



Common Policies Affecting All Courses at George Mason University

Updated for August 2026

These four policies affect students in all courses at George Mason University. This Course Policy Addendum must be made available to students in all courses (see [Catalog Policy AP.2.5](#)).

Additional policies affecting this course, and additional resources or guidance regarding these policies, may be provided to students by the instructor.

Academic Standards

Academic Standards exist to promote authentic scholarship, support the institution's goal of maintaining high standards of academic excellence, and encourage continued ethical behavior of faculty and students to cultivate an educational community which values integrity and produces graduates who carry this commitment forward into professional practice.

As members of the George Mason University community, we are committed to fostering an environment of trust, respect, and scholarly excellence. Our academic standards are the foundation of this commitment, guiding our behavior and interactions within this academic community. The practices for implementing these standards adapt to modern practices, disciplinary contexts, and technological advancements. Our standards are embodied in our courses, policies, and scholarship, and are upheld in the following principles:

- **Honesty:** Providing accurate information in all academic endeavors, including communications, assignments, and examinations.
- **Acknowledgement:** Giving proper credit for all contributions to one's work. This involves the use of accurate citations and references for any ideas, words, or materials created by others in the style appropriate to the discipline. It also includes acknowledging shared authorship in group projects, co-authored pieces, and project reports.
- **Uniqueness of Work:** Ensuring that all submitted work is the result of one's own effort and is original, including free from self-plagiarism. This principle extends to written assignments, code, presentations, exams, and all other forms of academic work.

Violations of these standards—including but not limited to plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating—are taken seriously and will be addressed in accordance with university policies. The process for reporting, investigating, and adjudicating violations is outlined in the university's [academic standards procedures](#). Consequences of violations may include academic sanctions, disciplinary actions, and other measures necessary to uphold the integrity of our academic community.

The principles outlined in these academic standards reflect our collective commitment to upholding the highest standards of honesty, acknowledgement, and uniqueness of work. By adhering to these principles, we ensure the continued excellence and integrity of George Mason University's academic community.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for understanding how these general expectations regarding academic standards apply to each course, assignment, or exam they participate in; students should ask their instructor for clarification on any aspect that is not clear to them.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Disability Services at George Mason University is committed to upholding the letter and spirit of the laws that ensure equal treatment of people with disabilities. Under the administration of University Life, Disability Services implements and coordinates reasonable accommodations and disability-related services that afford equal access to university programs and activities. Students can begin the registration process with Disability Services at any time during their enrollment at George Mason University. If you are seeking accommodations, please visit the [Disability Services website](#) for detailed information about the Disability Services registration process. Disability Services is located in Student Union Building I (SUB I), Suite 2500. Email: ods@gmu.edu. Phone: (703) 993-2474.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for registering with Disability Services and communicating about their approved accommodations with their instructor *in advance* of any relevant class meeting, assignment, or exam.

FERPA and Use of GMU Email Addresses for Course Communication

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) governs the disclosure of [education records for eligible students](#) and is an essential aspect of any course. **Students must use their GMU email account** to receive important University information, including communications related to this class. Instructors will not respond to messages sent from or send messages regarding course content to a non-GMU email address.

Student responsibility: Students are responsible for checking their GMU email regularly for course-related information, and/or ensuring that GMU email messages are forwarded to an account they do check.

Title IX and Non-Discrimination:

Access and Compliance with George Mason's Nondiscrimination Policies

George Mason University is committed to providing a safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and working environment across all educational programs, services, and activities for all members of the University community. University educational programs, services, and activities will be free from discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, ethnic national origin (including shared ancestry and/or ethnic characteristics), sex, disability, military status (including veteran status), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, pregnancy status, genetic information, or any other characteristic protected by law.

Required Reporting

All non-confidential employees, including your faculty members, have a legal requirement to report all relevant details, obtained directly or indirectly, about any incident of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX Prohibited Conduct, to the Office of Access, Compliance, and Community (OACC), which includes the Title IX Coordinator.

Reportable Conduct by an employee, a student, or a third party includes:

- Discrimination and harassment under Title VI or Title VII, which can include unequal and unfavorable treatment in the educational/work environment or conduct (oral, written, graphic) that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating.
- Prohibited Conduct under Title IX, which can include sexual harassment, sexual assault, gender-based stalking, or dating/domestic violence.

Upon notification, OACC professionals will assess the report and determine if outreach is required. If outreach is required, the potentially harmed individual (the “Complainant”) will receive a communication, likely in the form of an email, with an offer to meet with a representative of the appropriate team.

Applicable Policies and Resources

- [University Policy 1201: Non-Discrimination](#)
 - Contact masoneo@gmu.edu with related questions.
- [University Policy 1202: Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Other Interpersonal Violence](#)
 - Contact titleix@gmu.edu with related questions.
- [University Policy 1204: Prohibited Relationships with Students](#)

General questions may be directed to OACC at oacc@gmu.edu, or by phone at 703-993-8730, or in person on the Fairfax campus in Aquia 373 or at Mason Square in Van Metre Hall Suite 222.

Student opportunity: If you prefer to speak to someone *confidentially*, please contact one of Mason’s confidential employees in [Student Support and Advocacy](#) (SSAC), [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS), [Student Health Services](#) (SHS), and/or the [Office of the University Ombudsperson](#).