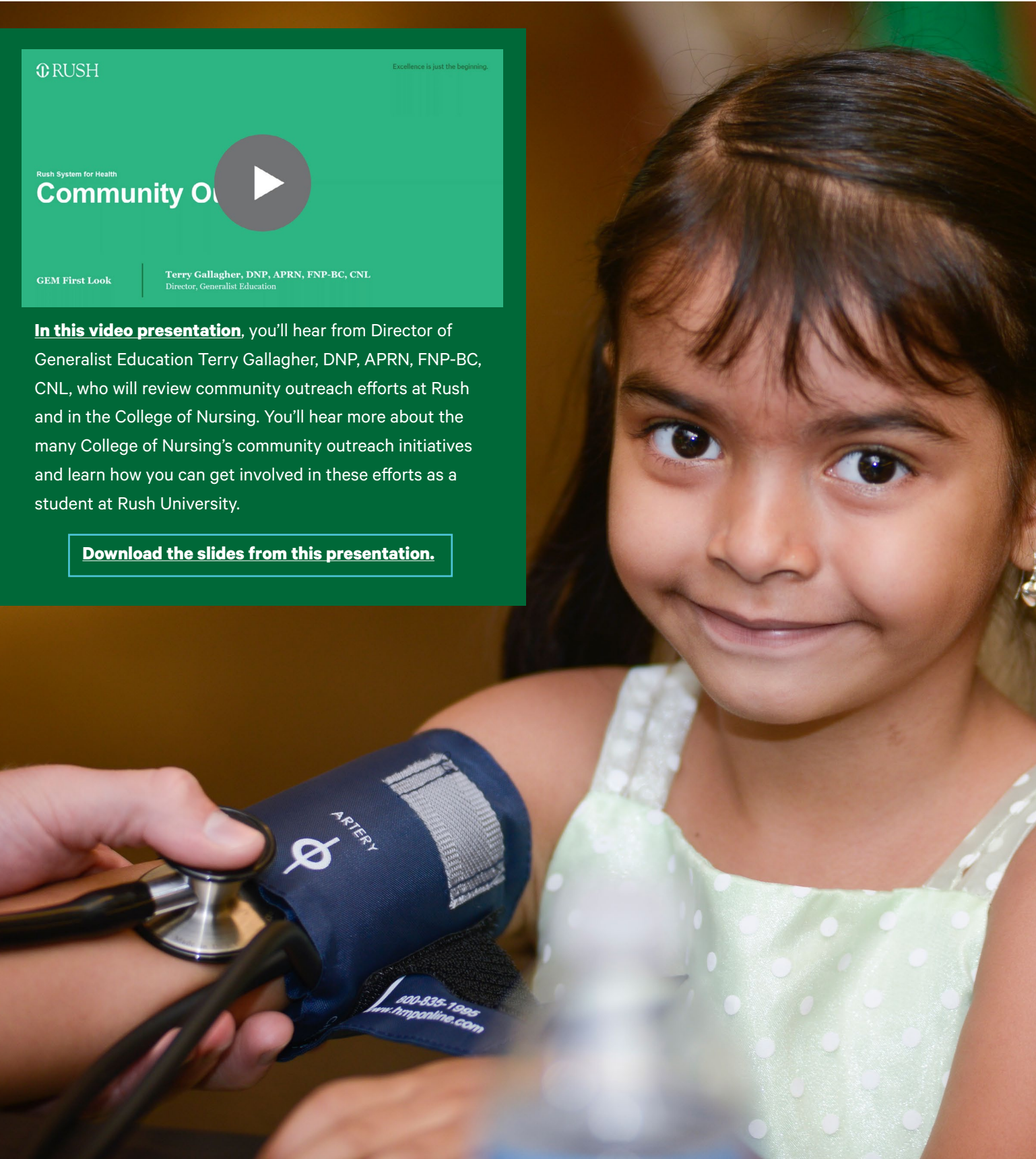
We feel strongly that separating these two advising roles will insure that all students are getting the support that they need. It will allow all students have access to the mentorship that our faculty provides as well as consistency in sharing of policies within the College of Nursing.

The Nursing Learning Lab is a resource and support center for College of Nursing MSN students offering:

- Open Lab Practice Sessions
- Content review & BOOST Sessions
- Book and Supply Rentals
- Peer Tutoring Services
- Academic Support
- Connection to other university resources including the Wellness Center, Accommodations Office, Diversity & Inclusion, the Center for Academic Excellence, the McCormick Educational Technology Center (METC), [Center for Teaching Excellence and Innovation](#) and the Rush University Library.

In the virtual environment, advisors are readily available to schedule individual virtual meetings, similar to what would be available in person.

Community Outreach



Office of Community Health Equity and Engagement



The mission of the [Office of Community Health Equity and Engagement](#) is to enable and support Rush University Medical Center in fulfilling its commitment to improve the quality of life within Rush's diverse neighboring communities through initiatives and partnerships.

Rush in the Community

Chicago's West Side has been Rush's home since 1873. We share our community with a diverse population, culturally rich neighborhoods and other institutions that serve residents all over the city and the region.

But for too long, much of the West Side has been overlooked and under-resourced. People who live in the neighborhoods at the center of Rush's service area are working through the effects of decades of structural racism and economic deprivation, including higher levels of poverty and unemployment; crowded housing; and lower rates of education and health insurance.

[Learn more about how Rush is working to achieve health equity and fulfilling its commitment to improving the quality of life in Rush's diverse neighboring communities.](#)



Rush Community Services Initiative Programs (RCSIP)

[Rush Community Services Initiative Programs](#) are providing health care to people in underserved communities. They are educating the community about healthy living as well as disease prevention and management. Additionally, they are training and educating young people about the wide range of career opportunities in health sciences.

RCSIP Sites

Explore the RCSIP sites and programs to learn more about how Rush students, faculty and staff reach out to those in need both within the Medical Center and beyond through these initiatives.

[Buddies](#)

[Tobacco Cessation Initiative](#)

[Correctional Health Initiative](#)

[The Road Home Program](#)

[RCSIP Clinic at Franciscan Outreach on Harrison Street](#)

[RCSIP Clinic at Freedom Center](#)

[RCSIP Clinic at Haymarket Center](#)

[Community Health Clinic \(CHC\)](#)

[Chicago Recovery Alliance Medical Mobile Van](#)

[Chicago Public Schools \(CPS\) Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#)

[Instituto Health Science Career Academy](#)

[Mini-Medical School](#)

Additional Information

If you are interested in volunteering in a RCSIP program, please contact Sharon Gates for more information:

Sharon Gates
Senior Director, Community Engagement
Rush University Medical Center

Tel: (312) 942-3670 Email: sharon_gates@rush.edu



Through the [Rush Community Service Initiatives Program](#), Rush University students, faculty, residents, fellows and staff to use their distinct skills and talents to make a difference in our community and beyond.



Global Health

Rush has clinics in Villa Verde (Dominican Republic) and Jerusalem (Haiti). Partnering with local physicians and community health workers, our teams assist with the overwhelming need for care in the community. Participants on trips diagnose, treat and manage acute and chronic medical conditions as well as provide health education. Currently, there are approximately seven primary care trips a year.



Rush University College of Nursing Response to COVID-19

Nurses have been crucial to the COVID-19 response and have been redeployed all over Chicago where they are needed. We have increased ICU beds, expanded telehealth, health education, and begun grocery, medication and mask delivery. Rush became involved very early on, along with other providers, to address the needs of the homeless. It quickly became a citywide response to homelessness – Chicago Homelessness and Health Response Group for Equity (CHRRGE). The [CHRRGE White Paper](#) outlines what this group has done to address homelessness in Chicago.

In addition the CHRRGE group, nurses from the College of Nursing created the only isolation facility for the homeless in all of Chicago and Cook County. We have also recently signed a partnership agreement with Kane County. Anyone who is COVID-19 positive, but does not need to be in the hospital, can stay at this facility with us. The isolation facility was featured in the [Washington Post](#). Our students have also been with us in the response, volunteering to test people for COVID-19 at a variety of shelters and to help them isolate or quarantine based on their need. Students also put together kits for COVID-19 positive people to help them in recovery.



In all of our responses to COVID-19, students have been included, as we always say, we are training future colleagues. Browse the information below to learn more about the College of Nursing’s response to COVID-19.

[Black Chicagoans have been dying of COVID-19 at an alarmingly high rate, forcing leaders to confront a system of neglect.](#) Watch this Washington Post interview with nursing faculty Angela Moss, PhD, about her work that is addressing health-care gaps in Chicago neighborhoods.

[Download the CHRRGE white paper.](#)

[Rush students stepping up to help our most vulnerable neighbors.](#)

Financial Aid



RUSH UNIVERSITY

RUSH MEDICAL COLLEGE • COLLEGE OF NURSING • COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES • THE GRADUATE COLLEGE



Overview of Financial Aid

Office of Student Financial Aid

Rush University

In this video presentation, you'll hear from Rush University's Office of Student Financial Aid who will review how to apply for financial aid, types of aid available, overall cost of attendance, student loan information and more.

[Download the slides from this presentation.](#)



If you are interested in applying for financial assistance, you will need to complete and submit a few financial aid forms. At the very least, it is highly recommended that you apply for an [FSA ID](#) and complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) prior to your interview. All application items should be completed for the 2021-2022 academic year and can be obtained from the Office of Student Financial Aid website at [Office of Student Financial Aid](#). We encourage all applicants planning to apply for aid to complete the items listed below.

Financial Aid Forms

We ask that everyone who is considering applying for aid fill out the following forms:

[Apply for a FSA ID](#)

Complete the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA). Rush University's school code is **009800**.

Complete the [Loan Agreement for Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loan \(MPN\)](#)

Complete the [Loan Agreement for a Plus Loan \(MPN\)](#)

Complete [Grad PLUS origination form](#)

Contact Information

For questions related to financial aid and/or the forms above, please contact the Office of Student Financial Aid directly.

Office of Student Financial Aid
(312) 942-6256
financial_aid@rush.edu
Hours: 8 am - 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday



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Hear from Our Students

As part of the interview process, you are invited to learn more about the Generalist Entry Masters (GEM) program at a virtual student Q&A panel discussion where you will have an opportunity to ask a panel of current students any questions you may have about the program.

Please RSVP for the GEM First Look Student Panel by February 1, 2021 [here](#). Although we strongly recommend applicants attend the GEM First Look student panel, we understand everyone may not be able to attend.

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 | 6:00-7:00 p.m. CST

[Register Now](#)



Hear directly from Generalist Entry Master's students about their experience at Rush University College of Nursing:

[Tips and advice for new students from current Rush University nursing students](#)

Keeping up with Keith

[Keith Ecker](#) regularly blogs about his experience and everyday life as a Rush University nursing student through the National Council of State Boards of Nursing. Read through some of his most recent blog posts to learn more about his experience attending nursing school during a pandemic, maintaining school-life balance and many other current topics and issues affecting nursing students today.



Men in Nursing

Three male nursing students from Rush University College of Nursing [talk about why they chose the nursing profession](#) and what a nursing career offers, both personally and professionally.



Student Profile: Hebie Prill

College of Nursing student Hebie Prill [talks about changing careers, her passion for nursing and her experience at Rush](#). Also, [see where Hebie is now](#) and how her education at Rush impacts her daily life as a nurse today.



Student Profile: Kevin Hsu

Rush University College of Nursing student Kevin Hsu [talks about his background, the growing number of men in nursing, and what drove him to Rush and a career in nursing](#).



Student Profile: Jacqueline Lagman

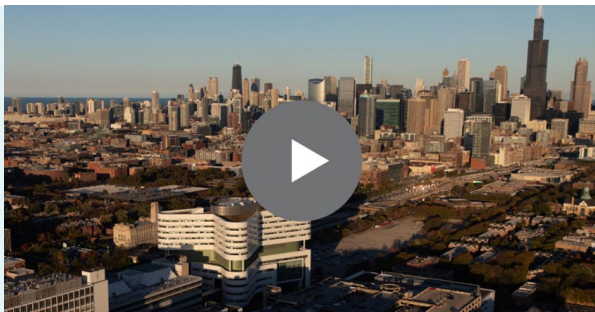
Rush University College of Nursing student Jacqueline Lagman [shares her story](#) and why she is thankful for scholarship support.



Additional Resources

Why Rush University?

At Rush University, you'll enjoy small class sizes and learning in a state-of-the-art medical center led by faculty who are accomplished practitioners and researchers. You'll feel supported in a learning community that connects disciplines and promotes diversity. Learn more about what sets Rush apart.



Nursing in Action Magazine

Read real stories of Nursing in Action from Rush University College of Nursing students, educators, clinicians, and researchers.



Virtual Tours

[Rush University Medical Center Campus Virtual Tour](#)



[Rush University Virtual Tour](#)



[SIM Lab Tour](#)



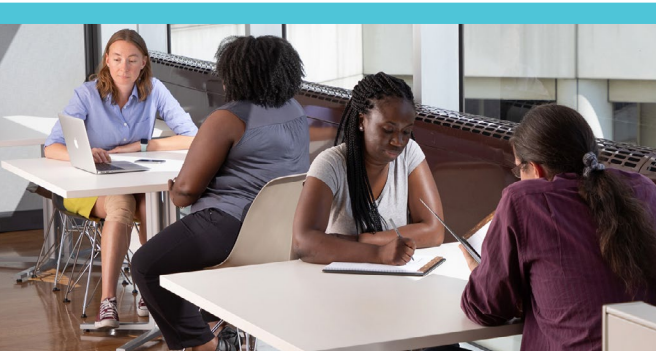
Student Diversity and Multicultural Affairs

The mission of the [Student Diversity & Multicultural Affairs](#) office is to develop health care professionals who are reflective of the communities, patients and region we serve, and who have gained an understanding of the many forms diversity and inclusion take.

We believe that all people are multi-dimensional. We are global citizens with rich experiences and perspectives. We are inclusive. We are advancing the future of health care.

Center for Academic Excellence

The [Center for Academic Excellence](#) provides holistic, targeted learning support for Rush University students. The services provided in the Center for Academic Excellence range from Writing Support to Academic Coaching. Our goal is the support each student from enrollment to degree completion.



Meet the MSN Team



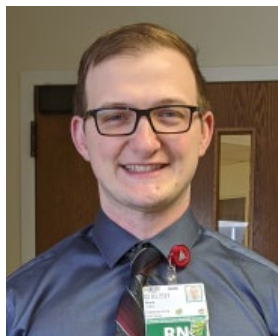
Monique Reed, PhD, MS, RN
Associate Professor & Assistant Dean,
Generalist Education
 @MoniqueReedPhD



Nia Murphy
Administrative Assistant
Focus: Scheduling, MSN administrative
support, Admissions administrative support



**Kirsten Warner, MSN, APRN,
AGCNS-BC, CNEcl, CNL, CMSRN**
Lead Instructor, Nursing Learning Lab



Bryce Harbert, MSN, RN
Instructor, Nursing Learning Lab



Terry Gallagher DNP, FNP-BC, CNL
Director, Generalist Education
Focus: Post-licensure MSN, BOOST,
day-to-day student and faculty operations
 @AprnTerry



Molly Spurlock, MM
Director of Admissions



Sonal Patel, MSN, APRN, FNP-C, CNL
Instructor, Nursing Learning Lab



Emily Salans, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, CNL
Instructor, Nursing Learning Lab



Marquita Cross
Program Coordinator
Focus: Academic progress, student
compliance, program events



Meghan O'Malley, MS
Admissions Specialist
Focus: Pre- and post-licensure admissions



Shannon O'Brien, MSN, RN, CNL
Instructor, Nursing Learning Lab



Stay Connected



Please direct any questions to:

Meghan O'Malley, MS
Admissions Specialist
meghan_omalley@rush.edu

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and Rush University on Social Media**



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[Rush University](https://www.youtube.com/RushUniversity)

[View the recording of 2019 First Look event.](#)



