



# Workforce Development

## Fast Facts

- George Mason is the largest public research university in Virginia with **40,449** students from all 50 states and 130 countries.
- George Mason produces more tech graduates than any other four-year institution in Virginia.
- George Mason's entrepreneur and small business programs have had an estimated economic impact in Virginia of more than **\$1.6 billion**.
- **85%** of George Mason's alumni stay in Virginia and the Washington, D.C., metro region to work.

## Initiatives & Programs

### Mason Career Academy

- For a small registration fee, Mason Career Academy (MCA) offers access to **over 90** online micro-credential courses and industry-recognized certifications in fields, such as data analytics, cybersecurity, project management, and information technology (IT) support.
- MCA is **available to the public**, including displaced federal workers and contractors in the region.

### Continuing and Professional Education

- George Mason's Continuing Professional Education (CPE) unit is designed for busy professionals, corporations, organizations, and federal agencies.
- Every year, CPE helps **more than 3,000** people upskill their abilities, achieve industry certifications, advance their careers, and step into new roles by offering the professional training they need to succeed.
- CPE issues digital badges for some programs so participants can easily demonstrate new skills to employers.

### Culinary Careers Collaborative (CCC)

- George Mason's Tourism and Events Management program, in partnership with the City of Fairfax, Town of Vienna, and the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association Foundation (VRLTAF), developed the Culinary Careers Collaborative (CCC). CCC is a project designed to equip restaurant workers with the foundational skills they need to succeed.
- Using feedback from restaurant owners, the team developed three tracks: beginning culinary skills, beverage skills, and advanced management. Each track totals **24 credit hours** taken over **four days**. Fairfax City and the Town of Vienna fully financed the programs, so they are free for participants.

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## Fuse at Mason Square

- A hub for digital innovation, Fuse at Mason Square will create a peerless innovation experience by providing unparalleled access to one of the largest tech talent pipelines in Virginia and to industry-influenced research.
- The 345,000 sq. ft. facility is home to George Mason students and faculty, retail establishments, tech industry partners, and the community. Ideas and opportunity will collide and spark the next generation of discovery.
- Fuse will house research and economic opportunities in emerging areas including: artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, power/energy, Next G communications, nuclear small reactor control systems, and data center engineering.

## Mason Innovation District

- The Innovation District, a collaborative effort led by George Mason University and in partnership with Prince William County and the City of Manassas, will accelerate scientific advancement, bolster startups and established employers, and create high-quality jobs.
- The Science and Technology Campus is also the university's hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, accounting for **over 65%** of George Mason's start-ups and licenses.
- The Innovation District will primarily focus on aerospace and defense, cybersecurity and data infrastructure, life sciences, biotechnology, and forensics, and semiconductors and electronics.

## Mason Small Business Development Centers & Mason Enterprise Centers

- Mason Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) offer no-cost business counseling and training services to small businesses.
- Small business owners can meet with Mason SBDC Counselors and Subject Matter Experts to discuss business concerns and receive professional guidance.
- Mason SBDCs also offer variety of workshops on Marketing, Pitch Preparation, Financing, SEO, Cybersecurity, Government Contracting, and more.
- In 2024, **3,028** businesses were served by Mason SBDCs in the Northern Virginia region. Seventy-six (**76**) **new businesses** were established with assistance from Mason SBDC. The centers helped to create **547** **new jobs** and **retain 1,367 jobs**.

## Nano Boot Camp @ SciTech

- Nano Boot Camp is an immersive five-day experience designed to introduce adults 18 and older to the world of nanotechnology and cleanroom science. Participants get hands-on training using real-world equipment in a certified cleanroom environment. No prior experience is required.