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.

This is the George Washington University and What We Make Is History

FEB. 9 1821
The university was chartered by an Act of Congress

The Largest Institution of Higher Education in DC

4 Blocks 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

3 Campuses
The Foggy Bottom Campus, the Mount Vernon Campus and the Virginia Science and Technology Campus

10 Schools

500,000 approximate gross square footage of GW’s new Science and Engineering Hall (SEH), the largest academic building dedicated to these fields in the nation’s capital

One of the Largest Private Employers in DC

GW uses DC as a classroom like no other institution, hosting classes in the U.S. Capitol, the Newseum and George Washington’s Mount 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.

The 2016 edition of the Princeton Review’s “Best 380 Colleges” recognized GW #1 for “Top Internship Opportunities” and its students as the “Most Politically Active” in the nation.

For 11 consecutive years, GW has been recognized as a top-5 provider of Peace Corps volunteers among medium-size universities— and has held the #1 spot five of those years. More than 1,200 graduates have served since the Peace Corps’ founding, making GW among the Top 30 highest-all-time Peace Corps volunteer producers. GW is also one of the top producers of Teach for America volunteers, with approximately 350 alumni having served over the last 25 years.

Nine GW alumni currently serve in the 115th U.S. Congress. These GW graduates represent constituents from eight different states and U.S. territories.

GW has 107 endowed faculty positions and is recognized among the top producing institutions for Fulbright Scholars, with more than 79 serving within the university’s 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.

GW makes a point of connecting academia to policy and the workplace. In fact, three current deans currently hold leadership positions in high-profile organizations in their respective disciplines: Michael Feuer of the Graduate School of Education and Human Development serves as President of the National Academy of Education, the Elliott School of International Affairs’ Reuben Brigety serves on the Atlantic Council Board of Directors, and Lynn Goldman of the Milken Institute School of Public Health serves on the National Academy of Medicine Governing Council.

To learn more about how the George Washington University makes history, visit us at www.gwu.edu.
Service and real-world engagement are a major part of GW’s student culture from the very beginning. GW’s annual Freshman Day of Service officially welcomes the incoming Class with a day filled with engaging speakers and service projects throughout DC. And this commitment grows during students’ four years: GW features 70 service-learning courses, and last year, the GW community logged a record 658,350 hours of community service.

According to a recent survey, nearly 91 percent of the Class of 2016 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.

For more than a decade, 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.

Through its Access and Success initiative, GW is committed to increasing access to higher education with partnerships with organizations such as POSSE Foundation and Say Yes to Education. In addition, GW has announced it will no longer require most undergraduate applicants to submit SAT or ACT test scores for admission.

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

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.

Now 50 percent solar-powered for its electricity, GW is making major strides towards its commitment to being carbon neutral by 2040.

In 1981, the GW Hospital treated President Ronald Reagan in the emergency room after an attempted assassination.

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.

Edward Teller (1935–1941), nuclear physicist and father of the hydrogen bomb, taught at GW.

Current and former Supreme Court Justices Clarence Thomas, William Strong, David J. Brewer, Willis Van Devanter and John Marshall Harlan have been among those who have served on the GW Law faculty. Moreover, Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito, Justice Elena Kagan, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and former Justice Antonin Scalia have all, respectively, presided over its constitutional law moot in recent years. Justice Alito presided for the second time in January 2016.

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.