
GENERAL INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY PROFILE

Named the #1 national university to watch by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2008, 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 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 more than 30,000, with students studying in 177 degree programs at the undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and professional levels.

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

Mason is a distributed university with campuses in Fairfax, Arlington, and Prince William counties as well as an international campus in the United Arab Emirates. In addition to these four campuses, George Mason operates a site in Loudoun County and has partnered with the Smithsonian Institute to offer a Global Conservation Studies Program at the Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal. The university also offers programs on-line and at the Center for Innovative Technology in Herndon. Each 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 school focused on computational sciences
 - First PhDs in conflict resolution, information technology, and bioinformatics
 - First in Virginia to offer an information technology minor to nonengineering students
 - First university to outsource on-campus housing management
- In 2008, *U.S. News & World Report* named George Mason University the number one national university to watch on its list of "Up-and-Coming Schools." Mason was cited as a school that has recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities.
- George Mason University was ranked in the top 100 North and Latin American Universities by the "Academic Ranking of World Universities", which is conducted annually by Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education.
- The *Princeton Review* listed Mason as one of the nation's best values among undergraduate institutions. The New York-based education services company features Mason on its list of America's 100 "Best Value" colleges for 2009.
- *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine included Mason in its national top 100 "Best Values in Public Colleges" list for 2009. According to the magazine, it bases the rankings of public colleges on "a

combination of outstanding academic quality plus an affordable price tag.”

- *The Chronicle of Higher Education* listed George Mason in their 2008 Great Colleges to Work For survey.
- The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) listed Mason as one of the 50 best places to work for persons 50 years of age and over in 2008.
- The School of Law ranked 34th in the nation according to the 2008 *U.S. News & World Report*. Many of Mason’s programs are also recognized by the magazine as some of the top programs. These include: Education, History, Public Affairs, Nursing, and Computer Sciences. In addition, Writing Across the Curriculum is recognized among the top ten Writing in the Disciplines programs in the United States.
- The number of new patents received by university researchers for inventions made in the course of their research continues to climb. During its eight years of operation, the Office of Technology Transfer has helped bring more than 80 Mason-born concepts to companies, where they are being sold or developed for sale in the marketplace.

GEORGE MASON, 1725–1792

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 the patriot and university namesake 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

Mason’s growing reputation as an innovative educational leader is rooted in Virginia’s strong education tradition. By emphasizing the needs of its region, high technology, public policy, 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, 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, when it began 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' 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, 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, Mason developed an engineering program geared toward the emerging information technology field and started what is now the Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering. The school is concerned primarily with study that involves 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. 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 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, Mason 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 Liberty Square in 2003 and Potomac Heights in 2004, and two of the five residence halls in the Northeast sector in 2008, the on-campus resident population rose to 4,725. The Northeast sector also includes a new dining facility and an additional fitness center. 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 and to the staff of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

Today, drawing prominent scholars from all fields, Mason's outstanding faculty includes Nobel laureates, a Pulitzer Prize winner, IEEE Centennial Medalists, and recipients of numerous grants and awards from the Fulbright programs, the National Science Foundation, and the 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 35 years, enrollment has risen from 4,166 to 30,714 as of Fall 2008. 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 is expected to grow to more than 7,000 during the next five 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 Aquatics and Fitness Center provides 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, the location offers convenient access via metro and key transportation routes. The campus currently comprises three buildings: the Original Building (formerly known as the Kann's department store); Hazel Hall (home to the School of Law); and 3330 N. Washington Boulevard (a leased facility). The George Mason Foundation also supports the Arlington Campus with a building that includes parking, 192,000 square feet of leased office space, and 13,000 square feet of retail space.

The newest structure being constructed on this campus is part of a three-phase plan to develop the overall site. Founders Hall will provide 256,000 square feet of space to include the new home for the School of Public Policy, space for the School of Law, as well as academic and student support services. Once complete, 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.

Arlington Campus is home for the School of Law, the School of Public Policy, and the Institute 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 Information Technology and Engineering offers special certification courses in information technology through its TechAdvance Program through the Office of Continuing Professional Education. While most of the programs offered on the Arlington Campus are on the graduate and professional levels, some undergraduate courses are available.

The Arlington Campus is also home to the Mercatus Center, the James M. Buchanan Center for Political Economy, and the Institute for Humane Studies, all independent initiatives affiliated with the university. The Center for Global Studies; Center for Justice, Law, and Society; Critical Infrastructure Protection Program; Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science and Interdisciplinary Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness are also located at the Arlington Campus.

PRINCE WILLIAM CAMPUS

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 has started the construction of the Hylton Performing Arts Center, which is slated to open in 2010.

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. A Biomedical Research Laboratory currently under construction on the Prince William Campus will play a role in increasing university research activity. The biosafety level 3 facility is one of 13 biocontainment laboratories nationwide being built with funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health.

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 are also 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 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. 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

In 2005, Mason opened its first international campus in Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The campus is licensed under the UAE Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. 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. A recreation and fitness center, sports facilities, a cafeteria, a student lounge, and a full complement of student and academic services are planned.

Bachelor's degree programs in biology, business administration, computer science, economics, electronics and communications engineering, and health, fitness and recreation resources are offered at Mason's RAK Campus along with a foundational English language program designed to help students acquire the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills they will need for success in their academic studies.

TRADITIONS

School Colors: Green and Gold

School Nickname: Patriots

School Mascot: The Patriot

GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY'S MISSION

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 Mason's purpose for being, while the vision focuses on where the institution is headed and what it plans to achieve.

George Mason's mission statement reads as follows:

George Mason University is innovative and entrepreneurial in spirit and utilizes its multicampus organization and location near our nation's capital to attract outstanding scholars, faculty, and programs. George Mason will:

- *Educate the new generation of leaders for the 21st century-men and women capable of shaping a global community with vision, justice, and clarity.*
- *Encourage freedom of thought, speech, and inquiry in a tolerant, respectful academic setting.*
- *Provide undergraduate, graduate, and professional courses of study that enable students to exercise analytical and imaginative thinking and make well-founded ethical decisions.*
- *Nurture and support a highly qualified and entrepreneurial faculty that is excellent at teaching, active in pure and applied research, capable of providing a broad range of intellectual and cultural insights, and is responsive to the needs of students and their communities.*
- *Maintain an international reputation for superior education that affirms its role as the intellectual and cultural nexus among Northern Virginia, the nation, and the world.*

VISION STATEMENT

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

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, 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 the 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.*

Source: General Information Section provided by University Relations

FACTS AND FIGURES SUMMARY, FALL 2008**Students****Fall 2008 Enrollment**

Undergraduate Degree-Seeking	18,240
Graduate Degree-Seeking	9,346
<i>Master's</i>	7,507
<i>Doctoral</i>	1,839
Professional (Law)	681
Non-Degree students	2,447
<i>Undergraduate Non-Degree</i>	569
<i>Graduate Non-Degree</i>	1,878
Total Enrollment	30,714

Course Load

Full-Time Enrollment	16,694
Part-Time Enrollment	14,020

Domicile

In-State Enrollment	25,449
Out-of-State Enrollment	5,265

Enrollment by Gender and Ethnicity

Female	16,999
Male	13,513
Not Reported	202
American Indian	87
Asian	3,612
Black	2,105
Hispanic	1,589
White	14,014
Non-Resident Alien	1,731
Other/Not Reported	7,576

Residential Population

Enrolled Students Living on Campus	4,725
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Enrollment by Academic Division

College of Education and Human Development	4,479
College of Health and Human Services	2,025
College of Humanities and Social Sciences	8,208
College of Science	2,803
College of Visual and Performing Arts	1,272
School of Law	681
School of Management	4,330
School of Public Policy	975
The Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering	3,920
Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution	405
Provost	1,616

Degree Programs Offered

Undergraduate	71
Graduate (Master's 74, Doctoral 31)	105
Professional (Law)	1
Total	177

Campus Size

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

Buildings

Academic/Administrative (On-Campus)	56
Academic/Administrative (Off-Campus or Leased)	15
Student Unions	3
Recreation Facilities	6
Student Housing (On-Campus)	51
Student Housing (Off-Campus or Leased)	3
Parking Structure	2
Total On-Campus	118
Total Off-Campus or Leased	18
Grand Total	136

Buildings Opened in FY 2008**(As of Fall 2008)**

Student Union III (Southside and Skyline), Fairfax Campus
Softball Field Complex, Fairfax Campus

Total Original Operating Budget \$889.7 million

Sponsored Research Expenditures \$79.9 million

Tuition and Fees

In-State Undergraduate (\$313/Cr.hr.)	\$7,512/year
In-State Graduate (\$370/Cr.hr.)	\$8,880/year
Out-of-State Undergrad. (\$936.50/Cr.hr.)	\$22,476/year
Out-of-State Graduate (\$928/Cr.hr.)	\$22,272/year
In-State Law School (\$669/Cr.hr.)	\$18,732/year
Out-of-State Law School (\$1,141/Cr.hr.)	\$31,948/year

Room and Board

Room (Double occupancy)	\$4,200
Board	\$3,160

Financial Aid Profile (as of 12/1/2008)

Students Receiving Aid (46.7%)	14,009
Average Grants	\$5,932
Average Loans	\$10,306
Average Work Study	\$2,053
Range of Awards	\$100 to \$66,000
Total Student Aid (as of 12/1/2008)	\$150,204,376

Faculty and Staff

Full-Time Instructional & Research Faculty	1,328
Part-Time Instructional & Research Faculty	1,005
Graduate Assistants	903
Administrative Faculty	657
Classified Staff	1,393
Total Faculty and Staff	5,286