Paying for College

Mason’s tuition and room and board rates are lower than the state average for four-year schools, an unexpected benefit when coupled with our status as the largest public research institution in Virginia.

Students who invest in their future at Mason become part of one of the Top 10 public colleges in the nation and study with world-renowned faculty who lead the way in their respective fields. Mason’s campus offers the best of a large university atmosphere—22 NCAA Division I teams, 460+ student groups, and daily activities and events—yet carries the feeling of a small school where every student can make a difference.

Flexible part-time jobs, either on Mason’s campus or with university partners, can help with the expense of college and build experience that aligns with your future career goals. Need-based aid is made available to students who have submitted the required FAFSA form. Students must apply and interview for positions that are part of the work-study program. Jobs are limited and should be sought as early as possible. Earning potential varies and work is capped at 20 hours per week, while classes are in session, and 29 hours during breaks. Students can use paychecks for tuition, fees, room and board or day-to-day living expenses.

Students must complete the FAFSA form each year they attend Mason. Tuition assistance can vary from year to year, and there are deadlines for submitting the required documents.

Invest in Your Future

The more you learn, the more you earn. Based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, college graduates earn $26,000 more per year than high school graduates. That’s almost $780,000 over a 30-year career. Higher education carries lifelong benefits.

The data also shows Mason graduates earn a starting salary higher than the average of their counterparts at any other Virginia public university. Plus, 84 percent of Mason graduates start working in positions directly related to their career goals.

Attending Mason is about common sense as much as it is about common cents.

Eligibility and Important Dates

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Federal Work Study

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**Outside Scholarships**

Tuition assistance is available through a wide array of local, state and national awards that reduce the cost of attendance. The general rule is to apply early and seek as many scholarships as possible. The Mason Admissions and Student Financial Aid Offices maintain a list of specific resources our students can access to pay for college.

**Grants**

Mason participates in multiple need-based federal and state-funded grant programs that can assist first-year and transfer students. Grants are based in part on academic achievement and expected family contributions. They do not have to be repaid and often come with standards of attainment in order to be renewed.

- Federal Pell Grants
- Federal Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grant
- Virginia Commonwealth Award
- Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program
- Two-Year College Transfer Program

**Scholarships for Entering Students**

Both one-time and continuing merit scholarships are awarded by the Office of Admissions to eligible admitted students. Eligibility can be based on a number of factors, including GPA, standardized testing (if applicable) and degree program. Students who apply by the November 1 deadline are automatically considered for these awards. Application information will be distributed to continuing Mason students each year.

**60%**

OF MASON STUDENTS RECEIVE FINANCIAL AID

**INVEST IN YOURSELF**

George Mason University
Office of Admissions
4400 University Drive, MSN 3A4
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

703-993-2400
admissions@gmu.edu
admissions.gmu.edu
Visit: admissions.gmu.edu/visit
Virtual Tour: admissions.gmu.edu/virtualtour

INVEST IN YOURSELF