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# GENERAL INFORMATION

## UNIVERSITY PROFILE

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Since it was founded in 1972, George Mason University has grown into a major educational force and earned a reputation as an innovative, entrepreneurial institution. Just minutes from Washington, D.C., George Mason has a growing and diverse student body and an exceptional faculty of enterprising scholars. At the center of the world's political, information, and communications networks, George Mason is the university needed by a region and a world driven by new social, economic, and technological realities.

George Mason's development has been shaped in response to the educational needs of its cosmopolitan constituency. The university has gained national distinction in a range of academic fields, including public policy, information technology, economics, the fine and performing arts, law, conflict resolution, and, most recently, the biosciences.

Strong alliances with business, the community, and government benefit George Mason's students and the larger society. Enrollment now tops 29,000, with students studying in 160 degree programs at the undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and professional levels.

George Mason is a distributed university with three campuses in Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William counties. In fall 2005, George Mason opened a location in Loudoun County, and an international campus in the United Arab Emirates. Each campus has a distinctive academic focus that plays a critical role in the economy of its region. At each campus, students and faculty have access to all the university's resources, while duplication of programs and support services is minimized through the use of technology. The university also offers programs at the Center for Innovative Technology's Herndon Training Center and on the Internet.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

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- George Mason is known for its "firsts":
  - First university to offer a graduate degree in biodefense
  - First engineering school based on computer-related programs
  - First school focused on computational sciences
  - First PhDs in conflict resolution, information technology, and bioinformatics
  - First in Virginia to offer an Information Technology minor to non-engineering students
  - First university to outsource on-campus housing management
  - First to outsource event management
  - First to outsource on-campus arena management
- Vernon Smith, professor of economics and law, won the 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics Sciences. Smith joins James Buchanan, professor of economics emeritus, as Mason's second professor to achieve this honor. Mason is the first and only university in Virginia to boast two Nobel laureates.
- *The Campaign for George Mason University*, which ended June 2005, raised \$142 million in private support—\$32 million more than the dollar goal. The university's first comprehensive fundraising effort resulted in 103 new endowments and helped advance research initiatives, expand services, and fund facility improvements. Since it began in 1998, the campaign received more than 100,000 gifts from approximately 45,000 alumni, parents, friends, foundations, corporations, and other organizations.

- The Industrial Psychologist ranked the Industrial/Organizational Psychology program, housed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, sixth in the nation.
- The National Science Foundation rankings for research expenditures lists Mason as fourth in the nation for the field of political science, which includes public policy, public administration and public affairs. Mason is preceded by the Naval Postgraduate School, Harvard University, and the University of Michigan.
- Mason ranks number two in the nation in diversity, according to a survey of more than 110,000 students at 361 top colleges in the 2006 edition of the *Princeton Review's Annual College Guide, The Best 361 Colleges*.
- Sponsored programs continue to increase rising to a level of \$68 million in fiscal year 2006.
- The number of new patents received by university researchers for inventions made in the course of their research continues to climb.

## **GEORGE MASON, 1725–1792**

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When George Mason of Gunston Hall wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776, he gave America the noble concept that the rights of the individual must be protected against the power of government. By placing in Virginia's first constitution a list of rights that could never be taken away from citizens, Mason sought to ensure a society in which government could not become all-powerful.

As a result of his influence, the first 10 amendments, which we now know as the Bill of Rights, were added to the U.S. Constitution. The universal significance of this action made the American Revolution much more than a war for independence from Great Britain; it enshrined in our most important public document the principle that a government must always respect the rights of the people.

Mason, himself a slave owner, did not recognize that these rights extended to slaves. Nevertheless, his words were later used to demonstrate that slavery could not exist in a country that proclaimed its belief in human rights. In the United States, we have not always adhered to Mason's great ideas, but they remain the measure of the best in our national life.

On April 12, 1996, a seven-foot statue of patriot and university namesake, George Mason, was dedicated. The statue portrays the great statesman presenting his handwritten first draft of the Virginia Declaration of Rights in 1776. The statue serves as a constant reminder of the ideals most important to both George Mason the man and George Mason University: freedom and learning.

## **HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY**

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George Mason University's growing reputation as an innovative educational leader is rooted in Virginia's strong educational tradition. By emphasizing the needs of its region, high technology, public policy, and the fine and performing arts, George Mason has created a curriculum and mission to meet the needs of Northern Virginia's extraordinary cosmopolitan constituency.

The idea for George Mason University was born in 1949 when the Northern Virginia University Center, essentially an adult education extension of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, opened under the direction of John Norville Gibson Finley. In 1955-56, the Board of Visitors 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 as University College, the Northern Virginia branch of the University of Virginia, offering courses in engineering and the liberal arts. It opened in a renovated elementary school in Bailey's Crossroads with an enrollment of 17 students.

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 Board of Visitors selected the name George Mason College. Construction of the campus's first four buildings (North, South, East, 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 Board of Visitors 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, George 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.

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

In 1985, George Mason University, in partnership with area businesses, developed an engineering program geared toward the emerging information technology field and started the School of Information Technology and Engineering (IT&E). The school is concerned primarily with study areas that involve integrating the information basis for modern engineering with the more conventional physical and materials science approach. The careful integration of these areas results in a unique academic experience for highly motivated students. Through IT&E, George Mason was 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 arts complex, which includes 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, George Mason has created the learning workspace of the future. The center fosters university-wide learning by integrating students' curricular and extracurricular activities and by strengthening relationships among the university communities.

On the Fairfax Campus, Innovation Hall opened in 2003, allowing full integration of Internet technology into course curricula and offering advanced telecommunication and networking capabilities. With the completion of two new residence halls, Liberty Square in 2003 and Potomac Heights in 2004, the on-campus resident population rose to 4,000. 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, was completed and is home to the faculty and staff of the College of Science and to the staff of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

Today, drawing prominent scholars from all fields, George Mason's outstanding faculty includes a Pulitzer Prize winner, IEEE Centennial Medalists, and recipients of numerous grants and awards from the Fulbright programs, National Science Foundation, and National Endowment of 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. In 34 years, enrollment has risen from 4,166 to 29,889 as of fall 2006. George Mason University has achieved national distinction in many areas. Its reputation continues to grow as the university provides for an educational, cultural, and economic resource for the people of Northern Virginia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation.

## **FAIRFAX CAMPUS**

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Located in Northern Virginia, George Mason is convenient to all the resources of the nation's capital and the Washington metropolitan area. Situated on 677 wooded acres near the City of Fairfax, George Mason University offers a wealth of opportunities beyond the numerous academic programs. 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 by strengthening relationships between the university's communities. The Center for the Arts and the Patriot Center offer the George Mason and Northern Virginia communities 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; and regional, national, and international visual art exhibitions. The Aquatics and Fitness Center provides state-of-the-art exercise equipment and competitive and recreational swimming to the university community and outside teams.

The Fairfax Campus also combines the quiet of a suburban setting with accessibility to Washington's libraries, galleries, museums, and Virginia's historic sites.

More than 250 athletes compete in 22 men's and women's Division I National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) sports: baseball, basketball, cross country, golf, lacrosse, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, indoor and outdoor track and field, volleyball, and wrestling.

Patriot men's and women's teams are members of the NCAA Division I, the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA), the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America (IC4A), and the Eastern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association (EIVA).

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## **ARLINGTON CAMPUS**

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Located in the heart of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, the Arlington Campus enjoys an alliance with more than 195 high-tech firms. Mason's commitment to form relationships with area businesses provides students with direct access to employment experience and career opportunities.

The newest building is the beginning of a three-phase plan to develop the 5.2-acre site. Upon completion of all three phases, the Arlington Campus will include 750,000 square feet of space and many new facilities to accommodate its projected 8,000 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students.

The Arlington Campus offers courses that focus on economics, public policy, conflict resolution, and public administration, and is home to the university's School of Law. The Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering offers special certification courses in information technology through its Train to Technology program.

The Arlington Campus is the location of the Mercatus Center, the James M. Buchanan Center for Political Economy, and the Institute for Humane Studies, an independent entity affiliated with the university. These groups work together on projects of mutual interest. In addition, the campus houses the Professional Center, which works with the community to provide a venue for special events.

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## **PRINCE WILLIAM CAMPUS**

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The Prince William Campus is a 124-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. The campus has four buildings and is planning a community arts center.

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 also is housed at the Prince William Campus. Programs in teacher education, administration of justice, business, 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 also are offered. Professional certificate programs are available through the Office of Continuing Professional Education.

The 300-seat Verizon Auditorium and the 110,000-square-foot Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center serve both university and community needs. The Freedom Center offers state-of-the-art exercise equipment, group fitness programs, a full gymnasium with 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 space. 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.

## **RAS AL KHAIMAH CAMPUS**

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The Ras Al Khaimah Human Development Foundation (RAK-HDF) was created by a Royal Decree of the government of Ras Al Khaimah, under the patronage of the Crown Prince of Ras Al Khaimah, H.H. Sheikh Saud Bin Saqr Al Qassimi, with an objective to provide world-class educational facilities in association with highly reputed universities from all over the world for the people of the United Arab Emirates and the region. Mason at RAK is in temporary quarters while the permanent campus is under construction. Once construction is completed, the campus will shift to its permanent location, a picturesque site on the Emirates Highway at the Umm Al Quwain-RAK border, where the university will provide state-of-the-art facilities including well-equipped labs and a library. Future plans include a recreation and fitness center, sports facilities, a cafeteria, a student lounge, and a full complement of student and academic services.

Currently offered at Mason's RAK Campus is a foundation English language program designed to help students acquire the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills they will need for success in their academic studies, as well as bachelor's degree programs in biology, business administration, electronics and communications engineering, and nursing.

### **TRADITIONS**

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*School Colors:* Green and Gold

*School Nickname:* Patriots

*School Mascot:* Gunston

*Alma Mater:* "Patriots' Dreams" written by Carol Boyd Leon, May 2002

### **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S MISSION**

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Much like the American patriot for whom it is named, George Mason University fulfills many important roles: leader, innovator, point of resource, 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. As a result, the mission of the university and vision of its president, Alan G. Merten, remain equally fundamental and all-encompassing. The mission states George Mason University's purpose for being, while the vision focuses on where the institution is headed and what it plans to achieve.

The mission statement for George Mason University reads as follows:

*George Mason University will be an institution of international academic reputation providing superior education enabling students to develop critical, analytical, and imaginative thinking and to make well-founded ethical decisions. The university will respond to the call for interdisciplinary research and teaching not simply by adding programs, but by rethinking the traditional structure of the academy.*

*The university will prepare students to address the complex issues facing them in society and to discover meaning in their own lives. George Mason will encourage diversity in its student body and will meet the needs of students by providing them with undergraduate, graduate, and professional courses of study that are interdisciplinary and innovative. The university will energetically seek ways to interact with and serve the needs of the student body.*

*The university will nurture and support a faculty that is diverse, innovative, and excellent in teaching, active in pure and applied research, and responsive to the needs of students and the community. The faculty will embody the university's interactive approach to change both in the academy and in the world.*

*The university will be a resource of the Commonwealth of Virginia serving private and public sectors and will be an intellectual and cultural nexus between Northern Virginia, the nation, and the world.*

## **VISION STATEMENT**

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President Alan G. Merten's vision statement is as follows:

*George Mason will be the university needed by a region and world driven by new social, economic, and technological realities.*

*We are in the right place: The nation's capital region is the epicenter of the world's political web, its information and communications network, and its new economy.*

*We are ready: In an age that demands originality and imagination, George Mason is the region's most innovative university. George Mason will*

- Be a magnet for outstanding faculty who will devise new ways to approach problems, invent new ways to teach, and develop new knowledge for the benefit of the region and nation.*
- Attract inventive, industrious students of all ages and cultures and produce citizens who are intellectually and technologically literate-people who will lead by the force of their ideas.*
- Transform into knowledge and wisdom the vast amounts of information now accessible through new technologies.*
- Build strong alliances that bring the know-how of business and the community into the university and take the knowledge of the university into the workplace and the larger society.*
- Become a center of inquiry, knowledge, and professional expertise in fields with vital implications for human needs and opportunities in the future.*
- Remain innovative, resourceful, and responsive, while drawing on the intellectual and cultural heritage of the classical university.*

**FACTS AND FIGURES SUMMARY, FALL 2006****CAMPUS SIZE**

Fairfax Campus	677 acres
Arlington Campus	5.2 acres
Prince William Campus	124 acres

**ACADEMIC DIVISION**

College of Education and Human Development	4,424
College of Health and Human Services	1,670
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	8,568
College of Science	2,509
College of Visual and Performing Arts	1,209
School of Law	762
School of Management	3,862
School of Public Policy	941
The Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering	3,960
Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution	265

**DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED**

Undergraduate	64
Graduate (Masters 70, Doctoral 25)	95
Professional (Law)	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>160</b>

**TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET**

\$634.1 million

**BUILDINGS**

Academic/Administrative (On-Campus)	62
Academic/Administrative (Off-Campus or Leased)	15
Student Unions	3
Recreation Facilities	6
Student Housing (On-Campus)	68
Student Housing (Off-Campus or Leased)	4
Parking Structure	2
<b>Total On-Campus</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Total Off-Campus or Leased</b>	<b>19</b>

**BUILDINGS OPENED IN FY 2006-07**

Aquatic Center Addition/Renovation, Fairfax Campus
Child Development Center, Fairfax Campus
Krasnow Institute Addition, Fairfax Campus

**TUITION AND FEES**

In-State Undergraduate (\$267/Cr.hr.)	\$6,408/year
In-State Graduate (\$307.50/Cr.hr.)	\$7,380/year
Out-of-State Undergraduate (\$773/Cr.hr.)	\$18,552/year
Out-of-State Graduate (\$773/Cr.hr.)	\$18,552/year
In-State Law School (\$545.50/Cr.hr.)	\$15,274/year
Out-of-State Law School (\$946.50/Cr.hr.)	\$26,502/year

**ROOM AND BOARD**

Room (average per year)	\$4,880
Board (15 meal plan)	\$2,780

**STUDENTS****Fall 2006 Enrollment**

Undergraduate Degree-Seeking	17,812
Graduate Degree-Seeking	9,323
<i>Master's</i>	6,785
<i>Doctoral</i>	1,776
<i>Professional (Law)</i>	762
Non-Degree students	2,754
<i>Undergraduate Non-Degree</i>	409
<i>Graduate Non-Degree</i>	2,345
<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>29,889</b>

**Fall 2006 Freshman Class**

First-Time Freshmen	2,458
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**Course Load**

Full-Time Enrollment	16,267
Part-Time Enrollment	13,622

**Domicile**

In-State Enrollment	24,931
Out-of-State Enrollment	4,958

**Enrollment by Gender and Ethnicity**

Female	16,556
Male	13,178
Not Reported	155
American Indian	99
Asian	3,917
Black	2,193
Hispanic	1,863
White	16,468
Non-Resident Alien	1,809
Other/Not Reported	3,540

**Residential Population**

Students Living on Campus	4,133
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**Financial Aid Profile(As of 2/6/2007)**

Students Receiving Aid (41.8%)	13,537
Average Grants	\$5,113
Average Loans	\$8,774
Average Work Study	\$2,000
Range of Awards	\$100 to \$54,678
<b>Total Student Aid (as of 2/6/2007)</b>	<b>\$123,876,046</b>

**FACULTY AND STAFF**

Full-Time Instructional & Research Faculty	1,238
Part-Time Instructional Faculty	1,010
Graduate Assistants	907
Administrative Faculty	611
Classified Staff	1,234
<b>Total Faculty and Staff</b>	<b>5,000</b>

**OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS**

Sponsored Research Expenditures (FY2006)	\$68.3 million
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