About George Mason University

Mason’s growing reputation as Virginia’s largest public research university is rooted in the commonwealth’s strong educational tradition. Originally a branch of the University of Virginia, Mason began offering courses in liberal arts and engineering in 1957. It became an independent university on April 7, 1972. Today, Mason enrolls more than 34,000 students and offers nearly 82 undergraduate degrees, 88 master’s degrees, 39 doctoral degrees, and 1 professional degree (law).

Mason has expanded its presence to serve the entire Northern Virginia region by employing the revolutionary concept of the distributed university. In collaboration with county and state governments, the university established campuses in Prince William County, which is the university’s Science and Technology Campus, and Arlington County, which is home to Mason’s Antonin Scalia Law School. A facility in Loudoun County helps Mason serve one of the fastest-growing counties in the country.

The university’s ideal location also presents Mason students with unmatched opportunities for internships and work experience. Mason is just miles outside the nation’s capital and in the heart of Northern Virginia’s Technology Corridor. In addition, some of the finest museums, theater, and music in the world are just a short Metro ride away.

What if I want to see more of George Mason University?

Interested in a guided tour packed with even more information and an inside look at the university? Campus tours are conducted on the Fairfax Campus weekdays and on Saturdays. Please call to make a reservation or reserve a space online at admissions.gmu.edu. Or take a virtual tour any time, any place, on our website at admissions.gmu.edu.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
Phone: 703-993-2400 (Virginia) or 1-888-MASON12 (toll free)
Fax: 703-993-2392 | Email: admissions@gmu.edu

FINANCIAL AID
financialaid.gmu.edu

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS
admissions.gmu.edu/grad

INFORMATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS
admissions.gmu.edu/freshmen

INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS
admissions.gmu.edu/global

ATHLETICS
GoMason.com

TRANSFER ADMISSIONS
admissions.gmu.edu/transfer

UNIVERSITY EVENTS AND NEWS
today.gmu.edu

Living the Patriot Life

Stopping for a Bite?
Mason offers more than 30 dining options throughout all of our campuses. We also provide vegetarian, vegan, gluten-free, and Halal choices, and we can accommodate students with allergies or dietary restrictions.

Besides residential dining halls, there are many familiar favorites, including Subway, Einstein Bagels, Panera Bread, Taco Bell, and even a 24-hour Starbucks (near Merten Hall) for when you just have to have a chai latte at 2 a.m.*

IKE’S
Located in Presidents Park and open 24/7 during semesters, Ike’s provides a community dining atmosphere and is a go-to for healthy eating. Be sure to keep an eye out for “Mason Greens” on the salad bar, which are lettuce and herbs grown on campus in the hydroponic greenhouse next door.

JOHNSON CENTER
In addition to a convenience store, the Johnson Center has a food court and a large number of eateries including Chipotle (opening August 2017), Panera Bread, Red Hot & Blue, Starbucks, and others.

SOUTHSIDE
Named after the southeastern region of the commonwealth, Southside is Mason’s ecofriendly, Euromarket-style dining venue. Within Southside are six restaurants on the main dining floor.

STUDENT UNION BUILDING (SUB I)
While Chick-fil-A and Taco Bell are favorites, SUB I is also home to the Rathskeller, a sit-down sports bar offering a place to relax with friends and maybe catch a game on television.

*Please note hours vary during summer months and university breaks.
Welcome to George Mason University

This self-guided walking tour of George Mason University’s Fairfax Campus points out some of our cultural, academic, administrative, and research facilities. With more than 150 buildings on three campuses, the university has much more to offer than what is highlighted here, and you are encouraged to take a look at other areas of interest that may not be specifically located on this tour path.

TOUR ROUTE 1
Academic Highlights

LONG AND KIMMY NGUYEN ENGINEERING BUILDING (2009)
The Nguyen building, named after benefactor Northern Virginia businessman Long Nguyen and his wife, Kimmy, is home to the Volgenau School of Engineering. With more than 180,000 square feet of classroom, research, and office space, it is the largest academic building on Mason's Fairfax Campus. It is also Mason’s first LEED-certified green building.

ART AND DESIGN BUILDING (2009)
This 88,900-square-foot building has modular floor plans and varied light sources, allowing perimeter studio spaces for painting and drawing, digital arts, graphic design, sculpture, photography, printmaking, and interdisciplinary arts to be reconfigured in the future. A 75-seat lecture hall and a gallery for displaying student work occupy spaces next to the main staircase and entrance for easy public access. Art education, general classrooms, and lounges are located throughout the building to encourage interaction among students. The building also incorporates separate graduate studios and administrative and faculty offices.

INNOVATION HALL (2002)
This four-story, 104,000-square-foot building was designed to allow full integration of internet technology into course curriculum, facilitate distance learning, and offer advanced telecommunication and networking capabilities. The building does not house a particular school or academic unit, but hosts courses from across the curriculum in a collaborative atmosphere tailored to students’ needs throughout all disciplines.

EXPLORATORY HALL (FORMERLY SCIENCE AND TECH I; 1991)
This academic building houses classrooms, labs, and offices. A brand-new 50,000-square-foot addition connects Planetary Hall (formerly Science and Tech I) and Exploratory Hall.

PLANETARY HALL (FORMERLY SCIENCE AND TECH I; 1997)
This academic building is home to classrooms, labs, and offices of the Chemistry and Biochemistry, Mathematical Sciences, and Physics and Astronomy Departments.

DONALD AND NANCY DE LASKI PERFORMING ARTS BUILDING (1995; RENOVATED 2010)
The expansion of this 161,000-square-foot building increased teaching and performing space for the College of Visual and Performing Arts. The building is named for Donald and Nancy de Laski, longtime supporters of Mason.

CONCERT HALL/CENTER FOR THE ARTS (1995)
The Center for the Arts includes the 2,000-seat Concert Hall, which can be converted into a more intimate 800-seat theater. Most Center for the Arts events take place here, including operas, symphonies, ballets, and musical and theatrical performances.

JOHNSON CENTER (1995)
Named after the university's president from 1978 to 1996, George W. Johnson, this 320,000-square-foot building was the first of its kind on an American campus. The Johnson Center houses a technologically advanced library, a movie theater, a ballroom, a food court, retail outlets, student organizations, offices, group meeting rooms, and computer labs.

RECONSTRUCTION AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX (1972; RENOVATED 2005)
Known as the RAC, this sporting and health facility is an always busy place for students to socialize or study.

SKYLINE FITNESS CENTER (2007)
Skyline Fitness Center features a range of cardio equipment—ellipticals, treadmills, and recumbent and indoor cycling bikes—and strength training equipment. The center boasts a 5,597-square-foot basketball and volleyball gymnasium. It's named after Skyline Drive in western Virginia.

Points of Interest

PRESIDENTS PARK (1989; RENOVATED 2009)
These eight residence halls, each named after U.S. presidents, make up Presidents Park. All told, they are home to approximately 1,100 students. As with all Mason residence halls, rooms are fully furnished, with air conditioning and Wi-Fi. In Presidents Park, residents reside in double, triple, or quad rooms, and share common bathrooms.

UNIVERSITY COMMONS (1986; RENOVATED SUMMER 2012)
These eight residence halls, each named for a Virginia county, are collectively known as the Commons. The Commons is home to approximately 500 freshmen. Each floor in each building has a community bathroom, with approximately 26 to 30 residents living in double and triple rooms. The Commons also houses many of Mason's Living Learning Communities.

EAGLEBANK ARENA (FORMERLY PATRIOT CENTER; 1985)
One of the most prominent structures on the Fairfax Campus, the EagleBank Arena is Mason’s largest events venue. It hosts more than 120 events each year, including, but not limited to, concerts, sporting events, high school commencements, and Mason’s Commencement and degree celebrations. It seats approximately 10,000 people.

FIELD HOUSE (1982)
Also known as the Recreational Sports Complex, this 121,425-square-foot building is one of four fitness centers located on the Fairfax Campus. The facility is available for use by students, faculty, and staff. It’s also the primary training facility for Mason’s varsity athletic teams.

TOUR ROUTE 2
Student Life

AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER (1997)
In addition to being home to a fitness center, this 90,736-square-foot facility has a recreation pool, whirlpool, sauna, and a competition pool in the Jim McKay Natatorium, named for the founder of Jim McKay Chevrolet Inc.

CONCERT HALL/CENTER FOR THE ARTS (1995)
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THE HUB (FORMERLY STUDENT UNION II; 1962; RENOVATED 2011)
The Hub is filled with offices, student lounges, dining facilities, and meeting spaces. Students’ mailboxes are also located here. Students can often be found socializing or studying in the building, creating a center of activity—hence the name, the Hub.