

How Can Students Apply?

Step 1

Students are first recommended by their school counselors and teachers. Students will receive a letter notifying them of their nomination.

Step 2

Once notified, students attend an information meeting and George Mason University campus tour. At that meeting, program specifics are explained.

Step 3

Once students decide to apply, they complete an application. Applications are available at their school program. School counselors are available to assist with the process. Completed applications are returned to the student's school counselor.

Selection Process

Student applications are reviewed by the Dream-Catchers selection committee (counselor, principal, teacher, etc.) at the school program where the student attends. The selected applications are then submitted to the Dream-Catchers advisory committee for final determination.

George Mason University

George Mason University is a dynamic learning institution emphasizing high technology, public policy, and the fine and performing arts serving the national capital area.

For more information about Dream-Catchers, please contact:

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How Can Parents Help?

Dream-Catchers wants to assist students attending the Nontraditional School Programs in Fairfax and Prince William counties to achieve the goal of obtaining a college degree by providing a mentor who helps to make academic work exciting and motivates students to attend college. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate once the program is initiated.

When deciding if Dream-Catchers is appropriate for the student, the following questions may be helpful:

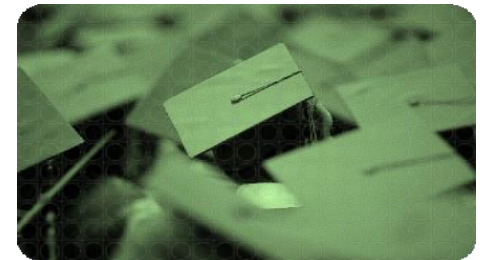
- **Is your son or daughter willing to work toward the goal of attending a two-year or four-year college or university?**
- **Is your son or daughter willing to participate actively in the mentor and student meetings as well as other components of the program?**

Once students decide to participate, they are responsible for completing the brief application form.

Parents are welcome to attend the parent information meeting to meet the program organizers, find out more about the Dream-Catchers program, and learn about high school and college requirements



Mason Dream-Catchers Program



A partnership between
George Mason University,
Fairfax County Public Schools &
Prince William County Public Schools

**Assists students in completing a
college education**

What is Dream-Catchers?

“Dream-Catchers” is a George Mason University partnership that began with Fairfax County Public Schools and has expanded to Prince William County Public Schools.

It provides hope for college capable youth enrolled in the FCPS and PWPS Nontraditional School Programs.

This unique partnership identifies and supports these students in achieving their dreams to attend and graduate from college through the utilization of mentors and role models from the MASON community and the Northern Virginia region.

It represents a significant first step that some of the largest school systems in the country are partnering with one of the fastest growing universities in Virginia to provide hope and support for students who may not be considering higher education!

This program begins in the senior year of high school and may continue throughout four years of college, providing the following:

- Support for needed academic focus
- Positive role models in the work place and at George Mason University
- Continuous focus on progress and personal support
- Financial assistance, when possible

Who Should Apply?

Students who are in 12th grade in the FCPS and PWPS Nontraditional School Programs are encouraged to apply.

Students must possess the ability and desire to eventually attend a two-year or four-year college or university.

Criteria for a student’s selection into the program may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Show potential for academic achievement
- Demonstrate significant improvement of grades during attendance at a nontraditional school
- Demonstrate leadership in school activities
- May require financial assistance to attend college
- May represent first generation college attendance



What Happens in Dream-Catchers?

Students selected to participate in the Dream-Catchers program are expected to do the following:

- Commit to attending monthly Dream-Catchers workshops and events on the campus of George Mason University
- Meet monthly with your mentor outside of scheduled Dream-Catchers events
- Receive guidance from your mentor on how to navigate the academic and social world of college life, which may be vital to your success
- Continue to receive support from other agencies as long as you are eligible for such support
- **Have fun!**