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 37,000 students and offers nearly 82 undergraduate degrees, 89 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 is 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 Monday–Saturday. Please reserve a space online at admissions.gmu.edu/visit. 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

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financialaid.gmu.edu

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admissions.gmu.edu/transfer

UNIVERSITY EVENTS AND NEWS
today.gmu.edu

ALUMNI OFFICE
alumni.gmu.edu

Want a Bite to Eat?

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 Bros. Bagels, Panera Bread, Chipotle, and even a 24-hour Starbucks (near Merten Hall) for when you just have to have a chai latte at 2 a.m. *

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

MERTEN HALL
Right next to the Mason Tour and Visitors Center are a few great options for a quick bite between classes or lunch after a campus visit. Panda Express, Einstein Bros. Bagels, and Manhattan Pizza are all connected to the first floor of Merten Hall.

STUDENT UNION BUILDING (SUB) I
While Chick-fil-A and Akeno Sushi 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.

Also, Check Out

• Dunkin Donuts at Tidewater Hall
• Argo Tea at Fenwick Library
• Starbucks at Northern Neck Hall

Living the Patriot Life

THE RAC

GREEK LIFE

SOUTHSIDE DINING

THE MASON PATRIOT

MOVE-IN DAY

CORNER POCKET IN THE HUB
Welcome To George Mason University

This self-guided walking tour of George Mason University’s Fairfax Campus points out some of our academic buildings, student centers, and research facilities. With more than 150 buildings on four 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 map.

Academic Highlights

Mason follows a "neighborhood model" with buildings on campus whenever possible, meaning that classrooms, research and study spaces, and administrative offices for each college are housed in the same building.

ART AND DESIGN BUILDING (College of Visual and Performing Arts)

This building houses a professional art gallery for students to showcase their work, as well as collaborative study spaces and editing labs for interdisciplinary work. In addition to the gallery, student work is displayed on the walls throughout the entire building.

ENTERPRISE HALL (School of Business)

This building is divided into two sections: One houses academics, with lecture halls and smaller collaborative spaces; the other has administrative and faculty offices, as well as specialized advising and career services for business students.

EXPLORATORY HALL (College of Science)

The molecule design on the exterior of Exploratory hints at its primary function as the home of Mason’s undergraduate teaching labs. Note the aesthetic elements throughout the building, such as "Ziggy" the prehistoric whale skeleton and the periodic tables in the atrium.

FENWICK LIBRARY

Fenwick Library, having recently undergone a major renovation, more than doubled its size to 300,000 square feet. This is one of the five libraries at Mason and is the main research library. Fenwick features 25 miles of physical research materials and millions of online research materials available 24/7.

NGUYEN ENGINEERING BUILDING (Volgenau School of Engineering)

Featured in the building is a networking and partnership wall, as well as educational walls that highlight the partnership between the Volgenau School of Engineering and Mason students.

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PETERSON FAMILY HEALTH SCIENCES HALL (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Peterson is the newest addition to Mason’s Fairfax Campus, containing the Nutrition and Food Studies Kitchen with a state-of-the-art projection system that allows students to see the professor’s workstation. There are also wet labs, nursing simulation labs with cameras above each bed, and the Department of Rehabilitation Science’s Functional Performance Lab.

ROBINSON HALL CONSTRUCTION (College of Humanities and Social Sciences)

Robinson Hall is the eventual home to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, temporarily located in Buchanan Hall. This ambitious construction project will result in a five-story building, the tallest on campus, which will include collaborative workspaces, innovative classrooms, and administrative spaces.

ADDITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD MODELS

BUCHANAN HALL (Honors College)

THOMPSON HALL (College of Education and Human Development)

Student Life

JOHNSON CENTER

Named after George W. Johnson, the university’s president from 1978 to 1996, this building was the first of its kind on an American campus. The Johnson Center houses a ballroom, a food court, retail outlets, student organizations, offices, group meeting rooms, and computer labs.

THE HUB

The Hub is filled with offices, student lounges, dining facilities, and meeting spaces. Student mailboxes, as well as the Corner Pocket (a fun game room), 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.

STUDENT UNION BUILDING I

This building is home to numerous administrative and student organization offices, including the Registrar’s Office, Financial Aid, and Student Accounts. There are several eateries in its bottom level, including the Rathskeller, a popular sports bar. The Patriot Lounge on the main level is a popular place for students to socialize or study.

AQUATIC AND FITNESS CENTER

In addition to being home to a fitness center, this 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.

RECREATION AND ATHLETIC COMPLEX

Known as the RAC, this sport and health facility is an always busy spot where people exercise and sports teams practice. Mason’s wrestling, volleyball, and tennis teams play their games here. Its offerings include fitness equipment, racquetball courts, basketball courts, classrooms, and a Freshens smoothie and yogurt stand. Mason’s ROTC program is also based here.

SKYLINE FITNESS CENTER

Skyline Fitness Center features a range of cardio equipment—ellipticals, treadmills, and recumbent and indoor cycling bikes—and machine and free weight strength-training equipment. The center also features a basketball and volleyball gymnasium, as well as an outdoor adventure experience.

Housing and Dining

FRESHMAN HOUSING

The 12 freshman residence halls, all named after U.S. presidents, make up Presidents Park. As with all Mason residence halls, rooms are fully furnished and have air conditioning and wi-fi. In Presidents Park, students reside in double, triple, or quad rooms and share common bathrooms.

UNIVERSITY COMMONS

These eight freshman residence halls, each named for a Virginia county, are collectively known as the Commons. Each floor in each building has a community bathroom, with approximately 30 students living in doubles and triples. The Commons also houses many of Mason’s Living Learning Communities (LLCs). Underground utility and infrastructure construction is anticipated in this area in 2019-20.

DIETING HALLS

SOUTHSIDE

One of Mason’s most sustainable facilities, Southside uses locally grown crops and makes fertilizer from disposed food. Within Southside, there are six stations on the main dining floor, including an allergen-free zone.

SOUTH

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” at the salad bar, which includes lettuce and herbs grown in the hydroponic greenhouse next door.

THE GLOBE

Located in the Mason Global Center, this dining hall features more foods from different cultures rather than the traditional American foods served at the other dining halls.

Points of Interest

ALAN AND SALLY MERHTEN HALL

Merten Hall, named for Mason’s fifth president, Alan Merten, and his wife, Sally, brings Mason’s administrative offices and institutional support under one roof. Space on the first floor is dedicated to classrooms, food courts, and the Mason Tour and Visitors Center.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

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.

DE LASKI ARTS BUILDING

This building features 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.

EAGLEBANK ARENA

Located behind Innovation Hall, the Innovation Food Forest is a pesticide-free, sustainable garden filled with native plants. It provides a beautiful view on your way to class.

MASON INNOVATION EXCHANGE (MIX)

This "maker’s space" is a collaborative space for students and faculty members to come together and create items with equipment such as 3-D printers, sewing machines, and more.

THE MASON MUSEUM

This building is dedicated to Mason students who are passionate about the arts and humanities. The museum features a variety of exhibitions and events throughout the year.

THE OBSERVATORY AT RESEARCH HALL

The Observatory at Research Hall provides students with an alternative learning environment. The Mason Observatory features the second most powerful low-light telescope on the East Coast.