Accolades

• George Mason University was ranked an “up-and-coming institution” by U.S. News & World Report for the seventh consecutive year. The list identifies “schools that have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus or facilities.”
• Mason is consistently ranked among the top universities in the world. Most notably, Mason ranks among the top 200 universities in the world according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) that is conducted annually by China’s Shanghai Jiao Tong University Institute of Higher Education.
• The university was ranked a Best Value by Kiplinger’s, and both PayScale.com and Forbes cited Mason as a good return on investment.

Enrollment and Student Populations

• George Mason is the largest public institution in the Commonwealth, with 33,791 students. In-state students account for 82% of enrollment; 41% of those reporting race are from underrepresented racial/ethnic groups and 7% are international; 21,672 are degree-seeking undergraduates and 6,058 undergraduates live in campus housing (28%).
• Mason enrolled 3,114 new freshmen in Fall 2014, the largest freshman class in its history. New transfers numbered 2,467, representing 44.2% of new degree-seeking undergraduate students. Of the new transfers, 1,937 (79%) came from the Virginia Community College System and other Virginia public two-year colleges.
• Mason’s total enrollment has increased by 17% over the past 10 years. More than 80% of degree-seeking undergraduate students attend full-time.
• Fifty-seven percent of Mason students received some form of financial aid in FY14, including 25% who received Pell Grants. Nearly one out of every two students graduates without debt, and those with debt have an average debt of $26,710, which is comparable others in the national university category of U.S. News. Mason students are more likely to pay back their loans as measured by the most recent three-year average loan default rates. Mason’s default rate is 1.8% compared to the national average of 8.9% for four-year public institutions.
• Approximately 3,135 students are affiliated with the military, including veterans, active duty personnel, dependents, reservists and guardsmen.
• Mason has 162,767 living alumni, with 105,086 of them residing in Virginia.

Inputs and Outputs

• In the past 10 years, the average high school GPA of entering freshmen has improved from 3.36 to 3.65. In the same period, the average SAT score (combined Critical Reasoning & Mathematics) has improved from 1106 to 1153, and the first-year retention rate has increased from 85.8% to 87.6%. Mason’s six-year graduation rate for the most recent cohort is 66.9%, a three-percentage-point increase over the past five years.
• According to SCHEV wage data, Mason graduates who remain in the Commonwealth earn higher average salaries than those of any other public institution in Virginia, while having a lower cost to degree than most.
• Mason awarded 8,396 degrees in 2013-14, which is more than any other public institution in the Commonwealth. These degree awards put Mason on pace toward its desired production of 10,000 degrees annually within the next 10 years. Additionally, Mason awarded 481 post-baccalaureate certificates.

Finance
• Mason’s educational costs per student are about 61% of its peer institutions. The in-state tuition rate at Mason covers roughly 43% of the average cost of education.
• Since FY11, Mason has reduced operating costs by more than $19 million and reallocated those funds to high-priority program needs, while reducing capital costs by $81 million by reducing the scope of and de-authorizing certain projects, in total implementing $100 million in budget efficiencies and cost control measures.
• Although Mason’s student body has grown, the number of classrooms has not kept pace with this growth. The five-year student FTE growth has been 11% while the number of classrooms on the Fairfax campus has grown by only 6%. Many of the classrooms in Robinson Hall, the largest classroom building, are functionally obsolete.

Research
• Mason is a high research activity doctoral institution. Research funding typically totals $100 million annually, with 83% of funding coming from federal sources. Research activity at Mason supports more than 1,250 jobs in the region, directly and indirectly. Research activities range widely but include cutting-edge fields such as cyber-security, nanoscience, neuroscience, personalized medicine, modeling and simulation, and transportation policy.

Economic Impact
• The university's presence supported 11,618 FTE private-sector employees in the region. Mason contributed $1.14 billion dollars to the economy in FY12. Statewide, the economic impact was $1.56 billion and 16,023 jobs.

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