



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY KEY FACTS FOR 2017

Enrollment and Student Populations

- George Mason is the largest public institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with 35,189 students. In-state students account for 81 percent of enrollment; 44 percent are from minority racial/ethnic groups; and 8 percent are international. Degree-seeking undergraduates total 23,174, and nearly 6,000 undergraduates (25 percent) live in campus housing. First-generation college students make up 37 percent of the undergraduate enrollment. The total number of graduate students is 10,556. The comparable number for law students is 536.
- Mason's total enrollment has increased by 18 percent over the past 10 years. More than 80 percent of degree-seeking undergraduate students attend full time. Mason has attracted approximately 31 percent of the statewide enrollment growth in Virginia public four-year institutions since 2007.
- Mason enrolled 3,214 new freshmen in fall 2016, the largest freshman class in its history. New transfers numbered 2,662, representing 45 percent of new degree-seeking undergraduate students. Of the new transfers, 78 percent came from the Virginia Community College System and other Virginia public two-year colleges.
- In FY 2016, 62 percent of Mason students received some form of financial aid, including 28 percent who received Pell Grants. In 2015-16, 56 percent of in-state undergraduate students graduated with some debt; the average student loan balance was \$30,132. The default rate for Mason graduates is 2.1 percent compared to the national average of 7.3 percent for four-year public institutions.
- Approximately 1 in 10 students (3,531) is affiliated with the military, including veterans, active duty personnel, military dependents, reservists, and guardsmen. Mason was named a 2016 Military Friendly School by Victory Media and also named a "Top School" by the journal *Military Advanced Education & Transition*.

Inputs and Outputs

- In the past 10 years, the average high school GPA of entering freshmen has increased from 3.41 to 3.65. In the same period, the average SAT score (combined Critical Reading and Mathematics) has risen from 1110 to 1159, and the first-year retention rate has increased from 86 percent to 88 percent. Mason's six-year graduation rate has increased from 56 percent to 70 percent over the most recent 10-year period.
- Mason awarded 8,383 degrees in 2015-16, which is more than any other public institution in the commonwealth.
- Mason has 176,231 living alumni, with 113,494 of them residing in Virginia.

Return on Investment

- In 2015, *The Economist* evaluated an array of factors to measure the “value-added” feature to degrees from institutions across the country. The study revealed that Mason graduates earn \$7,200 more than was predicted based on their academic and demographic characteristics upon admission. This placed Mason in the top 4 percent of institutions nationwide for “value-added.”
- A Brookings Institution analysis found that, in a comparison of mid-career salaries, a Mason education added 20 percent to the value of a degree.

Research and Innovation

- In 2016, Mason earned a position among the 115 universities in the country with the highest research designation, called Carnegie Research-1. Joining this elite “R-1” group signals to public- and private-sector partners and sponsors that Mason’s research community has moved to the highest level of research productivity and impact.
- Mason’s research revenues exceed \$100 million annually. The university’s new strategic partnership with Inova Health System positions both institutions and the region for growth and innovation in the biotech and health sciences sector.
- Thousands of Mason faculty and students are engaged in research and scholarship, expanding our scientific understanding of the mind, developing new algorithms to secure cyberspace, improving the efficacy of climate models, identifying strategies to thwart and disrupt transnational criminal organizations, exploring new approaches to diplomacy and foreign policy, catalyzing the creation of small businesses built on Mason ideation processes, and developing innovative, personalized health and wellness interventions in concert with our clinical partners.
- Together, Mason faculty, staff, students, and alumni fuel a powerful knowledge generation and translation engine. They serve as a driving force for innovation, prosperity, and well-being in the region and far beyond, creating economic development activity exceeding \$2 billion annually.

Finance

- Appropriations from the Commonwealth of Virginia make up roughly 28 percent of the university’s educational and general budget. Mason’s educational costs per student are about 61 percent of its peer institutions.
- Since FY 2012, Mason has reduced operating costs by more than \$33 million and reallocated those funds to high-priority program needs, while reducing \$230 million in capital costs by scaling back the scope and de-authorization of certain projects—in total implementing \$263 million in budget efficiencies and cost-control measures.

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