Dear Mason Families,

Welcome to George Mason University and the Mason family! Selecting a university is an important decision, and we are honored that you and your student elected to be part of our community. Rest assured you chose well and have joined one of the world’s most diverse, innovative, and entrepreneurial schools. Here, your student will have unique opportunities to experience academic excellence, meet people from all walks of life, and participate in a vibrant community full of opportunities for growth and discovery at Mason and beyond.

This is an exciting transition, not just for your Patriot, but for you as well. This calendar serves as a guide for new Mason families throughout the year. You can rely on it for important dates, monthly tips, and contact information for various Mason student services. I hope that this resource answers many of your questions about what to expect in the upcoming year.

I also strongly encourage your active participation in the many educational, cultural, and social programs offered at our campuses, particularly those geared toward Mason families. Family Weekend and Sibs & Kids Weekend are two great examples. Your engagement in these programs and activities contributes so much to the vitality of the university and to your own connection with Mason and your student’s experiences.

Once again, welcome to the Mason Family! If you have questions, or if we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact New Student and Family Programs at 703-993-2475, or email families@gmu.edu.

Best wishes for a wonderful year,

Rose Pascarell
Vice President, University Life
George Mason University
STAY CONNECTED AS A MASON FAMILY

New Student and Family Programs (NSFP) recognizes the important role families play in their student’s development and success at Mason. NSFP strives to develop relationships and support families throughout their student’s college experience. Serving as a centralized resource, NSFP is a liaison between the university and families and provides an outlet for families to become active members of the Mason community.

Visit masonfamily.gmu.edu for more information on the following programming and outreach opportunities.

JOIN THE MASON FAMILY ASSOCIATION
All families are encouraged to sign up for the Mason Family Association in order to receive timely and important university information. Members receive our weekly e-newsletter, the Mason Family Flash, which includes important tips and reminders and ensures that you stay informed and connected to Mason!

masonfamily.gmu.edu

FAMILY WEEKEND
Join us November 13–15, 2020, for Family Weekend at George Mason University! Family Weekend is a great time to visit your student and experience life at Mason. Events include a men’s basketball home game; a wine and cheese reception; faculty spotlights; Little Patriots Lounge; family dinner; tours of Washington, D.C.; college and school receptions, and much more! Family Weekend registration opens in August, so make plans to attend this Mason-wide celebration!

SPRING FAMILY FLING
Experience the beauty of springtime in Northern Virginia on April 17-18, 2021, for the inaugural Spring Family Fling (formerly Sibs & Kids Weekend). Spring Family Fling is a smaller, spring version of our fall Family Weekend. Bring your whole family to reconnect with your student the Mason way!

PARENT AND FAMILY COUNCIL
The Parent and Family Council provides an opportunity for parents and families to meet with university leadership, volunteer at university events, and become actively engaged and informed members of the Mason community. For more information about how to get involved, visit masonfamily.gmu.edu.

PARENTS FUND
The Parents Fund offers parents and families the opportunity to play a role in building and shaping an exemplary educational experience for Mason students. You can be part of every student’s success by giving a gift of any size during your student’s time at Mason. For more information and to give, visit masonfamily.gmu.edu/parents-fund.

E-CALENDAR OF IMPORTANT DATES
We want to help you keep track of the dates that matter most to you and your student. In addition to our printed calendar, a list of important upcoming dates is accessible anytime at masonfamily.gmu.edu/upcoming-dates.

CONNECT WITH US

George Mason Family Programs—Like our public Facebook page for the most up-to-date news about programs, events, and activities.

George Mason Family Association—Join our closed Facebook Group to connect with other Mason parents and family members.

masonfamily.gmu.edu

families@gmu.edu

703-993-2475
If your student is living off campus, remind them to purchase a parking permit and become familiar with the best routes to campus.

Ask your student to register your contact information at alert.gmu.edu to receive emergency notifications from the university. All students are automatically enrolled in Mason Alert and are advised to add their cell phone and additional emails to receive information in a timely manner.
More information about summer sessions can be found at registrar.gmu.edu.
AUGUST REMINDERS

- Remind your student to purchase or rent textbooks in time for the first day of classes. Textbooks can be purchased online or in person at the bookstore on Mason’s Fairfax Campus. Online orders can be shipped directly to your student or picked up on campus.

- Discuss academic goals and expectations and find out what your student hopes to accomplish academically at Mason. Encourage your student to take ownership of their education by setting academic goals for themselves.
SEPTEMBER REMINDERS

■ Registration for Family Weekend is open! Visit masonfamilyevents.gmu.edu for more information and to register your family.

■ One of the most challenging skills for students to master is time management. Encourage your student to attend a free workshop offered by Learning Services if they are having trouble establishing balance in their schedule.
Welcome2Mason takes place Sunday, August 23–Sunday, September 27. See welcome2mason.gmu.edu for the full list of events.

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13 14 15 16 17 18 19
20 21 22 23 24 25 26
27 28 29 30

6 7 Labor Day (University Closed)
8 Get Connected Fair
13 National Grandparents’ Day
14 Last Day to Drop Classes
15 Hispanic Heritage Month Begins
15 Midterm Evaluations Begin
16 Unrestricted Withdrawal Period Begins
16 First Day of Fall
17 Patriot Leader Applications Open
20 Rosh Hashanah Ends
21 Yom Kippur Begins
22 Yom Kippur Ends
23 Selective Withdrawal Period Begins
24 Study Abroad Fair
27 Welcome2Mason Ends
28 Unrestricted Withdrawal Period Ends
29 Fall Career Fair
30

10 11 9/11 Day of Service
11 12 Sorority Recruitment Period
17 Rosh Hashanah Begins
18
19
24 Study Abroad Fair
25
26

University Calendar  Deadlines  Student Event  Family Event
Encourage your student to nominate your family for the 10th annual Alan and Sally Merten Family of the Year Award. This award is presented during Family Weekend and recognizes one family for the critical role played in their student’s success at Mason. More information can be found at masonfamilyevents.gmu.edu.

Registration for spring classes is quickly approaching. Check in with your student to see whether they have made an appointment to speak with an academic advisor.
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<td>Fall Break (No Classes)</td>
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NOVEMBER REMINDERS

- **Family Weekend** is November 13–15. Visit masonfamilyevents.gmu.edu for a schedule of events and more details. Walk-ins welcome!

- Over Winter Break, Parking and Transportation Services offers **shuttles** from the Fairfax Campus to Dulles Airport, as well as to various cities across Virginia and surrounding metropolitan areas. Shuttles are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis, so encourage your student to book a spot early! Visit shuttle.gmu.edu for more information.
### NOVEMBER 2020

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- **Family Weekend**
- **International Education Week**
- **Thanksgiving Recess (University Closed)**
- **Thanksgiving Day**
- **Daylight Saving Time Ends**
- **Día de los Muertos Ends**
- **Election Day**
- **Veterans Day**
- **Diwali**
- **Transgender Day of Remembrance**
- **Family Weekend Online Registration Deadline**
- **Destress Fest**
DECEMBER REMINDERS

- Finals are right around the corner, so this may be a time of increased academic pressure on your student. Remind them of the importance of balance, which includes a healthy diet, adequate sleep, exercise, and some relaxation!

- Remember that grades do not provide a full picture of a student’s academic progress, especially in the first year. If your student’s grades are not what they hoped for, help them reevaluate time-management strategies and study skills.
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- **Deadlines**: None
- **Student Event**: None
- **Family Event**: None
Students may again feel the anxiety of leaving home and transitioning back to Mason. Reassure your student that these feelings are normal and that adjusting to college is an ongoing process.

Tuition and university fees must be paid by the first day of classes on January 19. Encourage your student to stay up-to-date with their account by checking Patriot Web regularly.

Talk with your student about living arrangements for the 2021–22 year and encourage them to start making plans now. Students can contact Housing and Residence Life for information about living on campus. Contemporary Student Services can provide information on upcoming housing fairs and tips to prepare your student for the off-campus housing selection process.
### January 2021

#### University Calendar

- **1 January**: Kwanzaa Ends
- **2 January**: New Year’s Day
- **17 January**: Martin Luther King Jr., Day (University Closed)
- **18 January**: Spring Classes Begin
- **19 January**: Immunization Record Deadline
- **19 January**: Spring Tuition and Fees Deadline
- **24 January**: Last Day to Add Classes
- **31 January**: Winter Recess (University Closed)

#### Deadlines

- **19 January**: Immunization Record Deadline
- **19 January**: Spring Tuition and Fees Deadline
- **24 January**: Last Day to Add Classes
With summer only a few months away, make sure your student is thinking about internships or jobs they would like to complete during the summer break. University Career Services can help your student navigate the internship and job search process.

Show your Mason pride by joining us for Homecoming! Families are invited to partake in the spirit, fun, and action of the annual Homecoming block party and basketball games.
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- **February 2021**
- **February 2:** Groundhog Day
- **February 7:** Last Day to Drop Classes
- **February 10:** Unrestricted Withdrawal Period Begins
- **February 14:** Valentine’s Day
- **February 15:** Presidents’ Day
- **February 16:** Sibs & Kids Weekend Registration Opens
- **February 21:** Unrestricted Withdrawal Period Ends
- **February 23:** Selective Withdrawal Period Begins
- **February 24:** Study Abroad Fair
- **February 25:** Purim Begins
- **February 26:** Purim Ends

- **March 1:** Lunar New Year
- **March 15:** Presidents’ Day
- **March 16:** Sibs & Kids Weekend Registration Opens
- **March 21:** Unrestricted Withdrawal Period Ends
- **March 23:** Selective Withdrawal Period Begins
- **March 24:** Study Abroad Fair

- **Stickers:**
  - **University Calendar**
  - **Deadlines**
  - **Student Event**
  - **Family Event**

- **Calendar Highlights:**
  - **Spring Career Fair**
Encourage your student to utilize the **summer storage program** offered by **The UPS Store**, located in Merten Hall, if they will be moving out of a residence hall in May and returning to live on campus in August. The UPS Store will store your student’s belongings so they don’t have to take it all home in May, only to bring everything back in August!
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APRIL REMINDERS

- Every year, Mason hosts International Week. Encourage your student to take part in the weeklong celebration that showcases the many countries and cultures that make up the Mason community!

- Sibs & Kids Weekend is April 17–18. Encourage your student to invite their siblings, other family members, and friends between ages 6 and 18 to Mason to get a glimpse into life as a Patriot!
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**MARCH**

- 1 April Fools’ Day
- Health and Science Job Fair

**APRIL 2021**

- 1 April Fools’ Day
- Health and Science Job Fair

**MAY**

- 1 Good Friday
- National Siblings Day
MAY REMINDERS

- If your student is living on campus, encourage them to talk to a resident advisor to confirm move-out policies and procedures.

- Finalize summer plans with your student. Encourage them to stay engaged, whether they are working a summer job or taking classes, so the transition back to Mason in the fall won’t be a drastic change in lifestyle.
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Last Day of Classes</td>
<td>Reading Day</td>
<td>Cinco de Mayo</td>
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<td>Off-Campus Housing Fair</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day</td>
<td>Ramadan Ends</td>
<td>Eid al-Fitr Begins</td>
<td>Eid al-Fitr Ends</td>
<td>University Commencement</td>
<td>Degree Conferral</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Day of Summer Classes</td>
<td>Just-in-Time Job Fair</td>
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<td>Last Day to Add/Drop Summer Classes</td>
<td>Unrestricted Withdrawal Period Begins</td>
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<td>Memorial Day (University Closed)</td>
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**Destress Fest**
JUNE REMINDERS

- The transition home after being away at college can be difficult. Allow your student more responsibility and independence. Discuss new expectations and rules for living at home over the summer.

- Encourage your student to stay in contact with friends from Mason, and even visit when possible, while still making time for family and other summer responsibilities.
We hope you enjoyed the 2020–21 Family Calendar. If you would like to stay up to date with important university dates, please contact families@gmu.edu with your name and mailing address, and we’ll send you a copy of the 2021–22 calendar.
CONTACT INFORMATION

Bookstore
703-993-2666
gmu.bncollege.com

Contemporary Student Services
703-993-6563
contemporary.gmu.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services
703-993-2380
caps.gmu.edu

Dean of Students/University Life
703-993-2884
Alternate Phone Numbers:
703-993-8760
703-993-1000
ulife.gmu.edu

Dining Services
703-993-3313
dining.gmu.edu

Disability Services
703-993-2474
ods.gmu.edu

Housing and Residence Life
703-993-2720
housing.gmu.edu

Information Technology Services
703-993-8870
its.gmu.edu

Learning Services
703-993-2380
learningservices.gmu.edu

Mason Care Network
703-993-2470
mcn.gmu.edu

Mason Money, Mason ID, and Meal Plans
703-993-2870
masonid.gmu.edu

Mason Student Services Center
mssc.gmu.edu

Military Services
703-993-1316
military.gmu.edu

New Student and Family Programs
703-993-2475
ofps.gmu.edu
masonfamily.gmu.edu

Parking and Transportation Services
703-993-2710
parking.gmu.edu

Patriot Tech
703-993-4100
gmu.bncollege.com

Police Department
Nonemergency: 703-993-2810
Emergency: 911
police.gmu.edu

Registrar’s Office
703-993-2441
registrar.gmu.edu

Safety Escorts
Fairfax: 703-993-2810
Arlington: 703-993-8070
Science and Technology: 703-993-8370
police.gmu.edu/police-cadets/escorts

Student Accounts
703-993-2484
studentaccounts.gmu.edu

Student Conduct
703-993-6209
studentconduct.gmu.edu

Student Financial Aid
703-993-2353
financialaid.gmu.edu

Student Health Services
Fairfax: 703-993-2831
Arlington: 703-993-4863
Science and Technology: 703-993-8374
shs.gmu.edu

Student Support and Advocacy Center
703-993-3686
ssac.gmu.edu

University Career Services
703-993-2370
careers.gmu.edu

University Information
703-993-1000
info.gmu.edu
COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS

College of Education and Human Development
cehd.gmu.edu
703-993-2010

College of Health and Human Services
chhs.gmu.edu
703-993-1901

College of Humanities and Social Sciences
chss.gmu.edu
703-993-8720

College of Science
cos.gmu.edu
703-993-3622

College of Visual and Performing Arts
cvpa.gmu.edu
703-993-8877

Honors College
honorscollege.gmu.edu
703-993-1110

Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution
scar.gmu.edu
703-993-1300

Schar School of Policy and Government
schar.gmu.edu
703-993-2280

School of Business
business.gmu.edu
703-993-1880

School of Integrative Studies
integrative.gmu.edu
703-993-1436

Volgenau School of Engineering
volgenau.gmu.edu
703-993-1505