



GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY KEY FACTS FOR 2019

Enrollment and Student Populations

- George Mason is the largest public university in the Commonwealth of Virginia, with 37,677 students. In-state students account for 81 percent of enrollment; 45 percent are from minority racial/ethnic groups. Degree-seeking undergraduates total 25,508, and slightly more than 6,000 undergraduates (23 percent) live in on-campus housing. First-generation college students make up 36 percent of the undergraduate enrollment.
- Mason's total enrollment has increased by 17 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 3,711 new freshmen in fall 2018, the largest freshman class in its history. New transfers numbered 3,006, 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 2018, 129 students enrolled in ADVANCE, a forward-thinking partnership between Mason and Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) that guides NOVA students through seamless program pathways to degree completion at Mason.
- In fall 2018, 61 percent of Mason students received some form of financial aid, including 29 percent who received Pell Grants. In 2017–18, 62 percent of in-state undergraduate students graduated with some debt; the average student loan balance was \$28,193. The default rate for Mason graduates is 2.3 percent, while the national average is 7.1 percent for four-year public institutions.
- One in 10 students (3,700) is affiliated with the military, including veterans, active-duty personnel, military dependents, reservists, and guardsmen. Mason was named a 2018 Military Friendly School by Victory Media and a "Top School" by *Military Advanced Education & Transition*.

Discovery and Innovation

- In 2016, Mason was recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education as one of the top research universities in the United States producing research with broad impact.
- The ingenuity of Mason faculty, staff, students, and alumni fuels a powerful knowledge generation and impact engine. Our community serves as a driving force 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 research and scholarship. They are creating new algorithms and tools to protect cyberspace, improving the efficacy of climate models and weather

prediction systems, identifying strategies to thwart transnational crime, exploring new approaches to diplomacy and foreign policy, and developing health and wellness interventions with clinical partners.

- Mason is working with the other universities in Virginia to enhance the state's leadership position in computing. Consistent with Virginia's Commonwealth Cyber Initiative—which encourages Virginia institutions and industry to build an ecosystem of cyber-related research, education, and engagement—Mason leads a \$40 million U.S. Department of Homeland Security Center of Excellence in Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis, in which Virginia Tech and Norfolk State University are partners, and leads an NSF-funded Industry-University Cooperative Research Center for Hardware and Embedded System Security and Trust with the University of Virginia and many industry 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 research commercialization, 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 3.48 to 3.70. In the same period, the average SAT score (combined Critical Reading and Mathematics) has improved from 1121 to 1218. The first-year retention rate has increased from 85 to 87 percent. Mason's six-year graduation rate has increased from 67 to 70 percent over the most recent 10-year period.
- Mason awarded 8,874 degrees in 2017–18, which is more than any other public institution in the commonwealth.
- Mason has 193,212 alumni, 123,150 of whom reside in Virginia.
- In 2018, *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* ranked Mason as one of the top 100 "Best Values in Public Colleges and Universities" on its national list, and *Forbes* and the Center for College Affordability and Productivity ranked Mason No. 68 among the top 100 of "America's Best College Buys."
- 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 Foundation Inc.'s bond rating from Standard & Poor's was upgraded from A to A+, and the A1 rating from Moody's was affirmed (in FY 2018).
- 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 59 percent of its peer institutions.

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