



## GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY KEY FACTS FOR 2018

### Enrollment and Student Populations

- George Mason is the largest public university in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with 36,297 students. In-state students account for 81 percent of enrollment; 43 percent are from minority racial/ethnic groups. Degree-seeking undergraduates total 24,372, and slightly more than 6,000 undergraduates (25 percent) live in on-campus housing. First-generation college students make up 38 percent of the undergraduate enrollment.
- Mason's total enrollment has increased by 20 percent over the past 10 years. More than 82 percent of degree-seeking undergraduate students attend full time. Mason has absorbed approximately 48 percent of the statewide enrollment growth in Virginia public four-year institutions since 2008.
- Mason enrolled 3,489 new freshmen in fall 2017, the largest freshman class in its history. New transfers numbered 2,877, representing 45 percent of new degree-seeking undergraduate students. Of the new transfers, 80 percent came from the Virginia Community College System and other Virginia public two-year colleges.
- In fall 2017, 61 percent of Mason students received some form of financial aid, including 30 percent who received Pell Grants. In 2016-17, 57 percent of in-state undergraduate students graduated with some debt; the average student loan balance was \$27,682. The default rate for Mason graduates is 2.0 percent compared to the national average of 7.5 percent for four-year public institutions.
- Approximately 1 in 10 students (3,742) 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 *Military Advanced Education & Transition*.

### Discovery and Innovation

- Mason is among the 115 universities in the United States designated as a Carnegie Research-1 ("R-1") institution. Attained in 2016, this achievement indicates that Mason's research community has moved to the highest national level of research productivity and impact.
- Together, Mason faculty, staff, students, and alumni fuel a powerful knowledge generation and impact engine. They serve as driving forces for innovation, prosperity, and well-being in the commonwealth and far beyond, creating economic activity exceeding billions of dollars annually.
- Mason's research revenues exceed \$100 million annually. Through strategic partnerships with public- and private-sector organizations in the region, Mason research outcomes contribute to innovation growth and diversification in high-tech sectors of the Virginia economy, including information technology and security, biotech and health, and energy and sustainability.

- Thousands of Mason faculty and students are engaged annually in activities to create new knowledge. They are developing new algorithms and tools to protect cyberspace, improving the efficacy of climate models and weather prediction systems, identifying strategies to disrupt and thwart transnational crime, exploring new approaches to diplomacy and foreign policy, and developing innovative health and wellness interventions in concert with their clinical partners.
- Through its Entrepreneurship@Mason initiative, the university plays a critical role in starting, incubating, and accelerating small and high-tech businesses in the commonwealth. Entrepreneurship@Mason programs focus the intellectual capital of the university on enterprise creation and expansion, and provide services to more than 200 small businesses annually in areas such as entrepreneurship, technology ventures, government contracting, and international business.

## Academic Performance and Return on Investment

- In the past 10 years, the average high school GPA of entering freshmen has improved from 3.46 to 3.66. In the same period, the average SAT score (combined Critical Reading and Mathematics) has improved from 1120 to 1197. First-year retention rate has increased from 85 to 88 percent. Mason's six-year graduation rate has increased from 60 to 71 percent over the most recent 10-year period.
- Mason awarded 8,505 degrees in 2016-17, which is more than any other public institution in the commonwealth.
- Mason has 185,166 alumni, 118,278 of whom reside in Virginia.
- In 2015, the *Economist* evaluated an array of factors to measure the "value-added" 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.

## Finance

- George Mason University's Foundation recently received a new bond rating of A1 by Moody's and the A bond rating by Standard & Poor's was affirmed. Mason also received expanded financial operations (management) and capital outlay authority by the governor and the General Assembly.
- Appropriations from the Commonwealth of Virginia make up roughly 25 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 \$197 million in capital costs by scaling back the scope and de-authorization of certain projects, in total implementing \$230 million in budget efficiencies and cost control measures.

## Office of Federal Government Relations

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