



# ECONnections

An e-newsletter for Mason undergraduate BS/BA ECON students, and ECON minors...

Dear ECON Students:

Spring has arrived at Mason! Congratulations on your continued hard work through the spring 2021 semester. The Economics Advising Team is prepared to support you with summer and fall 2021 registration, and to assist seniors graduating in the upcoming spring and summer semesters.

This spring newsletter edition covers important academic deadlines, announcements, graduation guidance, registration information for math placement and foreign language placement tests, instructions for the spring 2021 Alternative Grading Mode, and more.

Ensure you mark your calendars of upcoming events and opportunities.

**If you plan to graduate spring or summer 2021, please email [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu) to consult with an ECON advisor and ensure you have fulfilled your degree requirements.**

If you have any questions about your ECON academic program, want to change your major, add a concentration or minor, or have other campus-related inquiries, please email us at [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu). Many questions may also be answered at the [Economics FAQs page](#).

Please continue to stay safe and healthy, find time to get outdoors to absorb some sunshine, enjoy the spring flowers, and we look forward to seeing you all again, in-person, soon!

Sincerely, Ms. Getsey Bernier (Undergraduate Program Coordinator) and the ECON Undergraduate Advising Team

APRIL 2021



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## Important Academic Deadlines and Updates from other Campus Units...

### Economics Important Updates:

- Need economics undergraduate advising for summer and fall 2021 registration? Make an appointment at: [Economics Undergraduate Advising](#), or email [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu). Please include your full name and G#.
- Mark your calendars with priority Registrar/Registration dates for Summer and Fall 2021:
  - [Summer 2021](#)
  - [Fall 2021](#)
- The summer and fall 2021 catalogs are available on [Patriot Web](#).
  - Click on “Student Services” -> “Registration” -> “Search for Classes – Classic”. Select the term, the subject codes, and select your courses. **The Economics Advising Team strongly recommends you register now for summer and fall 2021 courses** before the upcoming summer orientation of transfer and new students.
  - Click on “Student Services” -> “Registration” -> “Registration and Planning” -> “Plan Ahead” function to put courses in a saved plan; when your registration time ticket opens, pull up the plan and register with one click of a button. Learn more from the Registrar’s helpful [Patriot Web Tutorials](#).
  - Before scheduling an academic advising appointment for summer and fall 2021 registration, students are

encouraged to [log into Patriot Web Degree Works](#) and evaluate their outstanding requirements or credit requirements (remember to click on “Process New” once you have logged into Degree Works, to see your most up-to-date degree plan). Consult the catalog, make a list of summer and fall 2021 courses to share with your advisors. **Students may schedule an advising appointment by emailing the Economics Advising Team at [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu).**

- There will be a higher demand for academic advising from mid-April through May for summer and fall 2021 registration.
  - If students wish to receive a **personalized video advising session** instead of scheduling a live virtual advising session (this may be beneficial for students out of state or outside of the United States, in different time zones, or working students who are unavailable during weekdays), please email a **detailed list of your advising questions** to [Ms. Mary Getsey Bernier](mailto:Ms. Mary Getsey Bernier). She will respond with a recorded video advising session, which will be uploaded and viewable in your Mason Student Blackboard account, saved under “My Media”. Login instructions will be included with the email you receive to view your advising video.
- **Questions about spring 2021 Alternative Grading Mode? Learn more at the [Registrar’s website](#).** Email [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu) if you have questions about alternative grading for your spring 2021 semester.
- **If you plan to graduate spring or summer 2021**, please schedule a pre-graduation advising session to ensure your degree requirements for graduation are complete. Email [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu).
- **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ECONOMICS SYNTHESIS/CAPSTONE COURSE:** ECON 309 is no longer the economics synthesis/capstone course for BA and BS majors (the last semester it qualified for the synthesis/capstone was summer 2020).
  - The new synthesis/capstone course options are: [ECON 491](#); [ECON 493](#); and [ECON 495](#). All three courses are registration restricted and require senior status, as well as completion of a majority of economics upper-level electives. Please email [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu) if you need advising regarding the synthesis/capstone.
- **Interested in an internship for upper-level Economic elective credit?** The new economics course for domestic economics-related internships for credit is [ECON 398](#). Learn more about internships for credit, [here](#). Email the Economics Advising Team at [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu) to schedule an advising appointment regarding the internship application process and the internship requirements. **Email Dr. Jason Dunick at [jdunick@gmu.edu](mailto:jdunick@gmu.edu) to request an internship application package. Internship applications for summer 2021 should be submitted before the beginning of the summer 2021 semester.** Internships in the state of Maryland are not eligible for credit.

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#### Other Campus Unit Updates:

- **Registrar/Degree Works:** The Registrar’s Office is upgrading Degree Works. Prior to the upgrade, **Degree Works will be frozen for up to two weeks between April 9th and April 26th. If economics students have any trouble with their Degree Works during this time, please email [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu) and an advisor will respond to assist you.**
- **Update from the [Department of Modern and Classical Languages \(MCL\)](#):** “The Department of Modern and Classical Languages (MCL) has discontinued the awarding of three credits to students taking the waiver test and placing out of SPAN 212 or 215 and into the 300 level. For placing into the 300 level from the test, students who have a foreign language requirement for their major will receive a waiver but no credit. As this policy is put into place, consideration of three credits for level 202 of a language will be given to Spring 2021 graduates only.”
  - **Foreign Language Waiver Test**
  - You can only take our tests one time. Before signing up for a waiver test whether online or in our lab, you must first take our Self-Evaluation (in Korean called Online Evaluation) for your language and pass nearly

the entire Self-Evaluation. Links to these are found under the Placement heading below. If you complete the evaluation successfully, you may sign up for a waiver test below.

- Remote waiver tests--We have two language waiver tests available remotely--Korean and Spanish.
  - In-person waiver tests--The language computer testing lab in room 346 of the Aquia Building will open sometime during the semester, but at this time the lab will not be used for placement, only waiver tests. [Please see more Placement information below.] These tests are for Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Persian, Russian, and Spanish
  - Our waiver tests are not easy, but if you do well on the one you take, and you have a foreign language requirement for your major, the passing of the test will satisfy it. Global Affairs may require more language courses than other majors; check with them if that is your major.
  - [Sign up for an in-person or a remote Foreign Language Waiver Test](#)
  - **You are not scheduled for your test until you get a confirmation email from our office; it may come a few days later.** That email will have important instructions. As always, you can only take the test one time for each language.
- **Updated Math Placement Test Policies for Math 105/108/113/123/125**
    - [For the Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 semester, the placement test is required for Math 105, Math 108, Math 113, Math 123, and Math 125.](#) Students will need to pass the placement test before enrolling in the course. After passing the placement test, students will be able to add the course within 2 hours.
    - If students have trouble with adding a math course or feel that they meet the prerequisites through college credit, please submit a [Course override request](#).
  - **Waiver of English 101**

[English 101 is a prerequisite for all English general education requirements. You may seek a waiver for this course through an exam administered by the English Department.](#)

- **NOTE: Students on academic probation, warning, or suspension,** please contact an ECON Academic Advisor at [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu) for guidance and advising support and to learn more about the [College of Humanities and Social Sciences PASS program](#) and/or to **complete a have not yet submitted the [Student Advising Meeting \(SAM\) form](#) that is required for all students with a GPA below 2.0.**

### Mason Law

- [The 3+3 Accelerated Mason Law program](#) (offers highly motivated undergraduate students a fast track to earn both a bachelor's degree and a law degree in six, rather than seven, years of study) or the Mason2Mason Law program.
- [Mason2Mason](#) ("M2M") program is a special admissions program for current George Mason University undergraduate students. M2M uses the American Bar Association's ("ABA") 503 rule which **allows law schools to accept applicants from their own university without the normally required LSAT score** if students meet certain academic criteria.
- The Schar School is delighted to announce the **Patriot Pre-Law Program's LSAT Scholarship Initiative. This new resource will provide seven scholarships of \$500 each to help students prepare for the LSAT, a high-stakes test that is crucial for law school admissions.** The problem with the LSAT is that students from more affluent backgrounds can select from a multitude of commercial test-prep options, while others are left to their own devices. The P3 Initiative will help remedy that inequity.

All Mason students are eligible for the scholarship. If you want to apply, just answer a few questions in the survey

below and write a short essay explaining how this scholarship will support your journey to law school and beyond. We are particularly interested in assisting students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, so please inform us of any life experiences that will help us make a good decision.

The Initiative opened on Friday, March 19th at 7 noon, and **it will close on May 1st at noon**. Final award decisions will be made by a committee of faculty and students.

You may fill out the survey at this link: [Patriot Pre-Law Program LSAT Scholarship Initiative](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Professor Mink – [pmink@gmu.edu](mailto:pmink@gmu.edu)

- Mason is excited to celebrate its fortieth [International Week](#), which begins next Friday, April 2, and will continue through Sunday, April 11. This week-long celebration is an opportunity for students from over 128 countries represented here at Mason to come together to showcase their different cultures through various programs and activities.

International Programs and Services, Student Involvement, INTO Mason, academic programs, Registered Student Organizations, and other campus units sponsor several International Week events including Mason's internationalization discussion, study abroad seminar, food truck festival, sporting events, and a viewing party of the dance competition.

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## Internship/Career Opportunities

### From the April 2021 Federal Reserve April Newsletter, Virtual Information Sessions

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** Please send a registration email to [econoutreach@frb.gov](mailto:econoutreach@frb.gov) with your name, major, expected graduation date (month/year), academic institution, and the date/time of the session you plan to attend to receive the link to the WebEx event. Be sure to specify attendance for an Information Session and/or Econ Connections.

**Federal Reserve Board (Board) Research Assistants (RAs) and staff will be hosting virtual information sessions to highlight economics related internships and RA positions at the Board for undergraduate and graduate students.** You also will have the opportunity to ask RAs or staff any questions about the application process or working at the Board in general. We will host an information session every second and fourth Friday of the month. **The April's sessions will be held as follows: Friday, April 9th 3:00 – 3:45 PM EST; Friday, April 23rd 3:00 – 3:45 PM EST.**

- **Board Economists will host virtual presentations every third week of the month to discuss current economics-related topics and open the door for students to connect with a Board Economist through our Coffee With an Economist (CWaE) program.** Topics of discussion will include "Diversity and Inclusion in Economics" and "The Fed's Response to the COVID-19 Crisis". CWaE gives students the opportunity to meet one-on-one with Board Economists to discuss their paths in economics, receiving feedback and insight on things like course selection, preparation, and journey to pursuing a PhD, research interests, and career outcomes. This month's Econ Connection is scheduled for **April 14th from 4:00pm to 4:45pm EST.**
- **Exploring Careers in Economics:** What is ECE? Organized to broaden awareness of careers in economics and to further develop a diverse pool of talent interested in the field, ECE offers students a chance to learn and discuss opportunities in economics generally and learn about career paths within the Federal Reserve System.
- **Past Events:** You can view past events [here](#). Past keynote speakers at these events include Governor Lael Brainard (Fall 2020), Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta President Raphael Bostic (Fall 2019), and Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco President Mary Daly (Spring 2019).

- Please visit [www.fedeconjobs.org](http://www.fedeconjobs.org) for additional information on Research Assistantships and internship opportunities across the entire Federal Reserve System.

**Mason Career Services:** Career Services annual Non-profit Industry Week is next week, April 12-16. Non-profits is a giant category which includes NGO's, national and international associations, government/public resources and community support agencies. And they hire from ALL MAJORS at all levels. To learn more, visit the [Career Services website events page](#).

Sign up for helpful workshops, such as "Make Your Resume Robot-Proof with JobScan," offered Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. Medium and large non-profits and international organizations use "Applicant Tracking Systems" to sort/score resumes before a person lays eyes on them. Mason students have special access to JobScan, which can take A LOT of the guesswork out of knowing what the robot is looking for.

## MONDAY, April 12

### 4 pm EDT: Making Your Way in Nonprofits

Considering a career in the nonprofit world? Organizations of every size need candidates with skills in finance, technology, communications, business, and more!

## TUESDAY, April 13

### 4:30 pm EDT: Alumni Panel: How to Launch a Career in Nonprofits

Get first-person accounts of Mason alumni utilizing their education in the nonprofit industry.

*Co-sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations. Those who attend the entire event will have a chance to win a \$100 gift card!*

## WEDNESDAY, April 14

### Noon EDT: Careers for People Who Love History

Do you want a job where you can share your knowledge & love of history? Get inside info from this panel of employers in museums and cultural organizations in the exciting field of public history!

### 4 pm EDT: Make Your Resume Robot-Proof with Jobscan

Many nonprofit employers use automated Applicant Tracking Systems (robots) to filter and review resumes. Join us to learn how to use and get access to Jobscan, a tool that will help you personalize your resume for better results in any job search.

## THURSDAY, April 15

### 4:30 pm EDT: Nonprofit Student Intern Panel

Learn how to gain experience in the nonprofit sector from a panel of Mason students currently interning at various local nonprofits.

Co-led by Spring 2021 GMU Nonprofit Fellows

*\*Note: This event will also take place in-person in SUB I, 3400. Space is limited.*

## FRIDAY, April 16

### Noon EDT: International Careers in Nonprofits

Are you interested in making a difference in global communities, or want to work in international education exchange, policy, or development? Join us to learn about nonprofits with an international focus where you can make a global impact.

get more details

[go.gmu.edu/NonprofitCareers](http://go.gmu.edu/NonprofitCareers)

\*All events will be virtual. Check Handshake for in-person options.



University Career Services

**Mason's Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Science: Participate in experiments on human behavior and decision making.** During these extraordinary times ICES continues to conduct experiments. However due to social distancing guidelines all experiments are currently conducted entirely online. The Interdisciplinary Center for Economic Sciences (ICES) is looking for students to join our subject pool. Sessions usually last between 1 to 2 hours and most subjects make between \$15-\$20 in an hour. A web browser with working internet connection is required. [Click here to sign up.](#)

**As a soon-to-graduate student, your career path might not be fully defined, and that's ok!** That's great, actually, because this is your opportunity build career-development into your schedule. And **Career Prep Courses** make that possible!

Consider enrolling today for one of these courses: [UNIV 320 Internship/Career Readiness](#) covers internships - why they are important and how to get them. You will learn to write resumes and cover letters, and even get to spend your class time finding and applying to internships you want. [UNIV 421 College to Grad School](#) focuses on getting into grad school. Even if you are only just considering grad school, this class will give you a better understanding of what it takes and what you need to do now to get in. [UNIV 422 College to Career](#) prepares you for success in the workplace, such as building skills employers demand, advocating for yourself in challenging situations, preparing for performance reviews, understanding employment benefits such as compensation, health, and financial plans, and more. This course helps prepare students for meeting 21st century workplace challenges in a practical, experiential, and collaborative

workplace-simulated environment.

Best of all, Career Prep Courses are taught by career counselors and local employers so you know you're getting information from the experts. The other great thing about these classes is that they demystify career-related and grad school jargon like GRE, personal branding, and networking. We break down these ideas to help you master them step by step. **Consider signing up for a zero or one credit option** - you will find flexibility in the online, accelerated sections available. **Register today in [PatriotWeb!](#)**

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### Academic Resources and Around Campus Events...

- Mason Learning Services has updated their web page for tutoring not only in Economics, but in many other academic departments. Read more and find tutoring for your non-ECON courses on their [web site](#).
  - **Interested in learning a foreign language, or want to practice your foreign language skills?** Mason Students have free access to the Mason Rosetta Learning Stone. Learn more, [here](#).
  - **The Mason Economics Society welcomes new members and has posted upcoming events, featuring guest speakers, and more.** To join the Economics Society, and learn more about upcoming events, [visit their web page](#).
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### Mason GEO/Study Abroad

[Mason GEO/Study Abroad has updated its website regarding summer and fall 2021 programs](#). Before considering a study abroad program, it is required students consult with their economics advisor. Email [econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu).

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### Safe Return to Campus and Daily Check Ins

Mason continues to provide resources to help you plan your activities and understand ongoing changes brought to our university in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Students who will be on campus are still required to complete the ["Safe Return to Campus."](#) Safe Return to Campus Training is currently available in [Blackboard](#) to take now or before returning to campus. It outlines the precautions Mason is taking to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, new university policies and procedures, and student responsibilities when studying, working, and living on campus.

- Log into [Blackboard](#).
- Register using the training link in the top right corner of the page.
- Select Student Training.
- Select Sign up for Safe Return to Campus Training.
- Select "submit."
- Select "training" from the green menu on the left side of the page.

Students will also be asked to review a consent form and choose whether or not to allow the health department to share information with Mason to help identify potential outbreaks on campus. Consent is not required to receive credit for training, and a student's decision does not have any impact on student records or future opportunities at Mason.

**Everyone planning to be on campus must complete the health check every day.**

Access the Mason COVID Health✓™

[LOGIN TO THE SECURE PLATFORM](#)

Who Must Complete Mason COVID Health✓™?

Mason COVID Health✓™ (Mason COVID Health Check™) is an online screening tool that must be completed daily (7 days a week) by students, faculty, staff, and contractors planning to visit campus in any capacity this fall. Visitors and guests should complete this survey before visiting campus and may be required to complete Mason COVID Health✓™ for themselves and/or their dependents to access university facilities.

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**George Mason University**

Buchanan Hall (formerly Mason Hall), Room D150

**Department of Economics**

4400 University Drive, 3G4

Fairfax, VA 22030

Phone: 703-993-1151 | Fax: 703-993-1133

[econbsba@gmu.edu](mailto:econbsba@gmu.edu)

**\*\*DISCLAIMER\*\***: All content of this email communication is an advising evaluation, not a guarantee of degree fulfillment. Course and degree requirements are subject to change. Students are responsible for knowing the requirements of their Mason degree using the Mason catalog for their catalog and degree year and the Degree Works program.