The university was chartered by an Act of Congress.

Service-learning courses offered by GW students receive financial aid from the White House and mere blocks from many major government and non-governmental agencies, making research, internship and career opportunities for students and faculty literally a short walk away.

The Foggy Bottom Campus, the Mount Vernon Campus and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus are close to many major government and non-governmental agencies.

Notable faculty include Nobel Laureate Ferid Murad and Pulitzer Prize-winner Edward P. Jones.

GW uses DC as a classroom like no other institution, hosting classes in the U.S. Capitol, the Newseum, and President George Washington’s Mt. Vernon Estate. Plus, through a variety of partnerships, GW students have research opportunities with nearly every federal agency in America, as well as numerous multilateral groups, including the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, National Institutes of Health, National Institutes of Standards and Technology, the Naval Research Lab, Pan-American Health Organization, Smithsonian Institution and the World Bank, just to name a few.


Former Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke delivered a seminar class exclusive to GW students entitled “Reflections of the Federal Reserve and its Place in Today’s Economy,” giving students an intimate, behind-the-scenes look into the financial crisis and its aftermath.

The seventh floor of Gelman Library includes the National Security Archives, a research institution that publishes declassified U.S. government files concerning American foreign policy. In fact, a National Security Archive Freedom of Information Act request made the Central Intelligence Agency’s so-called “Family Jewels” public.

GW has 90 endowed faculty positions and more than 60 current and former Fulbright scholars serving within its ranks. Plus, GW produces several Fulbright students working on various issues around the world each year. Our alumnus and the creator of the scholarships, former Senator J. William Fulbright ’34, would no doubt be proud.

1982: GW established the world’s first political communication major.

In his last will and testament, George Washington envisioned a university in the heart of the nation's capital that would serve as an intellectual hub for the country. Today, through our vast network of world-class academic opportunities, access, partnerships and policy-research initiatives, GW puts its knowledge to work for immediate impact.

To learn more about how the George Washington University makes history, visit us at www.gwu.edu.
The 2014 edition of the Princeton Review's "Best 378 Colleges" recognized GW students as the "Most Politically Active" in the nation.

According to a recent survey, 92 percent of the Class of 2013 reported that, within six months of graduation, they were employed, pursuing a graduate degree, volunteering or are otherwise engaged in a gap year, military service or other activity.

The Aspen Institute's Impact Careers Initiative reported that GW produces the second highest number of service professionals among national universities, with 31.1 percent of graduates who entered government, education or nonprofit fields from 2000 to 2010.

GW is a top provider of Peace Corps volunteers among medium-size universities. Since its inception, more than 1,100 graduates have gone on to serve in the Peace Corps, making GW among the Top 30 highest all-time Peace Corps volunteer producers. GW is also one of the top providers of Teach for America volunteers. Over the last 24 years, approximately 350 GW alumni have worked as Teach for America corps members.

11 Honor Societies

>66% undergraduates have held internships or co-ops

- 10 GW alumni currently serve in the 114th U.S. Congress, including Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, J.D. ’64. These GW graduates represent constituents from 10 different states and U.S. territories.
- For 10 years, GW has had a fixed tuition policy for undergraduates, under which a student’s tuition is guaranteed to remain at the same rate for up to five years of attendance at the university.
- The first GW commencement in 1824 was considered an important event for the young city of Washington, DC. In attendance were President Monroe, John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, Marquis de Lafayette, and other dignitaries. Today, commencement ceremonies are held directly on the National Mall. Recent commencement speakers at GW have included Michael Bloomberg, Michelle Obama, Brian Williams, and Kerry Washington ’98.
- Every four years, GW marks the Jan. 20 inauguration of a new U.S. president and vice president by hosting its own black-tie Inaugural Ball.
- The significance of the school colors of buff and blue are that they were the colors that George Washington wore in battle.
- There are six busts of George Washington on campus.
- In 1981, the GW Hospital treated President Ronald Reagan in the emergency room after an attempted assassination.
- Edward Teller (1935–1941), nuclear physicist and father of the hydrogen bomb, taught at GW.
- One of the most important moments in the 20th century was revealed at a conference on the GW campus: On Jan. 26, 1939, Niels Bohr announced that Otto Hahn had successfully split the atom.

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