

George
Mason
College
HOW WILL IT
GROW ?



NORTHERN VIRGINIA'S
Opportunity



As George Mason begins this first crucial year of expansion from a two-year college into a university, its most pressing need is for land—land to insure that long range growth plans can become reality. Without land as a solid base for these plans, orderly growth goes out the window and piecemeal development takes its place. Today land is available. Tomorrow it will be gone. The time to act is now.

1 | WHY DOES NORTHERN VIRGINIA NEED A FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE?

- Northern Virginia is the state's most densely populated area. It now has 800,000 residents; soon it will have one million or more. Most of its students want college educations. A recent survey showed 63 per cent of the high school seniors here hoped to attend college.*
- Northern Virginia is one of the few areas of its size in the country that has *no degree-granting college*. George Mason College of the University of Virginia, at Fairfax, is now developing from a two-year college into a four-year degree-granting institution.



Map shows location of Virginia's four-year liberal arts colleges. Depth of shading indicates density of population.**

- Twenty-three per cent of Northern Virginia's college-bound students said in the survey they would like to live at home while studying. Now most of these students must attend college in other areas and other states. Many others are unable to obtain a college education at all. National statistics show the percentage of students who go to college is lowered when there is no college within commuting range.

* Survey of high school seniors made in 1965 by the Northern Virginia Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission

** Map reprinted from the 1965 report of the Virginia Higher Education Study Commission

2 | HOW WILL GEORGE MASON MEET THIS AREA'S NEEDS?

- Urban areas, such as Northern Virginia, are full of potential graduate students who would like to continue their education on a part-time basis. Yet no Virginia urban area, including this one, provides a comprehensive institution such college graduates can conveniently attend.
- by developing into a first-rate four-year liberal arts college to serve Northern Virginia students;
- by broadening its curriculum to include fields of training for which there is a local need, such as teacher education;
- by providing an opportunity for students with two years of satisfactory college work to complete their undergraduate studies in Northern Virginia;
- by developing graduate programs as soon as adequate facilities and faculty can be provided;
- by emphasizing fields of study not covered by other Washington area institutions of higher learning so that George Mason will complement area college and universities, not duplicate them, and thus enlarge the educational spectrum here.



Aerial view of the present George Mason campus.

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WHAT KIND OF SCHOOL WILL THE NEW GEORGE MASON BE?

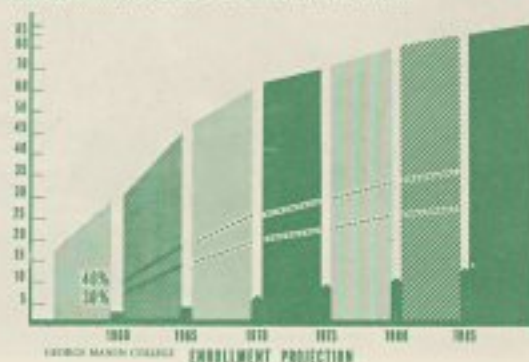
- It will be a broadly based liberal arts college in which certain departments will offer graduate work.
- The present major fields of English, biology, history and business and public administration will be expanded to cover all the basic sciences and specific humanities and social sciences.
- The college will provide graduate and undergraduate work in teacher training.
- There will be evening short courses, seminars and workshops in all fields.
- A center for performing arts is contemplated. This could double as a training ground for students and a cultural center for the citizens of Northern Virginia.

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HOW LARGE WILL GEORGE MASON BECOME AND WHEN?

- Current planning, as a result of several studies, is for a student body of about 12,500.
- Reaching an enrollment of 12,500 depends on the proportion of Northern Virginia's college-bound students who choose George Mason as their school. The college-age population of Northern Virginia is expected to grow from 45,000 to 85,000 in the next 20 years. At present the proportion of college-age students in Northern Virginia who are attending college is below the national average but there is every indication that the incidence of college going here will accelerate.
- George Mason's prospective enrollment of 850 this fall will occupy most of the present facilities. How fast the school can grow to accommodate additional students depends on:

THOUSANDS COLLEGE AGE POPULATION IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA (10-25 YEARS)



This aerial map shows the direction campus growth. Planning and Economic Development Commission.

- (1) development of a master site plan. Such a plan is being developed.
- (2) preparation of a comprehensive educational program. A faculty committee now is at work on such a program.
- (3) availability of funds to construct buildings and provide faculty members for a growing student body. The 1966 General Assembly of Virginia made George Mason into a four-year college, to award its first degree in 1968, with authorization to develop further into a university. For the 1966-68 biennium the Assembly appropriated \$1,867,750 for capital outlays and \$781,512 for operation and maintenance.
- (4) acquisition of land to allow for expansion into a regional institution of higher learning. This is the crucial problem before us today.



th would take, as suggested by the Northern Virginia

5 HOW MUCH LAND IS NEEDED AND HOW WILL IT BE USED?

- The new land requirement plan provides for eventual use of 600 acres, 450 more than the present campus. The central campus would consist of a 350-acre tract, to be used as follows:
 - 43 acres—instruction
 - 23 acres—common facilities (administration, library, auditorium, student union etc.)
 - 27 acres—residences
 - 116 acres—parking
 - 13 acres—streets and roads
 - 50 acres—playing fields, courts, intramural athletic facilities
 - 14 acres—maintenance, service and storage
 - 64 acres—undesignated expansion

The 250 acres around the perimeter of this central campus would be reserved for intercollegiate athletic facilities and for associated research.

6 WHY MUST ALL THIS LAND BE ACQUIRED NOW?

- Today the land around George Mason is relatively unoccupied. Campus growth would not disturb existing development.
- The suggested 600-acre plan does not call for a high-density, intensive type of land development. It provides for the compact placement of buildings with adequate light, air and space between them. It aims to preserve the spirit of a traditional Virginia campus, not to create an asphalt jungle in the country.
- If vacant land adjacent to the present campus is not acquired immediately the pressure will increase for its use by private developers.

7 HOW MUCH WILL THE LAND COST?

- Estimated cost of the 450 acres is \$3 million at today's prices.
- Prices may be expected to increase. A large portion of this 450 acres, including all the vital central campus area, lies in the Pohick watershed, soon to be sewered. Land prices are increasing in anticipation of completion of the sewer.
- Land costs are to be divided among Northern Virginia localities on the basis of population to be served by the college.



This drawing of the new land requirement plan shows how land could be used

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT US AS CITIZENS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA?

- The new master site plan is a vital part of George Mason's expansion into the kind of university that will best serve Northern Virginia citizens.
- The plan cannot become a reality without sufficient land adjacent to the present campus.
- This land must be acquired now to secure the future of the college. If we citizens of Northern Virginia let this opportunity slip through our fingers we may not have such a chance again.



GEORGE MASON COLLEGE

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA

