

# ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.F.A. Visual Arts /  
B.F.A. Art and Visual Technology - All  
Concentrations  
**2025-2026**

## A.F.A. Visual Arts

### ADVANCE Program Milestones

**ADVANCE Milestone Requirements:** All ADVANCE students must adhere to the following requirements. For Milestones #1-#3, failure to meet these milestones will prevent a student from matriculating to Mason and/or result in termination from ADVANCE. For Milestones #4-#7, failure to meet these milestones may delay matriculation to Mason.

1. Students must graduate with the NOVA degree aligned with their ADVANCE academic pathway within 4 years of being admitted into ADVANCE. Students are highly encouraged to be continuously enrolled at NOVA/Mason to support progress towards degree completion.
2. Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA at NOVA and must have a minimum 2.5 GPA upon matriculation to Mason.
3. Students who wish to enroll at Mason for the fall semester must apply for NOVA spring graduation by March 1 or summer graduation by June 1. Students who wish to enroll at Mason for the spring semester must apply for NOVA fall graduation by October 1.
4. Students must begin developmental coursework no later than the first semester in ADVANCE at NOVA.
5. Students must take first college-level MTH course and ENG 111 in the semester immediately following the completion of any MDE or EDE courses (excluding summer).
6. In the first 30 credits, students must complete ENG 111 and ENG 112 with a C or better.
7. Students must complete a college level math course with a C or better no later than one semester before NOVA graduation. Refer to your pathway to select the appropriate MTH course(s).

The School of Art offers a Bachelor of Arts (BA) and a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in the Art and Visual Technology major. The BA degree offers a studio arts program with 12 studio art credits in combination with supporting art history and theory coursework. BA students are required to demonstrate 200-level proficiency in a foreign language or declare and fulfill minor area of study in addition to their major. The BFA is a more comprehensive studio focused program that has 24 studio art credits along with additional critical thinking courses, providing BFA students with an enhanced studio portfolio and potential graduate study.

#### ADVANCE Program-Specific Requirements:

1. Students must have a minimum 2.85 GPA upon matriculation to Mason in order to be admitted to the AVT, BFA program.
2. The AVT, BFA program requires a significant time investment in upper level studio art courses at Mason. Therefore, students pursuing the AVT, BFA program are highly encouraged to earn a C or higher in all studio art (AVT-equivalent) courses, both to earn transfer credit and to support future academic success in the program. To learn more about both the BA and BFA degree requirements email: [avt@gmu.edu](mailto:avt@gmu.edu)

	NOVA DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Courses	MASON TRANSFER EQUIVALENT	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
1	SDV Course	1	SDV 101 Orientation to Fine Arts	UNIV 100	General Elective
2	ENG 111	3	ENG 111 College Composition I <sup>1</sup>	ENGH XXX	General Elective
3	ART 101	3	ART 101 History of Art: Prehistoric to Gothic	ARTH 200	Arts
4	ART 121	3	ART 121 Foundations of Drawing	AVT 222	Major
5	ART 131	3	ART 131 Two-Dimensional Design	AVT 104	Major
6	ART 140	3	ART 140 Intro to Graphic Skills	AVT 110	Major & Info Tech
7	ART 102	3	ART 102 History of Art: Renaissance to Modern	ARTH 201	General Elective
8	ART 223	3	ART 223 Life Drawing	AVT L324	Major or General Elective
9	ART 132	3	ART 132 Three-Dimensional Design	AVT 105	Major
10	ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II <sup>1</sup>	ENGH 101	Written Comm
11	MTH 154 or MTH 155 or higher	3	MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning OR MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning	MATH 106 STAT 105T	Quantitative

12	ART or PHT Elective #1	3	<b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> ART 116 Design for the Web I <b>OR</b> ART 141 Typography I <b>OR</b> ART 217 Graphic Design I <b>OR</b> <b>AVT 217 Introductions to Web Design<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 253 Digital Photography I<sup>2</sup></b> <b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> ART 130 Introduction to Multimedia <b>OR</b> ART 153 Ceramics Handbuilding I <b>OR</b> ART 241 Painting I <b>OR</b> ART 271 Printmaking I <b>OR</b> ART 231 Sculpture I <b>OR</b> PHT 101 Photography I <b>OR</b> PHT 103 Black and White Darkroom Photography I <b>OR</b> <b>AVT 232 Painting I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 243 Printmaking I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 252 Darkroom Photography I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 253 Digital Photography I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 262 Sculpture I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 280 Introduction to New Media Arts<sup>2</sup></b>	AVT 217 AVT 215 AVT L311 <b>AVT 217</b> <b>AVT 253</b> AVT 280 AVT 153T AVT 232 AVT 243 AVT 262 AVT 253 AVT 252 <b>AVT 232</b> <b>AVT 243</b> <b>AVT 252</b> <b>AVT 253</b> <b>AVT 262</b> <b>AVT 280</b>	Major
	ART or PHT Elective #2	3	<b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> ART 116 Design for the Web I <b>OR</b> ART 141 Typography I <b>OR</b> ART 217 Graphic Design <b>OR</b> <b>AVT 217 Introductions to Web Design<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 253 Digital Photography I<sup>2</sup></b> <b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> ART 130 Introduction to Multimedia <b>OR</b> ART 153 Ceramics Handbuilding I <b>OR</b> ART 241 Painting I <b>OR</b> ART 271 Printmaking I <b>OR</b> ART 231 Sculpture I <b>OR</b> PHT 101 Photography I <b>OR</b> PHT 103 Black and White Darkroom Photography I <b>OR</b> <b>AVT 232 Painting I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 243 Printmaking I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 252 Darkroom Photography I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 253 Digital Photography I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 262 Sculpture I<sup>2</sup> OR</b> <b>AVT 280 Introduction to New Media Arts<sup>2</sup></b>	AVT 217 AVT 215 AVT L311 <b>AVT 217</b> <b>AVT 253</b> AVT 280 AVT 153T AVT 232 AVT 243 AVT 262 AVT 253 AVT 252 <b>AVT 232</b> <b>AVT 243</b> <b>AVT 252</b> <b>AVT 253</b> <b>AVT 262</b> <b>AVT 280</b>	Major
14	ART or PHT Elective or General Education Elective	3	HIS 101 Western Civilizations Pre-1600 CE <b>OR</b> HIS 102 Western Civilizations Post-1600 CE <b>OR</b> HIS 112 World Civilizations Post-1500 CE ( <i>recommended</i> )	HIST 101T HIST 102T HIST 125	Global History
15	ART 298	3	ART 298 Visual Art Portfolio Development	AVT 202	Major
16	Science Course	4	BIO 101 General Biology I <b>OR</b> CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry <b>OR</b> ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science <b>OR</b> GOL 105 Physical Geology <b>OR</b> GOL 111 Oceanography I <b>OR</b> PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 CHEM 103 EVPP 108/109 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
	ART or PHT Elective or General Education Elective	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography <b>OR</b> HIS 111 World Civilizations Pre-1500 CE <b>OR</b> PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics <b>OR</b> PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations <b>OR</b> PSY 219 Cross-Cultural Psychology <b>OR</b> REL 237 Religions of the East <b>OR</b> REL 238 Religions of the West	GGS 101 HIST L387 GOVT 133 GOVT 132 PSYC L379 RELI 212 RELI 211	General Elective

18	ART 215, ART 250, PHT 110, or General Education Elective	3	<b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> ART 250 History of Design <b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> ART 215 History of Modern Art <b>OR</b> ART 250 History of Design <b>OR</b> PHT 110 History of Photography	AVT L318  ARTH L362 AVT L318 ARTH L350	Major
19	Social/Behavioral Sciences	3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics <b>OR</b> ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics <b>OR</b> GEO 210 People and the Land: An Introduction to Cultural Geography <b>OR</b> PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics <b>OR</b> PSY 200 Principles of Psychology <b>OR</b> PSY 230 Developmental Psychology <b>OR</b> SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology <b>OR</b> SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 104 ECON 103 GGS 103 GOVT 103 PSYC 100 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	Soc/Behav
20	CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking <b>OR</b> CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm
21	ENG Literature Course	3	ENG 225 Reading Literature: Culture and Ideas <b>OR</b> ENG 245 British Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 246 American Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 255 World Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 258 African American Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 275 Women's Literature <b>OR</b> Any 200-Level ENG Literature course <sup>3</sup>	ENGH 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature

**A.F.A. VISUAL ARTS DEGREE  
TOTAL**

**62**

For academic policies and procedures, please see NOVA catalog - <http://www.nvcc.edu/catalog/index.html>

## B.F.A. Art and Visual Technology

**Concentrations:** Graphic Design or Studio Arts

	MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE
22	Studio Core & Research Practicum	3	AVT 101 New Majors Colloquium	Major
23	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
24	Concentration Requirement	3	Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup> <b>OR</b> Approved Foundation Elective <sup>4,5</sup> <i>(if not taken at NOVA)</i>	Major
25	Foundation Electives	3	Approved Foundation Elective course <sup>4,5</sup>	Major
26	Art History	3	ARTH 374 Art Now	Major
27	Critical Analysis & Contemporary Practice	3	<b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> AVT 396 Writing for Designers <b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> AVT 395 Writing for Artists	Writing Intensive
28	Concentration Requirement	3	Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
29	Critical Analysis & Contemporary Practice	3	Additional Approved Critical Analysis & Contemporary Practice course <sup>4</sup>	Major
30	Concentration Requirement	3	Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
31	Concentration Requirement	3	Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
32	Studio Core & Research Practicum	3	AVT 303 Junior Core	Major

33	Critical Analysis & Contemporary Practice	3	AVT 307 Aesthetics	Major
34	Concentration Requirement	3	Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
35	Professional Practices	3	<b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> AVT 413 Professional Design Practices <b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> AVT 453 Professional Practices	Major
36	Concentration Requirement	3	Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
37	Concentration Requirement	3	Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
38	Concentration Requirement	0-3	<b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> Approved Concentration course <sup>4</sup> <b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> Not needed	Major
39	Critical Analysis & Contemporary Practice	3	<b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> AVT 408 Visual Communication Theories <b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> AVT 472 Critical Theory in the Visual Arts	Major
40	Studio Core & Research Practicum	2	AVT 404 Senior ProSeminar	Major
41	Gen Ed: Apex	3	<b>Studio Arts Concentration:</b> AVT 497 Senior Project <b>Graphic Design Concentration:</b> AVT 498 Senior Design Project	Apex
42	General Electives	0-2	General Elective	General Elective

**B.F.A. ART AND VISUAL TECHNOLOGY DEGREE TOTAL 120-121**

**Denotes a course that must be taken at George Mason University. Please see your ADVANCE Coach to enroll.**

**Important Academic Information:**

<sup>1</sup>Students who complete ENG 111 after Spring 2024 will earn ENGH elective for ENG 111 and ENGH 101 for ENG 112.

<sup>2</sup>When selecting co-enrollment courses, students should take care to select course(s) that are not equivalent to ART courses taken at NOVA. For instance, students should not take Painting I at both NOVA (ART 241) and through co-enrollment at Mason (AVT 232). Credit for the same course twice cannot be applied to the Mason degree.

<sup>3</sup>200-level ENG literature classes include: ENG 225, ENG 230, ENG 236, ENG 237, ENG 245, ENG 246, ENG 250, ENG 255, ENG 256, ENG 257, ENG 258, ENG 271, ENG 275, and ENG 279.

<sup>4</sup>For approved Foundation Electives and Concentration courses, please visit: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/visual-performing-arts/art/art-visual-technology-bfa/#requirements>

<sup>5</sup>Graphic Design concentration students must complete AVT 215, AVT 217, and AVT 252 or AVT 253 to fulfill their Foundation Elective requirements. Students should consult their Mason advisor to select the correct Foundation Elective course based on courses selected while at NOVA.

**General Education Waiver Policy and Guidance:**

- Students who complete a VCCS transfer associate degree (AS, AA, or AFA) will receive a waiver of the Foundation and Exploration (lower division) Mason Core general education categories, which can be found here: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>. To be eligible for the waiver, the students must provide the Mason Office of Admissions with a final, official transcript reflecting the degree conferral date. As a prerequisite for ENGH 302, ENGH 101 is not waived. Students must complete ENGH 100 or ENGH 101, or an equivalent, with a C or higher.
- When a course fulfills a Mason Core requirement **and** a major or college requirement (e.g. Major & Quant), students must complete the course listed on the pathway to fulfill the major/college requirement. Courses that fulfill only Mason Core Foundation and Exploration categories are recommendations. In most pathways, ADVANCE students must complete a Quantitative Reasoning course to matriculate through ADVANCE.
- ADVANCE students must complete the associate degree indicated on their pathway (see the ADVANCE Program Milestones listed above). Students who withdraw from ADVANCE and transfer without the associate degree or UCGS are required to complete each Mason Core general education category.

**Additional General Notes & Resources:**

- Undergraduate students earning CVPA degrees must earn a minimum 2.00 cumulative GPA in their major. AVT majors may not choose AVT courses to meet this requirement, and they may not double-count ARTH courses toward both the AVT major and the Mason Core arts requirement. AVT majors may not double-count ARTH courses toward both AVT major requirements and the Mason Core Global Contexts requirement.
- For academic policies and procedures, please see Mason catalog - <https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/>
- Students seeking a bachelor's degree must apply at least 45 credits of upper-level courses (numbered 300 or above) toward graduation.