



Parent / Student Involvement

The Early Identification Program makes academics exciting to students by showing them they can learn challenging material. This knowledge and the academic support and enrichment gained from the program are powerful academic motivators. The program can only work, however, if the students attend regularly and complete the work. In deciding whether or not the program is appropriate for a student the following questions may be helpful:

1. Can the student realistically participate in EIP activities three Saturdays during the school year and three weeks during the summer?
2. Will the student participate actively in the weekly tutoring and other components of the program?
3. Does the student want to participate in the program?

Once students decide to participate, they are responsible for completing the brief application. Parents should attend the parent information meeting to meet the program's organizers and instructors, find out more about the program, and learn about high school and college requirements.

Parental participation is strongly encouraged once the program is initiated. Parents and students are invited to attend the Strengthening the Family Workshop.



The University

George Mason University (GMU) is a dynamic learning institution emphasizing high technology, public policy, and the fine and performing arts, which serve the national capital area. George Mason offers more than 100 undergraduate, master's, doctoral, and professional programs to more than 24,000 students at three locations. The Fairfax campus is located south of Fairfax City in 677 beautiful wooded acres in Northern Virginia just thirty minutes from Washington D.C.

A wide range of support services are available to students, including health, and counseling services and services to disabled students.

For more information, please contact:

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*Early
Identification
Program
(EIP)
Est. 1987*





What is the EIP about?

The EIP is an innovative, multi-year college preparatory partnership between George Mason University and Fairfax County Public Schools for middle and high school students. Program activities are free and are held on the Fairfax and Prince William campuses of George Mason University.

During the school year, students enjoy cultural and other events on and off campus; tutoring sessions with university students, faculty, and staff; and a retreat to acquire leadership skills.

During the summer, students attend a three-week academic enrichment program on the GMU Fairfax campus. They work on special projects in science, math, English, and computer science. The projects encourage them to be active class participants and to think in new and different ways. Students are also given the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art computer and scientific equipment. Field trips are planned to places of interest in the area to enhance the student's academic experience.

Special program activities allow students to use computer and science laboratories, physical education facilities and other services of GMU. Transportation is provided to **nearly** all events.



What are the Objectives of the Early Identification Program?

Staffed by outstanding local teachers, the EIP encourages students to successfully complete a collegiate program in high school. This collegiate program increases the number of students from traditionally underrepresented populations who attend and complete college.

The specific objectives of the EIP are to:

- Identify students who have academic potential but are not working to their abilities.
- Identify students who are strong academically but may need guidance and support
- Encourage students to consider attending college
- Increase interest in academics and develop students leadership skills


Who Should Apply?

Participating Fairfax County schools (Glasgow, Holmes, Lanier, Luther Jackson, Poe and Whitman Middle Schools) seventh grade students who are exploring high school curriculums and would like to consider a pre-college program are encouraged to apply. A weak academic background should not discourage students from applying.

How Can Students Apply?

Step 1– Guidance counselors or teachers recommend students. Students then receive a letter from GMU notifying them of their nomination.

Step 2 – Once notified, students and their parents attend an information meeting where program specifics are explained and applications are handed out.



Step 3 – Once students decide to apply, they complete the application. Guidance counselors are available to assist with the process. Completed applications must be returned to counselors.

How are Participants Selected?

GMU/EIP selects participants based on the following:

- Recommendation of two adults, one of whom is a guidance counselor or a teacher. The other can be a community member, coach, club representative, or a local minister.
- Assessment of student's academic record
- Completed application

What Post-High School Opportunities Are Available to Students Who Complete the Program?

EIP guarantees admission to George Mason University for those students who follow a pre-college curriculum, successfully complete the program in good academic standing, and meet the admission requirements of GMU.

Financial aid is available to program participants who apply to GMU and show need.

Whether or not students choose to attend GMU, the skills acquired in the program will help them succeed at other post-secondary institutions or in other careers.
