

# ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.S. Biology / B.S. Biology Pathway  
2023-2024

## 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 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 complete their NOVA degree 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 Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course equivalent 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	MASON TRANSFER EQUIVALENT	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
1	SDV Course	1	SDV 100 College Success Skills <b>OR</b> SDV 101 Orientation to XXX	UNIV 100	General Elective
2	ENG 111	3	ENG 111 College Composition I <sup>1</sup>	ENGH 101	Written Comm
3	MTH 167	5	MTH 167 Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry <sup>2</sup>	MATH 105	General Elective
4	CHM 111	4	CHM 111 General Chemistry I	CHEM 211-213	Major
5	HIS 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 101 HIST 102 HIST 125	Global History
6	ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II <sup>1</sup>	ENGH XXX	General Elective
7	MTH 263	4	MTH 263 Calculus I	MATH 113	Quantitative
8	CHM 112	4	CHM 112 General Chemistry II	CHEM 212-214	Major
9	BIO 101	4	BIO 101 General Biology I	BIOL 103/105	Nat Science & Major
10	Humanities/Fine Arts #1	3	ART 100 Art Appreciation <b>OR</b> ART 101 History of Art: Prehistoric to Gothic <b>OR</b> ART 102 History of Art: Renaissance to Modern <b>OR</b> CST 130 Introduction to Theatre <b>OR</b> CST 151 Film Appreciation I <b>OR</b> MUS 121 Music in Society	ARTH 101 ARTH 200 ARTH 201 THR 101 ENGH L372 MUSI 101	Arts
11	MTH 245 or MTH 264 or Lab Science	3-4	BIO 256 General Genetics ( <i>recommended</i> ) <b>OR</b> MTH 245 Statistics I <b>OR</b> MTH 264 Calculus II <sup>3</sup>	BIOL L311 STAT 250 MATH 114	Major or General Elective
12	BIO 120 (NOVA Catalog: BIO 102 or BIO 120)	4	BIO 120 General Zoology <sup>4</sup> ( <i>students who take BIO 120 must also take BIO 110</i> )	See Line #16	Major
13	CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking <b>OR</b> CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm

14	Social/Behavioral Sciences #1	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> HIS 121 United States History to 1877 <b>OR</b> HIS 122 United States History Since 1865 <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 GGG 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	Major
16	BIO 110 (NOVA Catalog: MTH 245 or Lab Science)	4	BIO 110 General Botany <sup>4</sup> ( <i>students who take BIO 110 must also take BIO 120</i> )	BIOL L300 and BIOL XXX <sup>4</sup>	Major
17	Humanities/Fine Arts #2	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 in Literature <b>OR</b> Any 200-Level ENG Literature course <sup>5</sup>	ENGH 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature
18	Social/Behavioral Sciences #2	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography <b>OR</b> PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics <b>OR</b> PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations	GGG 101 GOVT 133 GOVT 132	Global Understanding

**A.S. BIOLOGY DEGREE TOTAL 61-62**

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

## B.S. Biology

**Concentrations:** Bioinformatics; Biopsychology; Biotechnology and Molecular Biology; Environmental and Conservation Biology; Microbiology  
**NOTE:** Concentration selection will affect Biology elective coursework and may require more than the posted total credits. See Academic Advisor to discuss graduation plan.

	MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
19	Physics	4	PHYS 243/244 College Physics I & Lab	Major
20	Biology Core Courses	4	BIOL 214 Biostatistics for Biology Majors	Major
21	Biology Core Courses	0-4	BIOL 311 General Genetics ( <i>if BIO 256 not completed at NOVA</i> )	Major
22	Chemistry	5	CHEM 313 Organic Chemistry I <b>AND</b> CHEM 315 Organic Chemistry Lab I	Major
23	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
24	Physics	4	PHYS 245/246 College Physics II & Lab	Major
25	Chemistry	5	CHEM 314 Organic Chemistry II <b>AND</b> CHEM 318 Organic Chemistry Lab II	Major
26	Biology Core Courses	5	BIOL 308 Foundations of Ecology & Evolution	Major
27	Gen Ed: Synthesis	3	Approved Synthesis Course <sup>6</sup>	Synthesis
28	Biology Electives or Concentration Requirements	4	Biology Electives <sup>7</sup> (Upper-level)	Major
29	Biology Electives or Concentration Requirements	4	Biology Electives with Lab <sup>7</sup> (Upper-level)	Major
30	Biology Electives or Concentration Requirements	4	Biology Electives <sup>7</sup> (Upper-level)	Major

31	Biology Electives or Concentration Requirements	4	Biology Electives with Lab <sup>7</sup> (Upper-level)	Major
32	Biology Electives or Concentration Requirements	3	Biology Electives <sup>7</sup> (Upper Level, See: Advisor)	Major
33	Gen Ed: Information Technology	3	Approved Information Technology <sup>6</sup> (Upper-level, See: Advisor)	Info Tech
34	General Elective	0-3	General Electives (Upper level, See: Advisor) as needed to reach 120 total credits and 45 total upper level credits	Major

**B.S. BIOLOGY DEGREE TOTAL 120-121**

**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>Students may also use MTH 161/162.

<sup>3</sup>Students pursuing careers that blend biology with data science or engineering or who may be pursuing graduate school in a field that requires more computational knowledge should take MTH 264 (Calculus II). Please consult with a Mason Biology advisor [biology@gmu.edu](mailto:biology@gmu.edu) if you need further guidance on whether MTH 245 or MTH 264 is preferable.

<sup>4</sup>Students taking BIO 110 must complete BIO 120 to earn credit for BIOL L300 and BIOL XXX (elective).

<sup>5</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>6</sup>For approved Mason Core courses, please visit - <https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>

<sup>7</sup>At least 15 credits must be upper division, and at least two of the upper division courses must include a laboratory. Concentration selection may prescribe elective coursework. (See: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/biology/biology-bs/#requirementstext>)

**Additional General Notes & Resources:**

- 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/>
- Students interested in pursuing licensure to teach at the secondary level may add the Undergraduate Certificate: Secondary Education - Biology to this degree. For more information visit: <https://education.gmu.edu/secondary-education-6-12/academics/>. Some certificate courses can be used to fulfill general elective requirements, but additional credits may be needed to complete the certificate. Students interested in teacher licensure should meet with a Mason pre-teacher advisor. Contact information: <https://cehd.gmu.edu/teacher/advising/advising-appointment/>
- Students who complete a VCCS transfer associate degree (AS, AA, & AFA) will receive a waiver of the Foundation and Exploration (lower division) Mason Core general education categories. 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.
- 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.