**Patriot’s Promise Summer Program (PPSP)**

**Statement of Understanding**

The Patriot’s Promise Summer Program is a supplemental grant program to assist a select group of first-year students in reaching the credit hour requirements needed to graduate within 4 years. The program is also intended to reinforce behaviors associated with timely degree completion, including academic planning, financial planning, developing study skills and time management, and completion of at least 30 credits each year.

**Considerations for Participation**

In order to participate in this initiative, students must meet the following **eligibility criteria**:

• Be a Fall 2019 first-year, in-state, full-time undergraduate student at Mason OR a student recipient of PPSP funding in summer 2018.

• Have earned between 24-30 credits by the end of the spring 2019 semester.

• Have a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) above 2.0 at the end of spring semester.

• As of March 1, 2019, have received a federal Pell grant during the 2018-2019 academic year, and have accepted and utilized all other aid offered (including Federal Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized loans) in their financial aid award for the fall and spring semesters of 2018-2019

**Prior to receiving PPSP Funds**, students must:

• Meet with an academic advisor and discuss a graduation plan, including summer courses to be covered by PPSP funds. See [4yearplans.gmu.edu](file:///%5C%5Cmesa2.mesa.gmu.edu%5Ckholme10%5Cshared%5Csaa.saa%5CRetention%20and%20Student%20Success%5CPatriot%27s%20Promise%20Summer%20Program%5C4yearplans.gmu.edu) for plan templates.

• Register for up to 2 summer classes before May 3, 2019.

• Apply for Summer 2019 Financial Aid using the [2019 Summer Aid Request Form](http://financialaid.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018-SUMMER-AID-REQUEST-FORM_v2.pdf). Note that you must be pre-registered for at least six credits in any combination of summer sessions (1, A, B, C, or D) to qualify for summer Pell funding.

• Register for a minimum of 15 credits\* in fall 2019. \*Please e-mail promise@gmu.edu if you have a reason for registering for fewer than 15 credits.

• File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (if eligible) for the 2019-2020 year.

**During the Summer**, PPSP students must:

• Meet with a Financial Aid Counselor to review their summer aid, and their 2019-2020 financial aid package for the following year.

• Participate in at least one academic enrichment activity, including (but not limited to) an Academic Skills workshop, Writing Center consultation, tutoring session, or information session with the Office of Scholarship, Creative Activities, and Research (OSCAR).

• Successfully complete all summer classes. Students must earn grades in each course that allow them to reach 30 credits by the end of the summer.

• Meet with your Academic Advisor or assigned Peer Academic Advisor at least two times during each summer session (in person, or remotely for students taking online courses).

**Additional Considerations for Patriot’s Promise Summer Program (PPSP) Funding**

• In-state tuition will be covered by a grant for up to 6 credit hours completed in the summer.

• Fees (e.g., lab fees, recreation fees) will also be covered by PPSP funding.

**• Students who drop summer courses will be responsible for returning Pell grant funds to Financial Aid.**

• Textbooks, housing, food, and travel expenses will not be covered by PPSP funding. Students needing additional financial support should contact Financial Aid to determine eligibility for any other funding.

 • The PPSP funding will appear on the student’s bill as a **Financial Aid Assistance Grant** or **Stay Mason Grant**.

**Limitations**

• Although Mason will make every effort to offer a range of summer courses, it may not be possible to offer certain courses needed by PPSP students. Students will need to consult with their academic advisor to ensure that courses completed in the summer term will advance them toward graduation.

**Additional Issues**

• For questions about financial aid, contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at (703) 993-2353.

• For general questions about academic advising, contact the Center for Academic Advising, Retention and Transitions at (703)993-2470. To find your college academic advisor, see <http://advising.gmu.edu/current-student/advisor-locator/>.

• For questions about summer housing, contact the Office of Housing and Residence Life at (703)993-2720.

Signing this form is an acknowledgement that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the terms of this Statement of Understanding. Please sign and return to the Center for Academic Advising, Retention and Transitions in SUB I 3600, MSN 2C4 by **Friday, May 3**. You may also scan and e-mail the form to promise@gmu.edu.

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