



Disability Services  
4400 University Drive, MSN 5C9  
Student Union Building 1, Suite 2500  
Fairfax, VA 22030  
Phone: (703) 993-2474  
Fax: (703) 993-4306  
TTY: (703) 993-2476  
Email: [masi@gmu.edu](mailto:masi@gmu.edu)

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## Mason Autism Support Initiative

### Program Information

Thank you for your interest in the **Mason Autism Support Initiative (MASI)** program at George Mason University. MASI provides individualized services beyond standard accommodations for students diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. Through the program, students have access to a learning strategist, peer mentor, skill-building classes, and social events. Qualified applicants must already be admitted to George Mason University. Services provided to program participants are individualized and based upon disability documentation, functional limitations, and a collaborative assessment of needs. They include standard accommodations provided through Disability Services (DS). Please note: if you are already registered with DS, the documentation you have already submitted may be sufficient for considered enrollment into MASI, and will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

To be considered for admission into MASI, the following information must be submitted:

- Application for Admission form (to be completed by the student).
- Current and comprehensive documentation of disability to include appropriate written evaluation by a licensed professional, according to established documentation guidelines (described on the next page).
- Copy of transcripts from high school and former college, if applicable (official or unofficial)
- Copy of most recent Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan, if applicable.
- At least two (2) completed recommendation forms (see website for forms) from someone who has worked with the student in an academic setting (to be submitted by applicant in sealed envelope, or mailed/mailed directly from recommender).
- Copy of letter of acceptance into George Mason University, if you are an incoming student.

Please email the complete application packet by 3/16/20 to [masi@gmu.edu](mailto:masi@gmu.edu) or send by mail to:

ATTN: MASI  
Disability Services  
4400 University Dr., MSN 5C9  
Student Union Building 1, Suite 2500  
Fairfax, VA 22030

## MASI Documentation Guidelines

Applicants must provide documentation, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, according to guidelines of DS. These guidelines are based upon the description of quality documentation of a disability by the Association of Higher Education and Disabilities (AHEAD) and the College Board. Documentation must include a comprehensive assessment administered within the last three to five years by a person with appropriate professional credentials (e.g. a psycho-educational, neuropsychological, or psychological evaluation by a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist) who has undergone relevant training and has no personal relationship with the individual being evaluated. The ideal assessment would include:

- Discussion of the individual's functional limitations, and current functioning as it impacts ability to participate in the university's educational programs and services.
- A clear diagnostic statement that identifies and follows DSM-IV-TR or DSM-V criteria.
- An interview including a description of the presenting problem(s) including any significant developmental, medical, psychosocial, and employment issues; family history; current level of adaptive/daily living skills; discussion of comorbidity where indicated; and relevant information regarding the individual's academic history. (A comprehensive summary/interview with both parents, if possible, and a self-report is needed to get a view of the student's present functioning and ability.)
- Discussion of behavioral, social, and communication issues.
- Standardized measures of cognitive development, academic achievement, information processing, and current social/emotional functioning (if not in neuropsychological or psychological evaluation, this can be administered by a separate evaluator).
- A description of the diagnostic methodology used that includes description of the diagnostic criteria, evaluation methods, procedures, tests and dates of administration, as well as a clinical narrative, observation, and specific results.
- An integrated narrative summary, to include current symptomatology, treatment, and ongoing needs. Summary must include impact of symptoms on learning, ability to function, and deficits as related to postsecondary education.
- Information on expected changes in the functional impact of the condition over time and context.
- A description of current and past accommodations, services, and/or medications (to include any possible side effects that may influence the learning environment).
- Recommendations for accommodations, assistive services, assistive technology, compensatory strategies, and/or collateral support services. It is helpful when recommendations are logically related to functional limitations, or if connections are not obvious, a clear explanation of their relationship can be useful in decision-making.

Additional guidelines:

- Accommodation needs change and are not always identified at the time of initial diagnosis. A prior history of accommodation, without documentation of current need and consistent use, does not demonstrate eligibility for accommodations.
- While doctor's notes and school plans such as an IEP or 504 Accommodation Plan may be helpful in determining a student's needs, they alone are not sufficient to substantiate a request for program services and accommodations. Conclusive statements without supporting information are unhelpful.
- Additional information, such as survey forms and direct teacher observation, can be included.



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## Mason Autism Support Initiative

### Application for Admission 2020-2021 Academic Year

Please complete the following information and submit this form as part of your application packet. This application for admission form will be used to assist the MASI team by providing valuable information to assist in understanding your strengths, needs, concerns, and goals. Please complete all questions accurately and to the best of your ability. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed. The information requested will be held in complete confidentiality and will only be reviewed by MASI/Disability Services staff or application committee members.

#### **PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Name:  G#:

Nickname (if applicable):

Date of Birth:  Age:

Gender Identity:

Address:

City:  State:  Zip Code:

Student Cell Phone:  Student Email:

#### **PARENT(S)/LEGAL GUARDIAN(S):**

Name:  Phone:

Email:

Name:  Phone:

Email:

**SUPPORTS & SERVICES PREVIOUSLY UTILIZED:**

- IEP                       504 Plan       Tutoring Services  
 Speech & Language Therapy       Occupational Therapy  
 Group Therapy       Individual Therapy/Psychological Services

Other:

**EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION:**

Anticipated Major:

**High School Students:**

High School Name & Location:

Diploma Received:     Advanced     Standard     Other:

**Transfer Students:**

Institution Name & Location

Credits Earned       Degree Received

**Current GMU Students:**

Academic Year       Credits Earned

**How did you hear about the program?**

**PERSONAL ESSAY:**

The Mason Autism Support Initiative (MASI) empowers students in the areas of self-advocacy, independence, and career exploration. Through the program, students have access to learning strategists, peer mentors, skill-building classes, and social events. Learning strategists and peer mentors provide support with academics and social engagement. The curriculum in the skill-building classes focuses on campus resources and acclimation to college, identity development, and career readiness. Student-initiated social events provide an opportunity for students in MASI to connect with each other and the larger campus community. With all of the program components in mind, please legibly write or type a 300-500 word essay responding to the following prompt:

How will participation in the MASI program shape or positively contribute to your overall college experience? In doing so, please describe your academic strengths and challenges.

**ADMISSION INTO THE UNIVERSITY:**

**Received GMU Acceptance Letter:**

- Yes, it is included with application packet
- No, I have submitted the application, but currently waiting for a decision

\*Applications may be submitted before a student receives a GMU acceptance letter, however application packets are not marked as complete until we receive official notice a student has been accepted into the university.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE:**

I certify that the information contained in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that to falsify information may be grounds for discontinuation of the application process or dismissal from the program without refund should I be accepted.

Applicant's Signature

Date

## **MASI NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIP**

MASI may provide limited scholarships to students and families who demonstrate financial need to defray associated program costs. If you are interested in applying for a need-based scholarship, please complete the MASI Scholarship Application at <https://ds.gmu.edu/prospective-students/>.

Scholarship(s) will consist of a 1-year allotment of a minimum of \$1000. There is no guarantee for future scholarships.

***Your complete MASI application packet is due by March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Decisions will be made by April 6<sup>th</sup> 2020.***

***Please send application materials to Disability Services by email at [masi@gmu.edu](mailto:masi@gmu.edu) or by mail at the address below.***

*If you have questions, please contact Disability Services at 703-993-2474, or [masi@gmu.edu](mailto:masi@gmu.edu).*

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