

GENERAL INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY PROFILE

George Mason University is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with global distinction in a range of academic fields. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor near Washington, D.C., Mason prepares its students to succeed in the work force and to meet the needs of the region and the world.

With strong undergraduate and graduate degree programs in engineering and information technology, dance, organizational psychology, and health care, Mason students are routinely recognized with national and international scholarships. Enrollment is nearly 34,000, with students studying in 200 degree programs at the undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and professional levels.

Mason professors conduct groundbreaking research in such areas as cancer, climate change, information technology, and the biosciences; and Mason's Center for the Arts and the Hylton Performing Arts Center bring world-renowned artists, musicians, and actors to their stages.

Mason is a distributed university with campuses in Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William counties. In addition to these three campuses, Mason operates a site in Loudoun County and has partnered with the Smithsonian Institution to offer a Global Conservation Studies Program at the Smithsonian Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia. The university also offers programs online. Each Mason location has a distinctive academic focus that plays a critical role in the economy of its region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Mason is known for its "firsts":
 - First university to offer a graduate degree in biodefense
 - First engineering school based on computer-related programs
 - First Ph.D. programs in conflict resolution, information technology, and bioinformatics
 - First university in Virginia to offer an information technology minor to non-engineering students
 - First university in Virginia to offer a master's program in computer forensics
 - First university in Northern Virginia to offer a Master's of Public Health degree
- In 2013, *U.S. News & World Report* included Mason on its Up-and-Coming School list. This was the sixth consecutive year that Mason has been named one of *U.S. News & World Report's* national universities to watch.
- In 2013, Mason was included in the top 200 universities in the world by the Academic Ranking of World Universities, which is conducted annually by Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education.
- The *Times of London* named Mason among the Top 100 Under 50, which identified the top 100 universities in the world that are under 50 years old.
- The *Princeton Review* listed Mason as one of its Best 378 Colleges in 2013. Mason was also included in the *Princeton Review's* 150 Best Value Colleges in 2013.
- *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine ranked Mason 56th in its national top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges list for 2012-2013 in-state tuition. According to the magazine, the rankings of public colleges are based on "a combination of outstanding academic quality plus an affordable price tag." Mason was ranked 71st for out-of-state tuition.

- *The Chronicle of Higher Education* listed Mason in its 2013 Great Colleges to Work For survey.
- Every survey year since 2008, the American Association of Retired Persons has listed Mason as one of the 50 best employers for workers over the age of 50.
- The School of Law ranked 41st in the nation according to the 2014 *U.S. News & World Report*. Many of Mason's graduate programs are also recognized by the magazine as some of the top programs in the country. These include Education, Engineering, History, Public Affairs, Nursing, Computer Sciences, and Criminology. In addition, Mason's Writing Across the Curriculum program is recognized among the top ten Writing in the Disciplines programs in the United States.
- In *Forbes'* 2013 America's Top Colleges list for undergraduate education, Mason's overall ranking was 197 out of 650 institutions; Mason also ranked 96 among research universities. In 2012, Mason ranked 81 among *Forbes'* 100 Best Buy Colleges.
- Mason ranks 156 in research expenditures on the National Science Foundation's Annual Research and Development Survey.

GEORGE MASON, 1725–1792

George Mason was the central genius of the American Revolution. He was the primary author of both the Virginia Declaration of Rights and Virginia's first Constitution, written in May and June of 1776, and which served as examples for other states at Independence. He was highly regarded by contemporaries for his intellect and abilities. Thomas Jefferson described him as "a man of the first order of wisdom" and James Madison described him as "the soundest and clearest reasoner I have ever listened to."

Always a reluctant public servant, he has been referred to as the "forgotten" or "unknown" founder. Most content at Gunston Hall, his home in Fairfax County, he participated in politics only out of a sense of duty. Unconcerned with fame or his reputation in history, he preferred the happiness of "a private station" to "the vexations of public business."

In 1787, Mason attended the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. James Madison, although known as the "Father of the Constitution," attributed much of the final document to Mason. Mason refused, however, to sign the Constitution, as it did not guarantee the rights of the people. By his principled opposition, Mason ultimately assured the adoption of the Federal Bill of Rights based on his Virginia Declaration of Rights.

As demonstrated in the language set forth in Mason's own documents, no other founder was more acutely aware of the moral depravity of slavery and the contradiction it created. He proposed an elimination of the slave trade as a first step toward eventual emancipation. The institution of slavery was so ingrained in a pre-industrial agricultural society that it was only ended by the American Civil War.

If patriotism is defined as selfless devotion to a country conceived in liberty, then George Mason is our purest Patriot. On April 12, 1996, a seven-foot statue of him presenting his handwritten draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights was dedicated. This statue serves as a constant reminder of the ideals most important to Mason the man and the University that bears his name: freedom and learning.

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

Mason's growing reputation as an innovative educational leader is rooted in Virginia's strong education tradition. By emphasizing the need for positions in the fields of technology, public policy, health care, and the fine and performing arts, Mason has created a curriculum and mission to meet the needs of Northern Virginia's extraordinary cosmopolitan constituency.

The idea for Mason was born in 1949 when the Northern Virginia University Center, an adult education extension of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, opened under the direction of John Norville Gibson Finley. In 1955-1956, the Board of Visitors (BOV) of the University of Virginia and the Virginia legislature authorized the establishment of a two-year branch college to serve Northern Virginia, also under Finley.

The university's formal history began in 1957 when it was named University College, the Northern Virginia branch of the University of Virginia. University College opened in a renovated elementary school in Bailey's Crossroads with an enrollment of 17 students; courses were offered in engineering and the liberal arts. Eager to support this novice institution, the Town (now City) of Fairfax purchased a tract of 150 acres in 1958 and donated it to the University of Virginia for a permanent branch campus to be located in Northern Virginia. The following year, the University of Virginia BOV selected the name George Mason College. Construction of the campus' first four buildings (North, South, East, and West) was completed in 1964. In September of that year, 356 students began their studies in the new classrooms.

In March 1966, the Virginia General Assembly authorized the expansion of George Mason College into a four-year, degree-granting institution and gave it the long-range mandate to expand into a major regional university. The first senior class received degrees in June 1968. Graduate programs began in September 1970, and the first master's degrees were conferred in June 1971. The George Mason College Board of Control, supported by citizens of Arlington and Fairfax Counties and the Cities of Alexandria and Falls Church, acquired an additional 442 acres. By the end of 1970, the college's Fairfax campus reached 571 acres; it is now 677 acres.

In 1972, the BOV of the University of Virginia recommended that the college separate from its parent institution. On April 7, 1972, the governor signed the General Assembly legislation that established George Mason University as an independent member of the Commonwealth's system of colleges and universities.

In 1979, Mason was given the authority to grant doctoral degrees and began offering programs at this level. In the same year, the university acquired George Mason University School of Law, located at the Arlington campus.

As a result of a generous bequest from Clarence J. Robinson, the first Robinson Professors, a group of outstanding scholars committed to undergraduate teaching and interdisciplinary scholarship, joined the faculty in 1984.

In 1985, Mason developed an engineering program geared toward the emerging information technology field and started what is now the Volgenau School of Engineering. The school is primarily concerned with study that involves integrating the information basis for modern engineering with a more conventional physical and materials science approach. The careful integration of these areas results in a unique academic experience for highly motivated students. Mason was also the first university in the country to offer a doctoral degree in information technology.

In 1990, the College of Visual and Performing Arts (formerly known as the Institute of the Arts) solidified the university's commitment to make the arts a pervasive part of students' lives. The Center for the Arts and the Hylton Performing Arts Center, which include an art gallery, art studio, a rehearsal space, and performing venues such as TheaterSpace, are all components of the college.

In April 1996, the innovative George W. Johnson Center opened. The Johnson Center's eight acres of floor space house a 25,000-volume book collection, media center, computer labs, bank, bookstore, convenience store, and food services. By combining student life resources with educational support, Mason created the learning workspace of the future. The center fosters university-wide learning by integrating students' curricular and co-curricular activities and by strengthening relationships among the university communities.

Innovation Hall opened on the Fairfax campus in 2003, allowing full integration of internet technology into course curricula and offering advanced telecommunication and networking capabilities. With the completion of Liberty Square in 2003 and Potomac Heights in 2004, and new Rappahannock neighborhood residence halls in the Northeast sector in 2008 and 2009, the on-campus resident population rose to 4,996. The Rappahannock neighborhood also includes a dining facility and fitness center. The final phase of the Rappahannock residences was completed in 2010. In fall 2013, 6,023 students resided on campus; two new residence halls (Rogers and Whitetop) opened in Spring 2012 to accommodate the newly increased on-campus student population.

In 2004, the Prince William campus opened its third academic building, Bull Run Hall. Construction of the George Mason University Foundation's new five-story office and retail complex and parking deck contiguous to the Arlington Campus also began. In 2006, the university's first research facility (Research I) on the Fairfax campus was completed and is home to the faculty and staff of the College of Science. In June 2010, the university's biosafety level 3 Biomedical Research Lab opened on the Prince William campus.

Fall 2009 marked the opening of several new buildings on the Fairfax campus: the Long and Kimmy Nguyen Engineering Building, the Art and Design Building, the Aquia Building, and the Recreation and Athletic Complex, also known as the RAC, which is a major renovation and expansion of the Physical Education Building. Late that summer, the university also opened Masonvale, the university's new apartment and townhome community for faculty and staff. The Mason Inn and Conference Center opened in summer 2010. The Inn was awarded LEED Gold Certification and is the first LEED Gold Certified hotel in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additional improvements were added in 2011 with the completion of renovations and additions to Krasnow, Student Union Building I, and The Hub (Sub II), and in 2010 Hampton Roads and Eastern Shore housing was completed.

Today, drawing prominent scholars from all fields, Mason's outstanding faculty includes Pulitzer Prize winners, IEEE Centennial Medalists, and recipients of numerous grants and awards from the Fulbright programs, the National Science Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts, among others. Endowed chairs have also brought many artists and scholars to campus.

Since 1972, the university's development has been marked by rapid growth and innovative planning. As of fall 2013, enrollment was 33,917. Mason has achieved national distinction in many areas. Its reputation continues to grow as the university serves as an educational, cultural, and economic resource for the people of Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

FAIRFAX CAMPUS

Situated on 677 acres of wooded land, the Fairfax campus offers a wealth of opportunities beyond the numerous academic programs and continues to be the principal center for undergraduate residence and life. The resident student population of 6,023 is expected to grow to more than 7,000 during the next few years as new residential units are constructed.

The George W. Johnson Center, the first building of its kind in the country, fosters university-wide learning by integrating students' curricular and extracurricular activities and strengthening relationships among university communities.

The Center for the Arts and the Patriot Center offer numerous opportunities to experience the arts, as well as sports and other entertainment. Professional artistic events presented on campus include music and dance from around the world; Theater of the First Amendment, Mason's professional theater company; and regional, national, and international visual art exhibitions. Free tickets are available to these events for full-time Mason students.

The Aquatic and Fitness Center and RAC provide state-of-the-art exercise equipment, as well as competitive and recreational swimming to the university community and outside teams.

ARLINGTON CAMPUS

The Arlington campus is located near Washington, D.C., on 5.2 acres of land. Mason's most urban campus offers convenient access via Metro and key transportation routes. The campus has over 680,000 square feet of space within three buildings: the Metropolitan Building, Founders Hall, and Original Building. The Original Building is currently not in use. The George Mason Foundation also supports the Arlington campus with a building that includes 192,000 square feet of leased office space, 13,000 square feet of retail space, and parking.

The Arlington campus is home to the School of Law, the School of Public Policy, and the School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution. In addition, programs in social work, nonprofit management, arts management, business administration, and initiatives in educational transformation are offered on the Arlington campus. The Volgenau School of Engineering offers special certification courses in information technology through its TechAdvance program offered through the Office of Continuing and Professional Education (OCPE). While most of the programs offered on the Arlington campus are at the graduate and professional levels, some undergraduate courses are also available.

The Arlington campus is also home to the Mercatus Center, an independent initiative affiliated with the university. The Center for Global Studies; Center for Infrastructure Protection and Homeland Security; Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science; and Center for Regional Analysis are also located at the Arlington Campus.

PRINCE WILLIAM CAMPUS

The Prince William campus is a 135-acre site located outside the City of Manassas, near the intersection of I-66 and the Prince William Parkway. It serves all of Northern Virginia and offers convenient access to the university for citizens of Prince William, Fauquier, and western Fairfax Counties; the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park; and adjoining areas to the west and south. Through mutually beneficial partnerships with local government and area businesses, the campus has positioned itself to tap into the unique assets of the surrounding community while providing access to university resources and programs for students and citizens.

A major focus of the campus is research and academic programs in the life sciences, including programs in bioscience, biotechnology, and bioinformatics. The National Center for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases and the Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine are housed at the Prince William campus. The recently completed Biomedical Research Laboratory plays an important role in increasing university research activity. The biosafety level 3 facility is one of 13 biocontainment laboratories nationwide built with funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

Programs in business; criminology law and society; information technology; health and fitness, recreation, exercise science; health promotion; parks and outdoor recreation; sport management; therapeutic recreation; tourism and events management; and athletic training are also offered. A variety of professional certificate programs are available through the Office of Continuing Professional Education (OCPE).

The Hylton Center for the Performing Arts, a collaboration of Prince William County, the City of Manassas, and the university, opened in 2010. The 300-seat Verizon Auditorium and the 110,000-square-foot Freedom

Aquatic and Fitness Center also serve both university and community needs. The Freedom Center offers state-of-the-art exercise equipment, group fitness programs, a full gymnasium with an elevated track, and recreational and instructional swimming in a 50-meter competition pool, as well as Mason's human performance lab, classrooms, and other meeting spaces. In fall 2012, new housing and dining facilities were opened on campus.

Prince William campus resources that are available to all university students, faculty, and staff include a full-service library, drop-in computer labs, a university bookstore, a cafeteria and student lounge, an intercampus shuttle bus (between Fairfax and Prince William campuses), and a full complement of student and academic services.

MASON IN LOUDOUN

In Fall 2005, the university began offering classes at its location in Loudoun County, where Mason provides courses that introduce the Loudoun-area workforce and residents to a number of exciting academic areas, while offering current students a local option toward completing degree program requirements. In 2009, Van Metre Companies donated 37 acres in Loudoun County to the university; the university is considering plans for a campus there.

TRADITIONS

School Colors: Green and Gold

School Nickname: Patriots

School Mascot: The Patriot

School Alma Mater: Patriot Pride

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S MISSION

Much like the American patriot for whom it is named, George Mason University fulfills many important roles: leader, innovator, compass, anchor, and pioneer. Its journey is as challenging as the region and country it serves, as vital and complex as the men and women it educates, and as deep and diverse as the scholars, corporations, community activists, organizations, and students it embraces each year.

George Mason University's mission statement reads as follows:

A public, comprehensive, research university established by the Commonwealth of Virginia in the National Capital Region, we are an innovative and inclusive academic community committed to creating a more just, free, and prosperous world.

Source: General Information section provided by University Relations

THE MASON IDEA

- **Innovative** - We question current thinking and try new ideas. We honor time-tested academic principles while striving to create new forms of education that serve our students better and new paths of research that can uncover solutions to the world's greatest challenges.
- **Diverse** - We bring together a multitude of people and ideas in everything that we do. Our culture of inclusion, our multidisciplinary approach, and our global perspective, make us more effective educators and scholars.
- **Entrepreneurial** - We put ideas into action. We educate students to create as well as carry out jobs; become agents of positive change; and add value through government or business for-profit or nonprofit organizations, academia or the arts. We pursue discoveries that can make a difference in the world. We help our community thrive socially, economically, and culturally.
- **Accessible** - We are an open and welcoming community. We partner with public and private organizations in our region and around the world. We proactively engage with our community. We define our success by how many talented students with potential we serve, not how many we leave out.

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE

- **Innovative Learning** - Deliver a transformative signature Mason Learning Experience that is experimental, global, and technology-rich.
- **Accessible Pathways** - Provide multiple pathways and delivery formats to serve the needs of different students.
- **Return on Investment** - Enable all graduates to pursue meaningful lives and successful careers.
- **100,000 Career-Ready Graduates** - Produce the talent needed to drive economic growth in our region over the next decade.
- **Innovation Engine** - Contribute to the economic vitality of the region by driving innovation and creating learning partnerships with private and public organizations.
- **Community Builder** - Contribute to the cultural vitality of our community through regional partnerships and commitments to the arts, athletics, and community engagement.
- **Well-Being** - Become a model well-being university that allows all of its members to thrive.
- **Diverse Academic Community** - Create an inclusive and diverse academic community that reflects the diversity of the National Capital Region.
- **Support Teaching and Scholarship Excellence** - Provide an environment and resources to support and encourage academic innovation and excellence.
- **Elevate Research** - Expand research and enhance standards of scholarship across disciplines.
- **Research of Consequence** - Strategically focus on multidisciplinary domains of great societal and economic consequence where we can make a difference.
- **Global Learning Platform** - Create partnerships and other arrangements to support student and faculty mobility and collaboration.

FACTS AND FIGURES SUMMARY, FALL 2013

Student Enrollment, Fall 2013

Degree-Seeking Students

Undergraduate Degree-Seeking	21,324
Graduate Degree-Seeking	9,902
<i>Certificate</i>	441
<i>Master's</i>	7,187
<i>Doctoral</i>	2,274

Professional (Law)	528
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Non-Degree Students

<i>Undergraduate Non-Degree</i>	666
<i>Graduate Non-Degree</i>	1,497

Total Enrollment **33,917**

Course Load

Full-Time Enrollment	21,421
Part-Time Enrollment	12,496

Domicile

In-State Enrollment	27,422
Out-of-State Enrollment	6,495

Enrollment by Gender and Ethnicity

Female	18,316
Male	15,554
Not Reported	47

Asian	4,725
Black or African American	3,056
Hispanic/Latino	3,267
Native American/Alaska Native	53
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	122
White	16,737
Two or more races	1,194
Not Reported	2,784
Non-Resident International	1,979

Enrollment by Academic Division

College of Education and Human Development	4,248
College of Health and Human Services	2,457
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	9,292
College of Science	3,435
College of Visual and Performing Arts	1,441
School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution	509
School of Law	528
School of Management	3,505
School of Public Policy	959
Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study	51
Provost	2,281
Volgenau School of Engineering	5,211

Degree Programs Offered

Undergraduate	76
Graduate (Master's 85, Doctoral 38)	123
Professional (Law)	1
Total	200

Residential Population

Enrolled Students Living on Campus	6,023
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Campus (2013)

Fairfax Campus	677 acres
Arlington Campus	5.2 acres
Prince William Campus	135 acres

Buildings (2013)

Academic/Administrative Buildings	72
Student Unions/Sports and Recreation	10
Student Housing	52
Parking Structures	3
Auxiliary Support	12

Total **149**

Buildings Opened in 2013

(As of Fall 2013)

Exploratory Hall (Renovation and Addition), Fairfax
Music and Theater (Building Renovation), Fairfax

FY14 Total Original Operating Budget \$911.0 million

FY13 Sponsored Research Expenditures \$101.7 million

Tuition and Fees

In-State Undergraduate (\$413/Cr.hr.)	\$9,908/yr
In-State Graduate (\$502/Cr.hr.)	\$12,038/yr
Out-of-State Undergrad. (\$1,191/Cr.hr.)	\$28,592/yr
Out-of-State Graduate (\$1,185/Cr.hr.)	\$28,442/yr
In-State Law School (\$907/Cr.hr.)	\$25,351/yr
Out-of-State Law School (\$1,456/Cr.hr.)	\$40,737/yr

Room and Board

Room (Double Occupancy)	\$5,690
Board (19 Meals Per Week)	\$3,890

FY13 Financial Aid Profile

Students Receiving Aid (56.4%)	18,617
Average Grants	\$6,323
Average Loans	\$14,040
Average Other Waivers	\$5,065
Average Work Study	\$2,215
Loan Default Rate	1.3%
Total Student Aid	\$285.0 million

Faculty and Staff

Full-Time Instructional and Research Faculty	1,431
Part-Time Instructional and Research Faculty	1,125
Graduate Assistants	1,297
Administrative Faculty	788
Classified Staff	1,738
Total Faculty and Staff	6,379