

ADVANCE

A NOVA | GEORGE MASON PARTNERSHIP



A.S. Biology / B.A. Biology Pathway
2026-2027

A.S. Biology

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 George Mason University and/or result in termination from ADVANCE. For Milestones #4-#7, failure to meet these milestones may delay matriculation to George Mason.

- Students must graduate with the NOVA degree aligned with their ADVANCE academic pathway within 4 years of being admitted into ADVANCE. Students must ensure they are enrolled in the matching degree.
- Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA at NOVA and must have a minimum 2.5 GPA upon matriculation to George Mason.
- Students who wish to enroll at George 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 George Mason for the spring semester must apply for NOVA fall graduation by October 1.
- Students must begin developmental coursework no later than the first semester in ADVANCE at NOVA.
- 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).
- In the first 30 credits, students must complete ENG 111 and ENG 112 with a C or better.
- 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).

NOVA DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Courses	GEORGE MASON TRANSFER EQUIVALENT	GEORGE MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
1 SDV Course	1	SDV 100 College Success Skills OR SDV 101 Orientation to XXX	UNIV 100	General Elective
2 ENG 111	3	ENG 111 College Composition I	ENGH XXX	General Elective
3 MTH 167	5	MTH 167 Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry ¹	MATH 105	General Elective
4 CHM 111	4	CHM 111 General Chemistry I	CHEM 211-213	Major & Nat Science
5 BIO 101	4	BIO 101 General Biology I	BIOL 103/105	Major & Nat Science
6 ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II	ENGH 101	Written Comm
7 MTH 263	4	MTH 263 Calculus I	MATH 113	Major & Quantitative
8 CHM 112	4	CHM 112 General Chemistry II	CHEM 212-214	Major
9 HIS Elective	3	HIS 101 Western Civilizations Pre-1600 CE OR HIS 102 Western Civilizations Post-1600 CE OR HIS 112 World Civilizations Post-1500 CE (<i>recommended</i>)	HIST 101T HIST 102T HIST 125	Global History
10 Humanities/Fine Arts #1	3-4	ART 100 Art Appreciation OR ART 101 History of Art: Prehistoric to Gothic OR ART 102 History of Art: Renaissance to Modern OR CST 130 Introduction to Theatre OR CST 151 Film Appreciation I OR MUS 121 Music in Society OR Foreign Language 201 (<i>if student places into language at 201/202 level</i>) ²	ARTH 101 ARTH 200 ARTH 201 THR 101 ENGH L372 MUSI 101 GMU Equivalent	Arts or COS BA Foreign Language
11 BIO 102 (NOVA Catalog: BIO 102 or BIO 207)	4	BIO 102 General Biology II	BIOL 102	Major
12 CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking OR CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm

13	Science Course (NOVA Catalog: MTH 264 or MTH 245 or Physical or Life Science Elective w/ Lab)	4	PHY 201 General College Physics I OR PHY 202 General College Physics II OR GOL 105 Physical Geology OR GOL 106 Historical Geology	PHYS 243/244 PHYS 245/246 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 102/104	Major
14	Social/Behavioral Sciences #1	3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics OR ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics OR GEO 210 People and the Land: An Introduction to Cultural Geography OR HIS 121 United States History to 1877 OR HIS 122 United States History Since 1865 OR PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics OR PSY 200 Principles of Psychology ³ OR PSY 230 Developmental Psychology ³ OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology ³ OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 104 ECON 103 GGS 103 HIST 121 HIST 122 GOVT 103 PSYC 100 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	Soc/Behav
15	BIO 206	4	BIO 206 Cell Biology	BIOL 213/215	Major
16	Science Course (NOVA Catalog: MTH 264, MTH 245, or Lab Science)	4	BIO 256 General Genetics OR BIO 270 Ecology	BIOL L311/L313 BIOL L308/L338	Major
17	Humanities/Fine Arts #2	3-4	ENG 225 Reading Literature: Culture and Ideas OR ENG 245 British Literature OR ENG 246 American Literature OR ENG 255 World Literature OR ENG 258 African American Literature OR ENG 275 Women in Literature OR Any 200-Level ENG Literature course ⁴ OR Foreign Language 202 (if student places into language at 201/202 level) ²	ENGL 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only) GMU Equivalent	Literature or COS BA Foreign Language
18	Physical or Life Science Elective w/ Lab	4	PHY 201 General College Physics I OR PHY 202 General College Physics II OR GOL 105 Physical Geology OR GOL 106 Historical Geology	PHYS 243/244 PHYS 245/246 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 102/104	Major

A.S. BIOLOGY DEGREE TOTAL 63-65

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

B.A. Biology

Students may select a concentration in Biological Illustration. See your George Mason Biology advisor for more information.

	GEORGE MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	GEORGE MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
19	Biology Core Courses	4	BIOL 214 Biostatistics for Biology Majors	Major
20	General Elective	4	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	Major
21	College BA Requirement	3	Select an additional Upper Level Mason Core Arts, Literature, Global Contexts, or Social and Behavioral Sciences ⁵ (See: Advisor)	COS BA Requirement
22	College Requirement: Foreign Language	0-6	Approved foreign language course ^{2,5} (required at George Mason if foreign language requirement is not completed at NOVA)	COS BA Foreign Lang.
23	College Requirement: Foreign Language or General Elective	3	Approved foreign language course ^{2,5} OR Upper Level General Elective (if foreign language was taken at NOVA)	COS BA Foreign Lang. or General Elective
24	Gen Ed: Written Communication (UL)	3	ENGL 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
25	Biology Electives	4	Any upper-level Biology Elective with lab ⁵	Major
26	Biology Core Courses	4	BIOL 308 Foundations of Ecology & Evolution AND BIOL 338 Foundations of Ecology and Evolution Lab (if BIO 256 is completed at NOVA) OR BIOL 311 General Genetics AND BIOL 313 General Genetics Lab (if BIO 270 is completed at NOVA)	Major

27	Biology Core Courses	3	BIOL 400 News & Views	Writing Intensive
28	Gen Ed: Apex	3	Approved Apex Course ⁶	Apex
29	College Requirement: Foreign Language or General Elective	3	Approved foreign language course ^{2,5} OR Upper Level General Elective (<i>if foreign language was taken at NOVA</i>)	COS BA Foreign Lang. or General Elective
30	Biology Electives	4	Any upper-level Biology Elective ⁵	Major
31	College BA Requirement	3	Select an additional Upper Level Mason Core Arts, Literature, Global Contexts, or Social and Behavioral Sciences ⁵ (<i>Course must be in a different Mason Core category than selected in line 22; See: Advisor</i>)	COS BA Requirement
32	General Elective	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Electives
33	General Elective	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Electives
34	General Elective	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Electives
35	General Elective	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Electives
36	General Elective	2-4	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor) (<i>As needed to reach 120 total credits and 45 total upper level credits</i>)	General Electives
37	Supporting Core Courses and Gen Ed: Information Technology	3	Approved Info Tech Course (Upper-level) ⁶	Major & Info Tech

B.A. BIOLOGY DEGREE TOTAL 120 - 124

Important Academic Information:

1Students may also use MTH 161/162.

2Students who opt to complete language courses at NOVA may need to replace these credits with upper level general electives at George Mason to reach 120 total credits. Consult with your ADVANCE Coach or Biology advisor.

3Students planning to pursue a professional clinical program (e.g. Medical school, Dental School, Physical Therapy, etc.) should select PSY 200, PSY 230, or SOC 200 based on the admission requirements of their particular clinical program. See the prerequisite recommendations on the George Mason Prehealth website for more specific information: <https://prehealth.gmu.edu/professions/>

4200-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.

5For Approved Biology Elective options, the COS College BA Requirement options, and the approved Foreign Language courses, please visit: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/biology/biology-ba/#requirementstext>. If foreign language completed at Mason, students may opt to take a two course, 101/102 sequence if available.

6For approved Mason Core courses, please visit - <https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>

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 George 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:

1. Biology majors must earn a minimum grade of 'C' in all of the biology core courses.
 2. Students may not count BIOL 124 Human Anatomy and Physiology and/or BIOL 125 Human Anatomy and Physiology toward any biology major requirement.
 3. Students who transfer in both BIOL 303 Animal Biology and BIOL 304 Plant Biology will satisfy BIOL 300 BioDiversity plus four credits of biology elective coursework.
 4. BIOL 495 Directed Studies in Biology, and BIOL 497 Special Problems in Biology do not count toward the upper-level laboratory course requirement. The courses do, however, count as non-laboratory electives. The total limit for BIOL 493 Honors Research in Biology, BIOL 495 Directed Studies in Biology and BIOL 497 Special Problems in Biology combined is 3 credits toward the BA.
- Students interested in Pre-Health Professions (Pre-Med, Pre-Dentistry, Pre-Podiatry, Pre-Optometry, Pre-Veterinary, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Physician Assistant, Pre-Occupational Therapy, and Pre-Physical Therapy) are strongly encouraged to meet with the Health Professions Advisor regarding the appropriate prerequisite courses for their field of choice. For more information, please visit: <https://prehealth.gmu.edu/>
 - For academic policies and procedures, please see George 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.