



## GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY KEY FACTS 2013

George Mason University was ranked sixth in the up-and-coming institutions in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2013 survey. The list identifies “schools that have recently made the most promising and innovative changes in academics, faculty, students, campus, or facilities.”

### Enrollment and Student Populations

- George Mason is the largest public institution in the commonwealth, with 33,917 enrolled in fall 2013; 80.3 percent in-state; 40 percent diverse students; 21,324 degree-seeking undergraduates; and 5,888 undergraduates residing on campus.
- Mason enrolled 3,011 new freshmen in fall 2013, the largest freshman class in its history, and 2,547 new transfer students, representing 44.9 percent of new degree-seeking undergraduate students. Of the new transfers, 1,969 (77 percent) came from the Virginia Community College System and other public two-year colleges.
- Mason's total enrollment increased by 17.5 percent over the past 10 years. More than 80 percent of degree-seeking undergraduate students attend full time.
- Fifty-six percent of Mason students receive financial aid, including 27 percent who receive Pell Grants. About 57 percent of graduates have some debt when they graduate. The average student loan debt is \$25,822, which is less than the *U.S. News* national universities average of \$26,279.
- Over the past five years, enrollment in STEM degree programs has grown by 28 percent, and enrollment in health sciences has grown by 13 percent. In addition, doctoral student enrollment in STEM programs is 42 percent.
- Approximately 2,785 students are affiliated with the military, including veterans, active duty personnel, dependents, reservists, and guardsmen.
- Mason has 153,628 living alumni, with 99,868 of them residing in Virginia.

### Inputs and Outputs

- In the past 10 years, the average high school GPA of entering freshmen has improved from 3.31 to 3.66. In the same period, the average SAT score has improved from 1,103 to 1,153, and the retention rate has improved from 82.2 percent to 86.3 percent.
- Mason's six-year graduation rate for the most recent cohort is 66.7 percent, a three percentage point increase over the past five years. On this measure, Mason now ranks seventh among the 15 public four-year institutions in the commonwealth.

- 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 8,410 degrees and 355 postbaccalaureate certificates in 2012-13, which puts Mason on pace toward its desired production of 10,000 degrees annually within the next 10 years.

## Finance

- Mason's educational costs per student are about 61 percent of its peer institutions. The in-state tuition rate at Mason covers roughly 43 percent of the average cost of education.
- Since FY 2011, 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 de-authorizing and reducing the scope of certain projects, in total implementing \$100 million in budget efficiencies and cost control measures.
- Mason's efficiencies extend to high space-use rates that consistently exceed SCHEV guidelines for classroom and lab use.

## Research

- Mason is a high research activity doctoral institution. Research funding is typically around \$100 million enterprise annually, with 85 percent 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 such cutting-edge fields as cyber-security, nanoscience, neuroscience, personalized medicine, modeling and simulation, transportation policy, and beyond.

## Economic Impact

- Mason employs 6,294 individuals on three campuses. Of these, 2,536 are teaching and research faculty.
- The university's presence supports 11,618 FTE private-sector employees in the region. Mason contributed \$1.14 billion dollars in FY 2012. Statewide, the economic impact is \$1.56 billion and 16,023 jobs.

Mason was ranked in the top 200 by the Academic Ranking of World Universities, a ranking conducted annually by China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Institute of Higher Education.

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