



PAYING FOR YOUR EDUCATION

Financial Aid Office
&
Student Accounts Office



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- First thing is first, apply for financial aid with your FAFSA (2020-2021 award year). If you are transferring in to Mason this spring, make sure to add George Mason to your list of schools (studentaid.gov).
- Once you are accepted for admission, you must set up your Masonlive email. This is the way we will communicate with you. You will be notified on how to set this up by email during the admissions process.
- If you have any needed verification items that are required for our office to process your financial aid, we will be emailing you directly for those items.

WHERE TO SEND DOCUMENTS (IF REQUESTED)

Some of you may have items you need to turn in to our office. There are a few ways to send us your information:

- 1) Fax documents to 703-993-2350
- 2) Upload documentation online through the Mason Student Services Website:

<https://mason.secure.force.com/form/?formid=218036>

- 3) Mail directly to our office:

George Mason University
4400 University Drive MS 3B5
Fairfax, VA 22030

- **Please note:** Never send tax information or any citizenship documentation by email, as it is not a secure way to transmit your information. Tax information can be submitted through our Mason Student Services online drop off method. For Citizenship documentation, this must be either brought to us in person, or by mail with the notarized Citizenship Affidavit form.

ONCE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FINANCIAL AID OFFER

Once accepted, and we have your FAFSA application showing as completed (all requirements showing as completed), we will set up your award offer. Once set up, you will be notified by email with instructions on how to log in and accept/decline or modify your award offer.

The Cost of Attendance you will see in your PatriotWeb, remember this is not going to be your student bill. This is just a total estimate if you attend full time in the spring, of all billed and non-billed expenses a student may incur while they attend. Your bill will be sent to you via email from the Student Accounts office in December after you have registered for the spring.

Note: If you have not received any notice from our office about your award offer, please be sure to email us immediately to review your file at finaid@gmu.edu. This way we can ensure to review your file to get you set up for your upcoming spring semester.

OPTIONS FOR REMAINING BALANCE

In this process, you may see that you do not have enough funding to cover what may be your balance for your fees for the spring (tuition/fees and room and board – if you live on campus). There are multiple other options to help with these situations.

Financial Aid Options:

Loan Options:

- 1) Federal Direct Parent Plus Loans (if we have a FAFSA on file)
- 2) Private Student Loans

More information can be seen here on our site for these options:

<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid/types-aid/loans>

****Note:** for all private and parent plus loans, do not apply for these until you see your bill so you know what to ask for. Use the loan from/to dates of January 25, 2021 and May 15, 2021 to notify us that you want this loan to be for the spring semester only.

Search for Scholarships:

Check here on our site for more information on searching for scholarships:

<https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid/types-aid/scholarships>

IMPORTANT DATES

Remember Financial Aid needs to be applied for each year. The new FAFSA for the 2021-2022 (aid for next year) became available on OCTOBER 1, 2020.

If you want to be considered for State Grants as well as Federal funding options, you have to be on time and complete this by our priority filing dates:

January 15, 2021 (must complete your FAFSA before this date)

March 1, 2021 (complete your document submission if requested by our office).

ELIGIBILITY REVIEWED EACH YEAR

- At the end of each spring semester, our office will review your Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Status.

Undergraduates: GPA: 2.0

Completion percentage: 67%

Maximum Time Frame

If you do not meet any of these requirements after the spring semester, you will be notified by email in late May once all grades have posted. **Note:** *This would effect your summer and future semesters of federal/state/institutional financial aid eligibility.*

STUDENT ACCOUNTS OFFICE

- Billing for Tuition, Fees, Housing and Meal Plans
 - Electronic bill statements are provided to students about 30 days prior to the semester start. Please activate your MasonLive email account as this is where the bill statement will be sent.
- Third Party Billing (529 Plans, VA, Employers, etc.)
 - If you are using a VA529 Plan, please complete an intent to enroll form. If using another 529 Plan, please provide your mailing address and ensure your student G# is on the check.
 - The Office of Military Services is the initial point of contact for VA Benefits.
- Process refunds based on charges and aid received
 - Direct Deposit/Paper Check

METHODS OF PAYMENT

- Financial Aid (Incoming)
- Payment Plans (Installment Plans)
- Cashier's Office (Mail Check or Money Order)
- Online through the Bill & Payment System
 - Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express
 - Electronic Check (Preferred Method)

RECEIVING A REFUND

- Direct Deposit (preferred and fastest)
 - To set up direct deposit, follow the guide below to submit your form through the Mason Student Services Center portal.

studentaccounts.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/DirectDepositGuide.pdf

- Bank Check
 - This is the default method used if you do not sign up for direct deposit. It may take up to two weeks for the check to be processed and mailed.
 - Students are responsible for maintaining a valid mailing address on file in Patriot Web. **Note:** *Checks are not sent to on-campus addresses.*

FERPA (CONSENT TO RELEASE)

- Students need to complete a FERPA form to allow the Office of Student Financial Aid or the Student Accounts Office to discuss their aid or billing information with their parents, guardians or other individuals.
- Students can complete and submit the form online at registrar.gmu.edu/forms.
- The best way for families to stay involved and informed about their student's progress is to communicate directly with their student.

IMPORTANT OFFICES TO NOTE

Office of Financial Aid:

- Handles your FAFSA, processes your aid to help it pay to your account (loans, grants and scholarships).
 - Email: <https://www2.gmu.edu/financial-aid/contact-financial-aid>
 - Phone: 703-993-2000

Office of Student Accounts:

- Handles your billing, payment, 529 Plans, third party payments (such as employer payments, and military benefits) as well as refund processes for students.
 - Email: <https://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/contact/>
 - Phone: 703-993-2000

Office of Military Services:

- Helps with processing and managing your military benefits.
 - Email: military@gmu.edu