



GEORGE MASON  
UNIVERSITY®

# Provost and Executive Vice President

## Position Profile



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# The Opportunity

George Mason University, under the visionary leadership of President Gregory Washington, PhD, invites applications and nominations for the position of Provost and Executive Vice President. This role offers the opportunity to be a key leader in the continued growth of one of a new category of leading American universities, built on an emerging leadership model that puts size and academic prowess in partnership with one another, not competition. The emerging class of opportunity/research universities is rarified territory, and George Mason is in search of its next provost to advance its further development as a leader in the higher education sector.

Serving as George Mason's chief academic officer and reporting to the President, the Provost and Executive Vice President will lead the charge in cultivating an academic environment suited to educate America's first leaders of its non-majority, multicultural future society, and serve as a leading model of higher education into the 22<sup>nd</sup> century. In close collaboration with faculty, staff, and students, the next provost will be instrumental in advancing academic excellence, research, and scholarly pursuits grounded in [Mason's timeless core values](#).

The Provost will lead the academic and research enterprise alongside the chief financial officer and chief operating officer, in a close-knit team led by the university president. The ideal candidate will plot a strategic direction with eyes on what is needed now and into the future, not simply what is typical of the higher education status quo. Educational initiatives that the next provost leads will advance the university's Grand Challenge Initiative to help humanity preserve its capacity to chart a future of its choosing, while leading the development of academic innovations that stay abreast of rapid changes in the academic landscape forced by AI and other technological disruptions, and continuing to produce industry-leading graduates who stay in demand among leading regional and national employers. The provost also will be masterful at talent recruitment for the most innovative academic thinkers who will serve on the front lines of the drive to reinvent how universities educate the citizenry and enrich our society. This role entails the comprehensive supervision of the university's educational, research, and public engagement endeavors.

With direct authority over all colleges, schools, and academic support units, the Provost collaborates with the senior administration to allocate resources for academic programs and functions. This collaborative effort ensures that the university's mission is consistently upheld. To assist in these responsibilities, the Provost is supported by a dedicated team of vice presidents, vice and associate provosts, deans, and professional staff, all deeply committed to the realization of Mason's educational goals. To learn more about this opportunity and the search, please visit [here](#).

# 1

“ WE ARE  
**PASSIONATE,  
PURPOSE-DRIVEN,  
AND DRAWN TO  
CAUSES  
LARGER**  
THAN  
OURSELVES. ”

—President Gregory Washington



## Responsibilities

The Provost and Executive Vice President is responsible for:

- **Leadership and Governance:** Serve as a key member of the leadership team, working closely with President Gregory Washington, PhD, and engage with multiple constituencies to enable the university's mission, vision, and commitments.
- **Academic and Faculty Excellence:** Foster leading-edge academic excellence, supporting student access, degree completion, and student and faculty success in ways that serve as national models.
- **Research and Innovation:** Lead the enhancement and expansion of the university's research enterprise, foster a culture of innovation and cross-disciplinary collaboration, and navigate volatility in funding landscapes.
- **Financial Stewardship:** Manage financial resources and address revenue pressures to ensure the university's fiscal health.
- **Inclusive and Collaborative Culture:** Foster a culture of cooperation, shared governance, and continuous improvement across George Mason University and within the central administration while supporting the university's deep commitment to inclusive excellence as a core value.
- **Constructive Conflict Management:** Work closely with the Board of Visitors, deans, and external constituencies to find integrative solutions to emerging challenges.
- **Student and Faculty Success:** Champion the enhancement of our academic offerings and actively forge robust pathways for student achievement and faculty success.
- **Fundraising:** Play a support role alongside the president, deans, and senior leadership in supporting University Advancement in the acquisition and the cultivation of principal and major gift donors to support the mission of the university.
- **Academic Advocacy:** Navigate the complexities of federal and state government interactions and support innovative approaches to global education, aligning university initiatives with a fast-changing policy environment.
- **Best Practices and Values-Based Leadership:** Lead the identification and implementation of best practices at scale, demonstrating values-based leadership by aligning those actions with stated commitments.

## Required Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have the following professional qualifications:

- An academic background and credentials, including an earned Ph.D., or highest degree in their chosen academic field.
- A successful record of academic leadership based on a combination of scholarly accomplishment and executive experience, or substantial leadership and career accomplishments with an understanding of and demonstrated commitment to higher education.
- Fiscal acumen, including experience with successful budget model design, implementation, and strategic prioritization.
- A demonstrated commitment to shared governance and ability to build strong positive relationships with multiple constituencies.
- A track record of enhancing excellence in undergraduate and graduate education and research, scholarship, and creative activity.
- A demonstrated ability to attract and retain strong faculty, students, and staff from a wide variety of backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.
- Leadership experience in working with global education efforts and/or international campuses.
- A highly communicative and transparent leadership style that fosters an environment of trust, engagement, and high morale among faculty, students, staff, and the external University community.

# About George Mason University

**OUR MISSION**  
**TO BE AN INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE**  
**ACADEMIC COMMUNITY COMMITTED TO CREATING**  
**A MORE JUST, FREE, AND PROSPEROUS WORLD**



Founded as a branch campus of the University of Virginia in 1957 and forged as a freestanding university in 1972, George Mason's history is one of fast growth, early firsts, and breaks from conventional wisdom in American academia. It became America's largest test-optional university in 2007, Virginia's largest university in 2009, Carnegie's youngest-ever R1 university in 2016, and one of just 16 universities to achieve both Carnegie R1 and Opportunity University in 2025. Today, George Mason stands as the Commonwealth of Virginia's most diverse and No. 1 university for innovation, upward mobility, best value, and internships, and home to the commonwealth's first College of Public Health, School of Computing, and Chief AI Officer, to name just a few meaningful firsts. The four pillars of its identity are diversity (of origin, identity, life circumstance, and viewpoint), inclusivity, grit, and audacity.

A university that seeks to build its identity on its commitment to inclusivity rather than exclusivity, George Mason prides itself on both its 90 percent acceptance rate and its high graduation rate across all demographic groups. It celebrates the size and academic successes of its annual enrollment of transfer students, and the constantly-improving academic profile of its freshmen classes. It regards its size – more than 40,000 students and growing – as a strength given that its 71-percent graduation rate is substantially above the national average, and that nearly 77 percent of its bachelor-degree graduates stay in the Northern Virginia/Washington, DC region, offering a reliable and in-demand pipeline of highly qualified graduates to hire into the regional employment market.

George Mason University offers a distinctive educational environment. Offering a diverse array of over 200 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, alongside numerous minors and certificate options, George Mason empowers students to tailor their education to align with their career aspirations and personal goals.

Each day, the dedicated faculty, staff, students, and partners of Mason collaborate to tackle humanity's most pressing challenges, shed light on significant matters, and influence policy decisions while working just minutes from the nation's capital. Their motivation is rooted in the desire to explore uncharted territories, leave a meaningful mark on the world, and drive the regional economy that supports it. This ethos positions Mason at the forefront, making it one of only five very large public universities in the country recognized by the Carnegie Foundation and the American Council on Education (ACE) as both a Research-Intensive Doctoral-Granting and a highest-tier Opportunity University.

In rankings, the National Science Foundation ranks George Mason among the top ten public universities in the United States for research growth. The Wall Street Journal's data-driven, impact-based rankings put George Mason as America's No. 32 public university, and Virginia's No. 1 public university for value, post-college salaries, and social mobility. Washington Monthly ranks George Mason as Virginia's No. 1 public university for accessibility. Around 40 of its academic programs have earned top 20 national rankings among public universities, half of which are top 10. In addition, College Factual ranks George Mason No. 1 in the nation for serving military and veterans,



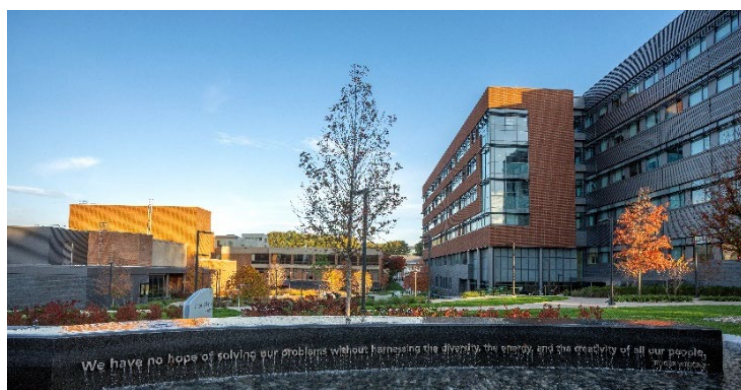
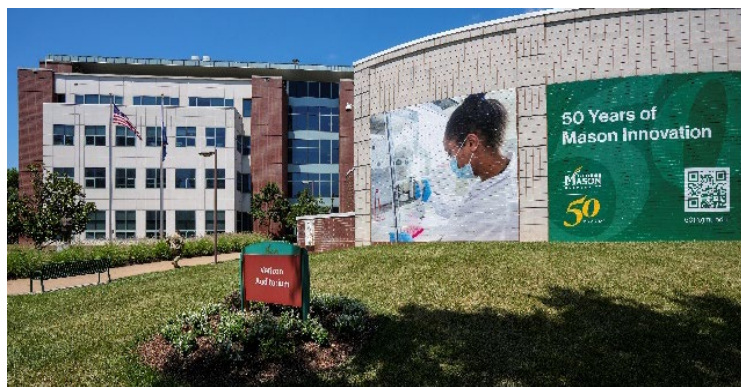


and the Campus Pride index ranks it as one of the nation’s “Best of the Best” institutions for maintaining a welcoming environment for the LGBTQ community, with our intercollegiate athletics department achieving a perfect score.

Mason is further shaped by its adherence to the principles of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE), ensuring that free speech and intellectual freedom are not only protected but also celebrated. The university's embrace of a multitude of backgrounds and experiences underscores its mission to prepare students for a global society and positions Mason as a microcosm of the world at large, where every individual can thrive, contribute, and make a positive impact. To learn more about Mason’s rankings, visit [here](#).

## Mason Campuses

George Mason University operates several campuses, primarily located in suburban areas near the District of Columbia in northern Virginia: the [Fairfax Campus](#), [Mason Square](#), and [Science and Technology Campus](#). Additionally, the university maintains an international campus in Songdo, Korea known as [Mason Korea](#). The Fairfax Campus serves as the central hub for undergraduate student life. More than 6,000 students live on campus, and a one-year residency requirement is in place for first-year students. For more information on Mason’s campuses, visit [here](#).





## Mason Students & Community

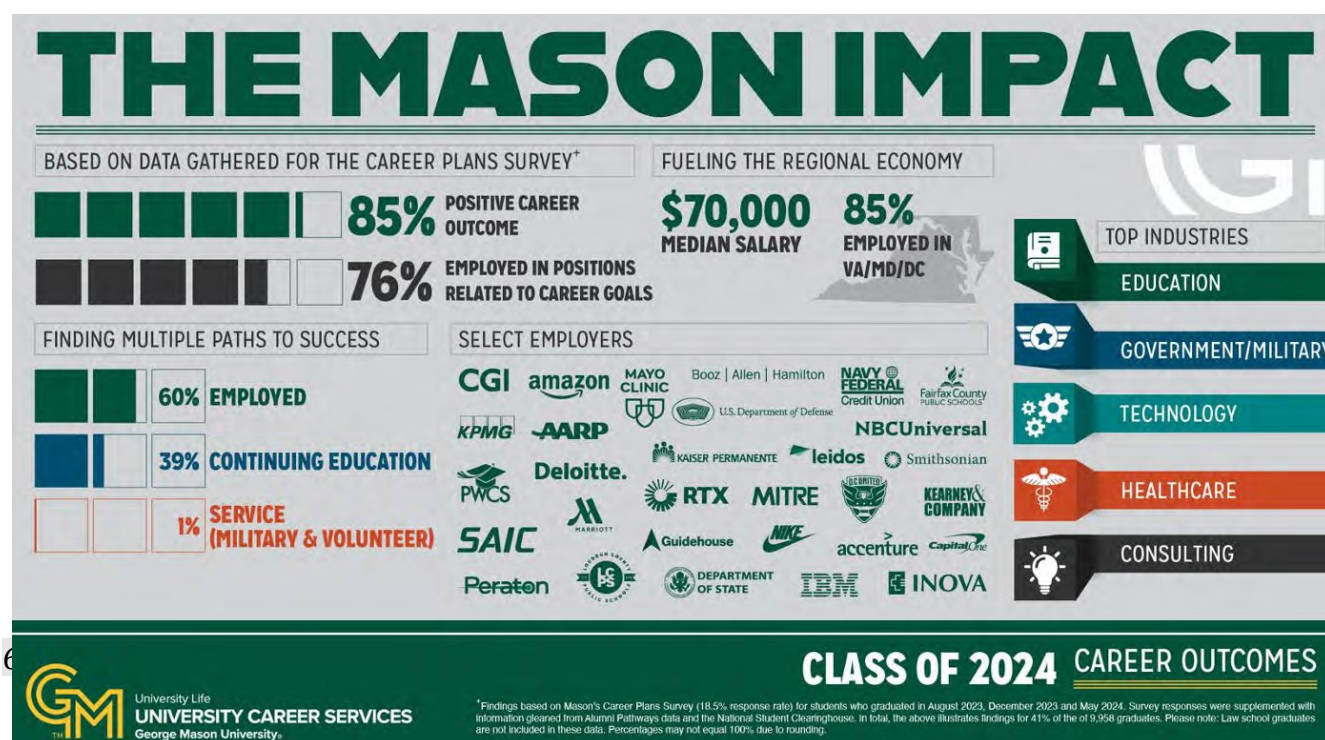
George Mason University stands as the largest R1 public university in Virginia, boasting an enrollment of more than 40,000 students, a third of whom are graduate-level scholars. The university is recognized for its substantial growth trajectory and serves a student body that reflects a mosaic of experiences and backgrounds. Among Virginia's 15 public universities, George Mason accounts for 71 percent of all statewide undergraduate student enrollment over the past 10 years, and 44 percent of all enrollment growth. As a minority-serving institution, George Mason is home to a significant population of military-affiliated students, contemporary students, first-generation college students, and a vibrant, global tapestry of cultures, ages, and life stories.

The institution's commitment to student success is evident in its remarkable retention and graduation rates, which set a benchmark for similar universities, spanning all demographics. Graduates from George Mason not only find themselves with high employment prospects but also command competitive starting salaries, a testament to the quality of education and skills acquired. Many of these alumni contribute to the local economy by joining industries within the region.

Mason's integration with the community is exemplified through initiatives like the innovative ADVANCE partnership with community colleges ([PBS Profile here](#)), aimed at smoothing the transition for students to four-year degrees. Further strengthening its community ties, the Mason/Virginia Promise offers guaranteed university admission for community college students or support for entrepreneurial ventures. Additionally, the university has initiated a direct admissions program with Northern Virginia high schools to provide automatic admissions to college-eligible students who demonstrate high levels of academic performance, reinforcing its inclusive and accessible approach to higher education.



The economic influence of the university on the region is formidable, reflecting not only George Mason's role as an educational institution but also as a vital economic engine that fuels local growth and development. Through its diverse student body, supportive programs, and strong regional ties, Mason is a cornerstone of the community, fostering an environment of growth, opportunity, and innovation.



## Colleges & Schools at Mason

Mason's 10 colleges and schools cover the gamut of academic disciplines. In addition to established programs, students also have the opportunity for interdisciplinary and integrative studies and can craft their own degree programs. Mason's 10 Colleges and Schools include the [Antonin Scalia Law School](#), [The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution](#), [College of Education and Human Development](#), [College of Engineering and Computing](#), [College of Humanities and Social Sciences](#), [College of Public Health](#), [College of Science](#), [College of Visual and Performing Arts](#), [Donald G. Costello College of Business](#), and the [Schar School of Policy and Government](#). Mason also has an [Honors College](#), which inspires students to pursue the most challenging and enriching educational and civic engagement opportunities available to them while providing multidisciplinary opportunities that complement any major. For more information on College and Schools at Mason, please visit [here](#).

<b>College of Education and Human Development</b> <b>#5</b> ONLINE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN SPECIAL EDUCATION <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i> <b>#16</b> ONLINE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN EDUCATION FOR VETERANS <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>	<b>Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution</b> <b>1 of 2</b> U.S. UNIVERSITIES TO CURRENTLY CHAIR A UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL HUB <b>#1</b> PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FOR BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S, AND DOCTORAL DEGREES IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION <i>College Factual</i>	<b>College of Public Health</b> <b>#1</b> ACCREDITED SCHOOL OR COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN VIRGINIA <b>#6</b> DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROGRAM AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>
<b>College of Engineering and Computing</b> <b>11,000+</b> STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN FALL 2025 <b>#1</b> CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM IN VIRGINIA <i>EduRank</i> <b>#1</b> MS IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PhD IN ROBOTICS IN VIRGINIA	<b>Schar School of Policy and Government</b> <b>2</b> FORMER VIRGINIA GOVERNORS ON FACULTY <b>#4</b> HOMELAND SECURITY GRADUATE PROGRAM <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i> <b>#1</b> IN VIRGINIA FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS <i>EduRank</i>	<b>College of Science</b> LED THE <b>FIRST</b> VIRGINIA CLIMATE ASSESSMENT SUBMITTED <b>33%</b> OF GEORGE MASON'S TOTAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS <b>300</b> STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE ASPIRING SCIENTISTS SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
<b>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</b> <b>#1</b> CRIMINOLOGY GRADUATE PROGRAM IN VIRGINIA, #10 NATIONALLY <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i> <b>#13</b> ECONOMICS PROGRAM AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES, #1 IN VIRGINIA <i>Academic Ranking of World Universities</i> <b>#1</b> COMMUNICATION PROGRAM IN VIRGINIA <i>Academic Ranking of World Universities</i>	<b>Antonin Scalia Law School</b> <b>#11</b> FOR GRADUATES IN FEDERAL CLERKSHIPS <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i> <b>#6</b> AMONG PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES NATIONWIDE <i>Academic Ranking of World Universities</i>	<b>Donald G. Costello College of Business</b> <b>FIRST</b> IN VIRGINIA FOR ACCOUNTING BACHELOR'S DEGREES <i>College Factual</i> <b>FIRST</b> IN VIRGINIA FOR AN ONLINE MBA AND MBA FOR VETERANS <i>U.S. News &amp; World Report</i>
	<b>College of Visual and Performing Arts</b> <b>#1</b> CINEMATOGRAPHY PROGRAM IN VIRGINIA <i>EduRank</i> <b>#7</b> NATIONALLY IN VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS BACHELOR'S DEGREES <i>College Factual</i>	

## Antonin Scalia Law School



The Antonin Scalia Law School is ranked among the nation's Top 30 law schools and Top 12 public law schools; the Flex-part-time program also is highly ranked, providing a JD opportunity for non-traditional students. Taking advantage of its proximity to Washington DC, Scalia has one of the nation's best employment rates for students working at large law firms, in government, and clerking for federal judges. The law school has six academic centers, with distinction in areas including law and economics and antitrust; national security; and constitutional and administrative law. The faculty is ranked among the nation's most impactful scholars. The JD student body is highly credentialed; a recent development is the addition of nearly 400 master's students, primarily online international students.



## The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution

The Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution is the oldest and largest conflict resolution school in the United States, and the first institution in the world to offer graduate degrees in conflict resolution. Today, the Carter School offers comprehensive degree programs at the undergraduate, master's, and doctoral levels, continuing to set the standard for education, research, and practice in the field. With a globally recognized faculty, a diverse and international student body, and a strong emphasis on experiential and field-based learning, the Carter School prepares graduates to address complex conflicts across local, national, and global contexts. Its alumni work at the forefront of conflict resolution, supporting conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts in the Washington DC metropolitan area and around the world.



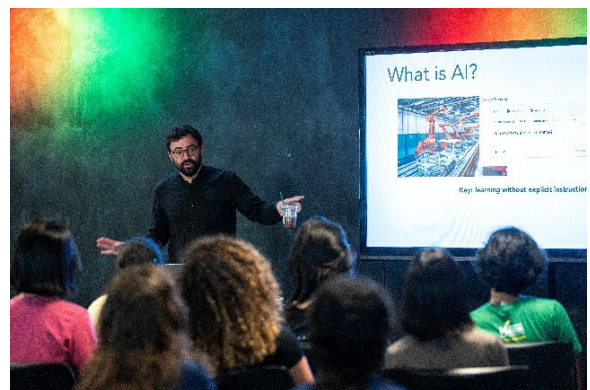
## College of Education and Human Development

The College of Education and Human Development is an inclusive community of scholars, educators, and practitioners dedicated to the lifelong pursuit of learning, development, and well-being. Through transdisciplinary collaboration, we advance innovation and produce research of consequence that positively impacts the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world. Our work spans a broad range of disciplines focused on education, human development, health and well-being, sport, hospitality, and related service industries. Together, these disciplines prepare leaders, advance research excellence, and promote impactful

learning, human development, and improved quality of life across diverse communities.

## College of Engineering and Computing

The College of Engineering and Computing has transformed from a “hidden treasure” to a fast-growing force for innovation in research and education throughout Northern Virginia and the Commonwealth. Ranked nationally in the top 100 in both undergraduate and graduate education, the College boasts more nearly 11,000 students in 37 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral degree programs, including several first-in-the-nation offerings. The College stands out for its leading research in areas such as artificial intelligence, data analytics engineering, cybersecurity engineering, biomedical imaging and devices, and many more.





## College of Humanities and Social Sciences

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences' (CHSS's) portfolio includes 10 departments, four interdisciplinary units, and nine college-chartered research centers. Our sponsored research activities were instrumental in Mason's achievement of R1 VHR Carnegie classification in 2016 and continue to play a central role in the University's reputation as a social science research powerhouse and a top-tier recipient of National Endowment for the Humanities funding. The sense of urgency and real-world relevance that fuels our research, scholarship, and creative work undergirds and fuels our commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching—and to the integration of research and teaching. CHSS has a large footprint in both the delivery of the University's general education curriculum and in master's and doctoral research, with nine PhD programs and 10 nationally ranked graduate programs, including Criminology, Law, and Society, which is ranked No. 10 in the country. We are on track to achieve our \$50M goal in the University's comprehensive campaign.



## College of Public Health

At Virginia's premier College of Public Health, George Mason University students are preparing to lead in health care and public health. Their education, enriched by research and community projects, directly addresses the dynamic challenges of global health diversity. Offering programs in health administration, policy, nursing, nutrition, and more, our students, faculty, and alumni are active participants in improving health outcomes locally and globally.

## College of Science

In the College of Science, students are prepared for dynamic, science-driven careers through a rigorous foundation in the core sciences complemented by innovative, in-demand programs in environmental sustainability, climate dynamics, biotechnology, molecular medicine, computational modeling and simulation, planetary science, and other emerging fields. State-of-the-art laboratories and internationally recognized faculty create a robust research ecosystem that attracts highly motivated students from across the nation and around the world, fostering a collaborative, intellectually vibrant academic environment.



## College of Visual and Performing Arts

"The arts create community" is CVPA's motto. Artists engage, provoke, inspire, and entertain us, opening doors to different ways of being and bringing people together. As such, the arts form an important component of any well-rounded education and support creativity, collaboration, and communication skills across all disciplines. The College of Visual and Performing Arts offers degrees in art, dance, film and video studies, music, theater, arts management, and computer game design, with teacher education programs in art, music, and theater. Students can study alongside internationally renowned faculty and visiting artists, showcase their work in public exhibits and online, and perform onstage at one of the many campus venues. The College of Visual and Performing Arts faculty and staff are committed to offering mentorship and collaborative experiences to prepare students for a successful career in the arts.



## Donald G. Costello College of Business

The Donald G. Costello College of Business at George Mason University is one of the largest business schools in Virginia, and is located near Washington, D.C., in Arlington and Fairfax, and at George Mason's global campus in Incheon, South Korea. The college's AACSB-accredited business and accounting curricula prepare undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. and across the globe for career success in business and government. Its research-based faculty and focus on multi-disciplinary academic programs, inclusive entrepreneurship,

modular education, experiential learning, and corporate and community partner engagement are transforming the landscape of business education and workforce development. Learn more at [business.gmu.edu](https://business.gmu.edu).

## Schar School of Policy and Government

The Schar School of Policy and Government provides Mason students with the skills, knowledge, and analytical abilities to be future leaders and managers in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, as well as in academia. The proximity to Washington, D.C. offers access to numerous internship and career opportunities in government agencies, think tanks, global companies, nonprofits, and consulting firms. The faculty includes current and former heads of federal agencies, officers of major national and international organizations, advisors to foreign governments, ambassadors, consultants to businesses, and key practitioners. The School offers 3 undergraduate and 8 graduate degree programs, as well as eleven graduate certificate programs. In 2025, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked us No. 4 in the country for security studies programs relating to intelligence, counterterrorism, and emergency management, and No. 13 in nonprofit management studies.





## Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity at Mason

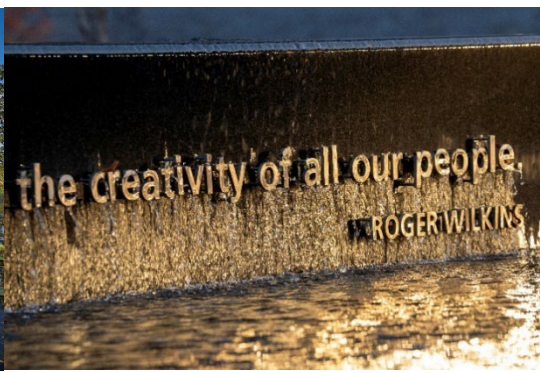
Research is vital to expanding knowledge, sparking new ideas, and developing innovative techniques that have an impact on society, the economy, and the environment. Holding an R1 designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, George Mason's research goes beyond the desire to know—it expands our understanding, knowledge, shares data and expertise with communities enabling local response, and builds the infrastructure to improve lab-to-market and innovation to impact. It is a critical part of the university's purpose and mission.

Mason's research expenditures have grown by nearly 30% in the past five years, driving discovery and the creation of new knowledge to meet the toughest current and future challenges and creating opportunities yet to be imagined. Indeed, to ensure that future generations can pursue lives worth living, George Mason's President challenged the university to engage in bold transformative research to address six Grand Solutions in pursuit of the Grand Challenge to "secure a future we want, not one we are forced to endure."

To learn more about research at Mason, visit [here](#).

Mason encourages the creation of inter/multidisciplinary teams. Researchers in different disciplines can collaborate to find solutions more quickly and open pathways to other possibilities. The university leverages the power of these collaborations in such areas as:

- The [Institute for Biohealth Innovation](#), located on the Sci-Tech campus, takes a multidisciplinary approach to develop technologies to predict, prevent, treat, and eradicate disease and improve care and human function. Our research includes cancer, infectious diseases, brain and behavior, injury and performance, reproductive and family health, cardiovascular and metabolic health, digital health and informatics, and policy and economics.
- The [Institute for a Sustainable Earth](#) faculty, staff and students work ensure a deep understanding of the challenges that enable or constrain the development and adoption of sustainable solutions, focusing not only on natural and engineered systems but also the socio-economic-legal systems that impact community sustainability and resilience.
- The [Institute for Digital InnovAtion](#) incubates new digital products and services and works to solve complex problems that demand creativity, transdisciplinarity, and a sustained passion for digital innovation for good - from AI Innovation and Machine Learning, to Responsible AI, Autonomous and Collaborative Robotics, Cyberphysical systems and Cybersecurity, Advanced Transportation Systems, Integrated intelligence, Smart Cities, and Quantum Computing. IDIA is housed in the new FUSE building, a 400,000-square-foot facility at Mason Square.





# Nomination and Application Process

Greenwood Asher & Associates is assisting George Mason University in this search. Applications and nominations are now being accepted.

## Compensation

Salary is competitive and commensurate with experience and job qualifications.

## How to Apply

Submit applications here: <http://bit.ly/4qWxVtg>

Application materials should include:

- A letter of interest that clearly states the applicant's qualifications for the position;
- A current curriculum vitae/résumé.

For best consideration, applications should be submitted by **March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. We strongly encourage submitting application materials as PDF attachments. Initial screening of applications will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

**Please direct inquiries, nominations, and application materials to:**

**Julie Holley, Associate Vice President of Executive Search**

Greenwood Asher & Associates

E-mail: [julieholley@greenwoodsearch.com](mailto:julieholley@greenwoodsearch.com)

**Lois Stetson, Senior Executive Search Consultant,**

Greenwood Asher & Associates

E-mail: [loisstetson@greenwoodsearch.com](mailto:loisstetson@greenwoodsearch.com)

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For more information about George Mason University, please visit <https://www.gmu.edu/>.



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George Mason University reaffirms its commitment to equal employment opportunity and affirmative action, and issues the following statement: **EEO/AA Statement of Policy (PDF)**