

Guidance for Representation of the University in Specialized Accreditation

Please note the following constraints when preparing specialized accreditation documents, and use the language provided to ensure that we represent the university “in identical terms” to all our accrediting agencies per SACSCOC policy. Please contact the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity at oapi@gmu.edu with any questions.

Accreditation (Institutional, through SACSCOC)

Please use this language exactly: “George Mason University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of George Mason University.”

The SACSCOC website offers proof of Mason’s accreditation and status (<http://sacscoc.org/details.asp?instid=33280>). Alternately, a copy of the university’s last accreditation letter is available. Please contact oapi@gmu.edu to obtain a copy.

Please avoid the term “fully accredited.” (Accreditation is typically understood by accreditors as a binary status; one is or isn’t, and there’s nothing in between.)

Address

The university’s address is 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please be sure to use this address for any institutional profile information. Using another address—e.g., if the program being accredited is housed on the Arlington Campus, for example—could cause confusion and difficulty because that address won’t match the information we have provided to SACSCOC and the U.S. Department of Education.

Campuses and Off-Site Locations

George Mason University has four *campuses*: Fairfax, Arlington, Science and Technology (formerly Prince William) and George Mason University Korea (Songdo, South Korea). Mason in Loudoun and the Smithsonian Mason School of Conservation are *off-campus instructional sites*, of which there are many others. If you need a complete list, please contact the Office of Accreditation and Program Integrity.

Degree programs

Degree program names must be represented exactly as they are published in the catalog.

Financial Information

If the accrediting agency requires information on the university’s finances, please contact the Office of Budget and Planning.

Governance and Authorization to Grant Degrees

George Mason University is authorized to grant degrees by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and this authorization is documented in the Code of Virginia (<http://law.lis.virginia.gov/vacode/title23.1/chapter15/section23.1-1500/>).

The university is *governed* by the Board of Visitors. It is *led* by the President. Information on the Board of Visitors is available on their website (<http://bov.gmu.edu/>). Narrative text should reflect that the university operates on the traditional principles that, speaking very broadly, the Board is responsible for establishing policy (e.g., the university's mission), the administration for implementing it, and the faculty for the curriculum.

Mission

George Mason University's mission reads: "A public, comprehensive, research university established by the Commonwealth of Virginia in the National Capital Region, we are an innovative and inclusive academic community committed to creating a more just, free, and prosperous world."

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