



Center for Culture, Equity, and Empowerment  
4469 Aquia Creek Lane, MS 2F6,  
Student Union Building I, Suite 2400,  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

**POSITION POSTING**  
**Graduate Professional Assistant**  
**Black Male Student Success Initiative (BMSI)**

**UNIVERSITY LIFE:**  
**EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS**

**Mission:**  
University Life cares for the whole student by promoting inclusive well-being and fostering lifelong learning – preparing ethical leaders for the world.

**Values:**  
**TOGETHER**, we achieve our mission through an unwavering commitment to our **values**:

**Inclusion and Equity**

- We are committed to cultivating an environment of engagement, connection, and belonging that is respectful and fair for everyone.

**Leadership for Positive Change**

- We are committed to cultivating leaders who critically examine and understand the potential impact of their decisions and act ethically.

**Well-Being**

- We are committed to cultivating an environment of understanding and fulfillment of both individual and community well-being that promotes purpose, vitality, engagement, and resilience.

**Collaborative Community**

- We are committed to cultivating a supportive network of colleagues that shares ideas, learns and creates together, and develops authentic connections.

**Strategic Transformation**

We are committed to dynamic action in creating meaningful solutions to anticipate and meet the needs of an ever-changing community.

## **PEER MENTOR VISION**

To empower and inspire Black male Mason students to lead to the best of their ability with integrity and passion.

## **BMSI MISSION**

Mason's BMSI is focused on four ground pillars; academic success, leadership development, career readiness, and community engagement. BMSI has the expressed interest in increasing retention and graduation rates; fostering a supportive environment for students to live, learn, and grow; and *most importantly*, addressing the needs and challenges facing black males in our society today.

In consideration of the challenges – internally and externally – that Black men face, as well as the opportunities that exist to be leaders in cultivating an environment that contributes to their academic, personal, and professional success, the Black Male Student Success Initiative (BMSI) will be developed through an interdisciplinary scope that leverages available resources in combination with the commitment from several faculty, staff, students, alumni, and other stakeholders in and around the Mason community.

## **THE BMSI is Committed to:**

- Our students achieving academic success through capitalizing on curricular and co-curricular instruction (Academic Success)
- Our students expanding their engagement and understanding of Black culture through exploring concepts rich in the traditions of Black masculinity interspersed with contemporary social justice pedagogy (Leadership & Social Justice)
- Our students developing skills as student leaders that aim to prepare them for their career aspirations through workshops and programs that augment the classroom experience (Career Readiness & Preparation)
- Our students maintaining and strengthening interpersonal and professional relationships with peers, faculty, staff, and mentors at Mason and in the broader community (Community Building)

## **REQUIRED SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS**

- Must be enrolled (or accepted) as a full-time student in one of George Mason University's graduate programs
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal, and communications skills (written and verbal)
- Must have knowledge of, experience with, and/or commitment to racial and social justice issues
- Experience or interest working with students in a human service or social justice environment
- Ability to relate to people from diverse backgrounds
- Must be reliable, responsible, and self-motivated
- Demonstrated proficiency in word-processing, e-mail management, data base, publishing software, and/or WordPress content management system
- Experience with utilizing social media for outreach and engagement
- Must exhibit professionalism and a strong work ethic
- Must be available and accessible for the time commitment involved

## **POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES**

The program portfolio for the GPA will be focused on working with Black and African Heritage male students

### Professional Experience

- Serve on the BMSI Steering Committee. Attending staff meetings, small team meetings, large area meetings, and other meetings as assigned. Establishing connections with Black male students within and outside assigned advising and supervisory responsibilities. Gain and maintain overall knowledge of BMSI, University Life and George Mason University.
- In coordination with and directed by supervisor, participate in and attend programs, events, trainings, organizational meetings, and conferences, on and off campus, related to the work of BMSI.

### Student Advising

- Assist with/co-advise representative affiliated Recognized Student Organization (Association of Collegiate Black Men) as well as with leaders from around campus that identify as part of the larger Black male student population. Support Black male student leaders learning about navigating coalition building, university policies, and connections to campus resources.

### Supervision, Program Coordination, and Event Management

- Program Portfolio will include the following programs
  - Chopping it Up Series
  - Skills/knowledge development workshops
  - Cultural enrichment excursions
  - Study hall hours
  - TBD

### Outreach

- Assist in representing BMSI at various campus events and outreach activities, responding to requests for interviews, class/organization presentations, tabling, and research opportunities.
- Maintain listservs and submit marketing requests for social media, newsletters and other communications.
- Build and maintain positive relationships and opportunities to engage with campus partners through cross-collaboration efforts, serving on committees, initiating meetings, etc.

### Research and Benchmarking

- Collect quarterly, semester, and annual data to anticipate the needs of this student population
- Engage in benchmarking to see what varying institutions are doing to serve their student communities—provide feedback and/or ideas for the team

## **TIME COMMITMENTS**

The Graduate Professional Assistant position is designed for a 20-hour per week work commitment. At times, the work may require extended hours and/or night and weekend work hours. The GPA position is a 9-month contract, August 25, 2022 – May 24, 2023.

## **COMPENSATION**

- The Graduate Professional Assistant position will consist of the following compensation package;
  - GPA stipend, \$17,640.00, will be paid on the 1st and 16th of the month for the duration of employment contract period;
  - Tuition grant up to 6 graduate credits at the in-state rate, not to exceed \$4,800.00 per semester;
- Compensation Considerations:
  - GA stipend will be paid on a bi-weekly schedule for the duration of employment contract period.
  - The remaining balance of the total compensation can be allotted as a tuition grant to offset tuition costs.
- The GPA position is a 9-month contract, August 25, 2022 – May 24, 2023, with the possibility of renewal for a second academic year.
- All information, including rules and regulations, regarding all graduate assistantship can be located on the Provost office Graduate Education website: <https://provost.gmu.edu/academics-and-research/graduate-education/graduatestudent-appointments-fellowships>

## **TO APPLY**

- Application Materials:
  - Letter of interest that includes your preparedness to work with BMSI
  - Resume
- Please submit all information in one (1) pdf file to [tdavisL@gmu.edu](mailto:tdavisL@gmu.edu). If there are questions regarding the application preparation, please contact: T. Garey Davis - Assistant Director, Coalition Building and Diversity Education