

George Mason University Is *All Together Different*

OPPORTUNITY AND IMPACT

- George Mason is the largest public research university in the Commonwealth of Virginia with **40,378** students from all 50 states and 130 countries.
- George Mason is the top public university in Virginia for upward mobility, according to *U.S. News & World Report* and *The Wall Street Journal*.
- We are one of just five large public universities named in the highest tier of Opportunity Colleges and Universities by the Carnegie Foundation and American Council on Education for higher access to education that leads to higher earnings.
- **79%** of students in fall 2025 were in-state students.
- Our incoming Class of 2029 undergraduates have the highest average GPA to date, with 25% earning a 4.0 or higher and roughly 70% earning a 3.5 or higher.
- About 8% of students are enrolled in the Honors College.
- George Mason's six-year graduation rate is above the national average, with no marked disparities based on ethnicity or economic status.
- We have more than **250,000** total alumni, with 85% of graduates employed in Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.
- George Mason produces more tech graduates than any other four-year institution in Virginia, with **34%** of undergraduates and **40%** of graduate students in 2025 earning STEM degrees.
- We are ranked a top 50 public university nationally and No. 1 among Virginia and Washington, D.C., area public universities by *The Wall Street Journal* for best salaries, with graduates earning a median starting annual salary of **\$70,000**.
- We exceed the commonwealth's Tech Talent Investment Program goals by **13%**, advancing the **\$2 billion** initiative to grow Virginia's computer science, engineering, and software workforce.

AFFORDABILITY AND ACCESS

- The Mason Virginia Promise expands access and affordability through a last-dollar grant that helps eligible students close remaining gaps in undergraduate tuition after other gift aid is applied.
- Our Direct Admissions Program with 40 Northern Virginia high schools offered direct admission to almost 3,500 students, with more than 500 students enrolling for fall 2025.
- The Early Identification Program supports more than 1,100 first-generation middle and high school students annually across seven school districts and has produced more than 2,400 graduates.
- More than 6,500 students have enrolled in the ADVANCE dual-admissions program with Northern Virginia Community College since 2018. ADVANCE has now expanded to six community colleges statewide, with 600 new transfers in fall 2025, and is nationally recognized in *Transfer Playbook 2.0*.
- We helped launch two K–12 lab schools focused on data science, STEM, and early college readiness to expand pathways to higher education.
- More than 3,000 of our incoming students in fall 2025 were transfer students.
- About 1 in 4 undergraduates are first generation and 34% are eligible for federal Pell Grants, exceeding the state average.

George Mason Is a Partner in the Region and the State

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

- George Mason is a nationally ranked R1 research university, with total research expenditures for fiscal year 2025 of **\$204 million**.
- George Mason's Grand Challenge Initiative turns research into real-world solutions in education access, climate resilience, digital innovation, health preparedness, space exploration, and civic trust.
- Our largest federal partners included the U.S. Department of War, the National Science Foundation (NSF), and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- George Mason offers 78 undergraduate degrees across 10 colleges and schools, combining hands-on research, internships, and accelerated and dual degree programs.
- The Smithsonian-Mason School of Conservation, the only one in the nation, provides hands-on training from Smithsonian Institution scientists.
- George Mason offers 133 degree programs at the master's, doctoral, and professional level, and more than 100 graduate-level certificates.
- We established Virginia's first School of Computing and first College of Public Health, addressing critical workforce and public health needs.
- We are nationally recognized for quantum science, robotics, and autonomous systems. We launched Virginia's first public AI master's program and secured a **\$430,000 NSF grant** for undergraduate AI education.

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS

- Mason Enterprise™, the state's largest university-based economic development program, manages Virginia's network of 27 Small Business Development Centers with an economic impact of **\$2.8 billion** in new investments and helping create or retain more than 6,000 jobs.
- George Mason hosts more than 500 employers through recruitment networking events, career fairs, and the On-Campus Interviewing Program.
- In collaboration with the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation and the state's R1 research institutions, the Lab-to-Launch initiative will accelerate research commercialization through a standardized Fast-Track License, streamline technology transfer, and expand private-sector investment.
- Fuse at Mason Square, a **\$254 million** innovation hub, brings together students, industry, and faculty in advanced labs for AI, cybersecurity, and data analytics to empower tech talent.
- The 3,800-acre Northern Virginia Innovation District, led by George Mason and in partnership with Prince William County and the City of Manassas, includes the **\$75 million** Life Sciences and Engineering Building and fuels research and economic growth in the region.
- George Mason leads the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative Northern Virginia Node, which serves as an engine for research and innovation, while expanding Virginia's talent pipeline to meet more than 50,000 job openings.
- George Mason partners with regional development groups and employers to drive regional innovation, advance workforce development, and offer students career-building opportunities in technology, cybersecurity, and government contracting.

Office of Federal Government Relations

Kerry Bolognese, Director

kbologne@gmu.edu

Office: 703-993-7710 • Cell: 571-425-2937

