Bethany M. Usher, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education
bushe@gmu.edu
Academic Council, April 26, 2018 (updated)
Curriculum Impact Grants due June 1: uge.gmu.edu
Students participating in MPACT experiences will engage with Mason’s signature programs in undergraduate research and creative activities, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement, through MPACT designated courses and co-curricular activities, global experiences, and internships.
MPACT Vision

All Mason students will have the opportunity to engage in a significant inquiry- and project-based, challenge-driven experience.

By integrating classroom study with learning in a wide range of scholarly, community, and professional settings, MPACT prepares students to pose a meaningful question, solve a problem, create new knowledge, and have a positive impact on the world.

MPACT Scholars and Citizens who are Prepared to Act
MPAct Vision: Student Description

MPAct is the opportunity for you to create and lead a project on a topic of your choosing. You will use your classroom experiences to explore ideas and apply knowledge gained at Mason to solve a problem, answer a question, and have a positive impact on the world. Mason MPAct opens doors to your career after Mason. You will have a transcript notation showing that you were a part of the program, and you will be able to tell future employers or graduate programs about how the program has prepared you for the next steps of your career.
MPACT Focus areas

Undergraduate Research (Scholar)

Entrepreneurship (Prepared to Act)

Civic Engagement (Citizen)
**Understand knowledge creation:** Students will understand how knowledge is generated and communicated, and how it can be used to address questions or problems in disciplines and in society.

**Engage multiple perspectives:** Students will identify and negotiate multiple perspectives, work collaboratively within and across multiple social and environmental contexts, and engage ethically with their subject and with others.

**Investigate a meaningful question:** Students will articulate a question; engage in an inquiry process; and situate the concepts, practices, or results within a broader context.

- Students will ask complex questions about significant problems, debates, or challenges
- Students will evaluate and choose inquiry methods that are appropriate to a project.
- Students will explain how a project has value within local, civic, professional, scholarly, or global contexts.

**Complete a project:** Students will design and carry out an individual or collaborative project that explores an original question, seeks a creative solution to a problem, applies knowledge to a professional challenge, or offers a unique perspective. Students will engage deeply in this original work.

**Communicate and share outcomes:** Students will communicate knowledge from their project through presentation, publication, performance, exhibition, screening, or broadcast to an audience beyond the classroom.
MPACT Experience Criteria

- Designed to meet student learning outcomes
  - Investigate a Meaningful Question
  - Complete a Project
  - Communicate and Share Outcomes
- Integrative or Culminating experience
- 1-2 semesters in length
- Minimum 90 hours of activity
- Visible on transcript
Where do MPACT Experiences Happen?

**In the Classroom: MPACT Courses**
- Research and Creative
- Entrepreneurship
- Civic Engagement

**Beyond the Classroom**
- Registered Student Organizations
- Undergraduate Research Scholars Program
- Summer Impact Projects
- Alternative Spring Break
- Mason Summer Entrepreneurship Accelerator

**In the Community**
- Internships
- Practica
- Field Placement
- Community-based research

**Abroad**
- Study Abroad
- Global Praxis
- International Research
- International Internships
Pre-approved MPACT experiences

_curricular and co-curricular
MP courses: RS · CE · EN · Internships · Practica · Capstones · Senior Design · Biology Research Semester · SMSC · Arlington/Global Health Fellows · URSP · Global Praxis · Global Discovery · Alternative Spring Break · Summer (and Academic Year?) Team Impact Projects · MSEA · Patriot Experience · LEAD Teams · Multidisciplinary Team Assistants

Unique MPACT experiences

_through_
Individuals · Team · Internships · Co-ops · FWS Research Assistantships · Learning Assistants · Peer Mentors/Advisors/Tutors/Educators · Mason Innovation Lab
Pre-approved MPACT Experiences

Unique MPACT Experiences

Student MPACT Projects

Student MPACT Report

MPACT: Project Transcript Notation
Pre-approved Experiences
(Courses, Internships, Entrepreneurship Programs, Community Service, OSCAR Research, etc)

Unique Student-Designed Experiences

Students complete projects

- Projects involve: Investigating a Meaningful Question by Designing and Completing the Project; Communicating and Sharing Outcomes
- Integrative or culminating experience of 1-2 semesters in length, with minimum 90 hours of project activity

Student Final Report

Project Transcript Notation
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<th>SUBJECT NO.</th>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CRED</th>
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************* TRANSCRIPT TOTALS *************

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*Not calculated in grade point average (GPA).
** IN and IX grades are calculated as if they are grades of F.

Course Numbering System
- 100-299 lower-level undergraduate courses
- 300-499 upper-level undergraduate courses
- 500-999 graduate courses

RS indicates a Research and Scholarship Intensive Course

MPact Project: Economics of Taxi Medallions 0 COMPLETE
MPact Project: Organization of American States Internship 0 COMPLETE
MPACT Implementation Timeline

- **Spring 2018**: Develop Concept, Identify existing opportunities to include Curriculum Impact Grants Finalize name and logo
- **Summer 2018**: Recruit first MPACT Experiences Beta test application processes Registrar to implement designation
- **Fall 2018**: Provost email to faculty announcing program Campus-wide campaign to identify experiences
- **Spring 2019**: Announcement event for students Beta students get MPACT transcription notation Include MPact in Recruitment
- **Fall 2019-Spring 2020**: Full roll-out for students Embed MPact in orientation Embed MPact in advising Embed MPact in UNIV100
On-going (Students)
- Messaging to incoming and current students
- Advise students towards MPACT
- Campus discussion about requiring or integrating into Mason Core

On-going (Faculty/Staff)
- Faculty support and development around high-impact learning
- Curriculum MPACT Grants
- Graduate Student involvement
- Connection to research initiatives
Mason
You
World
Modular nature of Mason MPACT
GEORGIA MASON

Engaged Citizen

Well-Rounded Scholar

Prepared to Act

Intern with Fairfax County through SAIL to create map of “walkability” at major intersections.

Spend summer in Copenhagen with faculty member who researches urban planning to understand community needs outside the U.S. through Global Praxis.

Use MIX space to design prototype of app and sensor.

USST 301 - Urban Growth in a Shrinking World

RI courses ECE 285/286 Circuits
RS courses ECE 492/493 Advanced Senior Design Project

MBUS 304 - Entrepreneurship: Starting and Managing a New Enterprise

Enter new app in GMU Deans’ business plan competition. Go to meeting of VCs to understand funding and develop investor pitch.
Georgia Mason’s pathway

1st year
- Themed advising in Engineering and Environment, with advising path for ECE major and minors in Urban Studies and Entrepreneurship
- UNIV100
- Sustainability LLC

2nd year
- RI Courses ECE 285/286 - Circuits
- Intern with Intern with Fairfax County through SAIL to create map of “walkability” at major intersections.
- Course dealing with global urban environments, e.g. USST 301 - Urban Growth in a Shrinking World

3rd year
- Use MIX space to begin to design prototype of app and sensor
- Go to VC meeting to understand funding and develop pitch
- (summer) Copenhagen urban planning Global Praxis research

4th year
- RS courses ECE 492/493 Advanced Senior Design Project
- Enter new app in GMU Deans’ business plan competition
- Completes major in ECE and minors in Urban Studies and Entrepreneurship