

Content Warning

The following presentation will contain content of an explicit and mature nature, which may not be suitable for younger audiences and may be difficult to discuss.

Participant discretion is advised.



**WELCOME TO
ORIENTATION!**



Student Rights, Responsibilities, & Resources

Summer 2025



RIGHTS



YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

- **Mason's Annual Security and Fire Safety Report**
 - Available online at <http://police.gmu.edu/annual-security-report/>
 - Contains Mason's crime and fire statistics and other important information related to campus safety
- **Mason's Daily Crime and Fire Log**
 - Available online at <http://police.gmu.edu/crime-log-test/>
 - Contains all reportable crimes and fires that occur on and near Mason's property
- **Emergency Reporting and Timely Warnings**
 - Students receive notifications of emergency situations and serious criminal threats via text message and e-mail



RIGHT TO PRIVACY OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS

Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), all students enrolled at Mason have the right to:

- Inspect and review educational records
 - Seek amendment to educational records
 - Require consent to disclose educational records
 - File a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office in the Dept. of Education for alleged violations of their rights
-
- <http://registrar.gmu.edu/ferpa/>



DIRECTORY INFORMATION EXCEPTION

FERPA authorizes the release of Directory Information without a student's consent. Mason has defined its Directory Information in accordance with what is allowable under FERPA, and it includes:

- Student Name
- Email**
- Address**
- Phone Number**
- Student ID (G Number)*
- Date of Birth*
- Major Field of Study
- Dates of Attendance
- Enrollment Status
- Participation in Officially Recognized Sports and Activities
- Weight and Height of Athletes
- Previous Institutions
- Class Level
- Degrees and Awards Received
- Photographs

*Denotes Limited Directory Information. This information will only be used for verification purposes and to school officials who have access, consistent with FERPA, to such information and only in conjunction with a legitimate educational interest.

**Denotes Directory Information that may be released pursuant to Virginia Code § 23.1-405(C).



FERPA AT MASON

University Policy 1122: FERPA Compliance <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/ferpa-compliance/>

In general, Mason does not disclose non-directory information to third parties unless:

- The student has provided consent*
- The release is to the parent of a dependent student*
- As required by § 23.1-1303.B.5 of the Code of Virginia
- The disclosure meets a qualified exception under FERPA

Students can rescind their consent via written notification at any time, which will prevent the continued release of that information.*

FERPA Compliance Office: ferpa@gmu.edu

*Office of the University Registrar: <https://registrar.gmu.edu/>

Student Accounts: <http://studentaccounts.gmu.edu/> & Financial Aid: <https://www2.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/financial-aid>



SUPPORTING STUDENTS

WHEN WILL FAMILY BE CONTACTED?

University Policy 1121: Parental Notification <https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/parental-notification/>

- **In the case of a health or safety emergency**
 - A student is unconscious/unable to stay conscious and is transported to the hospital
 - A student is transported to the hospital for a mental health concern from Student Health Services or Counseling and Psychological Services
 - Extreme circumstances (on a case-by-case basis)
- **Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) violations**

OTHER SUPPORTS:

- Mason can share information with families about policies and processes
- Mason is proactive and will reach out to students for conversation and resource support
- Hazing Prevention: [Patriots Against Hazing](#)



FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

- **Freedom of speech and expression is your (and everyone's) right.**
- **It is a valuable tool for teaching and learning**
- **Speech should not:**
 - Disruption educational "enclave"
 - Be unlawful
 - Endanger the safety of others
- **If rights are violated, submit a report.**
- **For more info, visit <https://campusclimate.gmu.edu>**



RESPONSIBILITIES



Office of Access, Compliance, and Community ("OACC")

To promote all-inclusive diversity, George Mason prohibits unlawful discrimination and harassment and seeks to provide equal opportunity for all students and employees (including applicants for employment), regardless of their protected characteristics.

OACC is charged with leading George Mason University's efforts to promote all-inclusive diversity, but this charge also applies to you as new Patriots!

OACC houses 3 main compliance units:

- The Title IX Unit
- The Equal Opportunity/Titles VI and VII Unit
- The Accessibility and ADA Unit



What does OACC Do?

- Responds to and can investigate reports of alleged discrimination, harassment based on a protected characteristic, and/or retaliation.
- Provides ADA workplace disability accommodations for employees.
 - *Disability Services provides academic disability accommodations for students.
- Provides religious accommodations for students and employees
- Provides supportive measures to support any Mason community member's access to Mason's education programs and activities when they face discrimination, harassment, or retaliation.



Important University Policies

- **Non-Discrimination Policy (University Policy 1201)**
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence Policy (University Policy 1202)**
- **Prohibited Relationships with Students (University Policy 1204)**
- **Code of Student Conduct**

See universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies and studentconduct.gmu.edu



REPORTING

When students make reports* of **sexual assault, sexual exploitation, intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, retaliation, or other forms of discrimination** to OACC, the following supportive measures are possible:

- Consultation
- Administrative No Contact Order
- Requesting a formal action
- Moving residence hall rooms
- Sending an email to their faculty letting them know they are “managing something” and will be back to class
- Switching sections of a class
- Having their work schedule altered

**Please note that a report to the Title IX Office is not an official complaint.
Reports may also be made to the Mason Police*



What is Affirmative Consent at Mason?

A person who wants to engage in a specific sexual activity is responsible for obtaining **affirmative consent** for that activity.

Affirmative consent means there is an agreement to engage in sexual activity demonstrated through clear words or actions that is:

1. **Informed** (knowing)
2. **Voluntary** (freely given)
3. **Active** (not passive)

See University Policy 1202 (Sexual and Gender-Based Misconduct and Other Forms of Interpersonal Violence)



PREVENTION

- Many instances of concern are preventable if students take the time to **talk, listen,** and get **permission** to proceed
- The best way to prevent sexual assault or intimate partner violence is for students to **communicate** with their partner about expectations or desires and seek affirmative consent at every interaction, for every activity
- If **alcohol** or **drugs** are involved, students have to be really sure they are able to provide affirmative consent; if they are not sure, they need to walk away



SEE SOMETHING? SAY & DO SOMETHING

- We ask students to look out for each other and to call for help if they think someone might be in trouble.
- Virginia law and University policy provide amnesty for good faith reporting of drug and alcohol overdoses.
- **For emergencies: call 9-1-1**
- For non-emergencies: call Mason Police, 24/7, at 703-993-2810



RESOURCES



CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES AT MASON

Mason has many resources and options available for students. We are here to help! Confidential resources* that can offer guidance without being required to notify the Title IX Coordinator:

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS)

- 703.993.2380 | <http://caps.gmu.edu>

Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC)

- 703.993.3686 | <http://ssac.gmu.edu>

Student Health Services

- 703.993.2831 | <http://shs.gmu.edu>

University Ombudsperson

- 703.993.6596 | ombuds@gmu.edu

**All other employees at Mason are non-confidential and must report what they have learned to the Title IX Coordinator*



NON-CONFIDENTIAL RESOURCES AT MASON

OACC

- 703.993.8730 | <https://oacc.gmu.edu>

Dean of Students

- 703.993.2884 | <http://ulife.gmu.edu/>

Center for Leadership and Intercultural Engagement (CLIE)

- 703.993.2700 | <https://clie.gmu.edu/>

LGBTQ+ Resources Center

- 703.993.2702 | <https://lgbtq.gmu.edu/>

Mason Police

- 703.993.2810 | <http://police.gmu.edu/>

Safety, Emergency and Enterprise Risk Management

- 703.993.8448 | <https://seerm.gmu.edu/>

Non-confidential resources at Mason must report what they have learned to the Title IX Coordinator



CAMPUS SAFETY RESOURCES

- **Mason Alert: Mason's emergency notification system**
 - Sends emergency notifications to the university community via text, email, telephone call, and digital signage
 - All university students and employees are automatically enrolled in Mason Alert
 - Students can register additional phone numbers and email addresses for family and friends online at ready.gmu.edu
- **Safety Escorts: Mason Police's free 24-hour safety escort program**
 - Students and visitors can request free on-campus safety escorts from Mason Police by calling 703-993-2810
- **Emergency Management Program:**
 - Be ready! Students and visitors can review emergency preparedness plans online at ready.gmu.edu



RAVEGuardian

Now your phone can keep you safe and help protect your friends.

Rave Guardian is one of the best ways to improve your personal safety and also protect your friends by building your own private safety network. This app provides instant communication with friends, family, co-workers, campus safety, and 9-1-1. Download today for free from the App Store or Google Play!



Download today!

1. Search for "Rave Guardian" in the App Store or Google Play store.
2. Download the app and register using your Mason email address.
3. Complete a short safety profile, and check your email to verify your account.



Learn more about Rave Guardian's features



Inbox

Instantly receive critical messages from campus safety, such as Mason Alerts and Timely Warnings.



Guardians

Trusted friends and family can be granted permission to watch over you when you activate your safety timer.



Safety Timer

Set a safety timer to allow your Guardians to monitor your status and location while the timer counts down.



Send a Tip

Send an anonymous tip to the Mason Police. This feature supports 2-way communication and photo attachments.



Call GMU Police

If you are in danger or are witness to an active emergency, tap this button to call the Mason Police department.



Call 9-1-1

Tap this button to call 9-1-1. Your call will be routed to the nearest dispatch center, not to the Mason Police.



LEARN MORE @ READY.GMU.EDU

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