Located near Washington, DC, **George Mason University (GMU)** has grown rapidly over the past half-century and is recognized for its innovation and entrepreneurship, remarkable diversity, and commitment to accessibility. As Virginia’s largest public research university, GMU enrolls 37,000 students from 130 countries and all 50 states. GMU’s graduates lead all public universities in Virginia with the highest starting salaries, and 80 percent of GMU degree earners are employed within six months of graduation, making GMU rank among the top 100 universities for best value. In 2016, GMU was named a Tier 1 research university, the highest designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The driving forces behind research at GMU are to solve real-world problems and to serve as an engine of innovation for the region and state. Some of GMU’s most notable research includes developing new techniques and algorithms to secure the cyberspace.

George Mason University is one of the National Security Agency’s original seven Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education. GMU currently holds the designation of a National Center of Academic Excellence in both Cyber Defense Education and Cyber Research through 2021. The Center for Secure Information Systems was established in 1990 as the first academic center in security at a US university and leads cyber defense research at GMU. GMU’s academic programs include a BS in Information Technology, with concentration in Information Security, and a BS in Cyber Security Engineering.

**DESIGNATIONS**

- CAE - Cyber Defense Education
- CAE - Cyber Defense Research

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