

ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.A. Liberal Arts: Communication Studies
Major / B.A. Communication Pathway
2025-2026

A.A. Liberal Arts: Communication Studies Major

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).

	NOVA DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Courses	MASON TRANSFER EQUIVALENT	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 ¹	ENGH XXX	General Elective
3	World Language #1	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 101 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
4	Humanities/Fine Arts	3	PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy OR PHI 111 Logic OR PHI 220 Ethics and Society OR REL 100 Introduction to the Study of Religion OR REL 237 Religions of the East OR REL 238 Religions of the West	PHIL 100T PHIL 173T PHIL 151T RELI 100 RELI 212 RELI 211	CHSS Phil/Reli
5	MTH 154 or MTH 155 or higher	3	MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning OR MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning ²	MATH 106	Quantitative
6	CST 100 or CST 110	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking OR CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm
7	ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II ¹	ENGH 101	Written Comm
8	World Language #2	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 102 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
9	Humanities/Fine Arts (<i>This elective must be taken at Mason if total language credits are 15 or more - Please see your ADVANCE Coach</i>)	3	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	ARTH 101 ARTH 200 ARTH 201 THR 101 ENGH L372 MUSI 101	Arts
10	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 PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics OR PSY 200 Principles of Psychology OR PSY 230 Developmental Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 104 ECON 103 GGG 103 GOVT 103 PSYC 100 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	Soc/Behav

11	CST 229	3	CST 229 Intercultural Communication	COMM L305	Major
12	ENG Literature	3	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 ³	ENGH 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature
13	World Language #3	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 201 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
14	HIS Course #1	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
15	Science Course #1	4	BIO 101 General Biology I OR CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry OR ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science OR GOL 105 Physical Geology OR GOL 111 Oceanography I OR PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 CHEM 103 EVPP 108/109 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
16	CST 114	3	CST 114 Survey of Mass Media	COMM 202	Major or General Elective
17	World Language #4	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 202 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
18	CST 115 or Transfer Elective	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	GGS 101 ANTH 114	CHSS Soc/Behav & Non-Western
19	CST 126 or Transfer Elective	3	Communication Studies Concentration: CST 115 Small Group Communication CST 126 Interpersonal Communication Journalism Concentration: CST 228 Writing Across Media Public Relations & Strategic Communication Concentration: CST 221 Public Relations Advocacy Concentration and Digital Production & Media Studies Concentration: Any of the above	COMM 201 COMM L385 COMM 203 COMM 204	Major or General Elective
20	CST 201	3	CST 201 Introduction to Communication Theory	COMM 200	Major
21	HUM 298	1	HUM 298 Seminar and Project - Liberal Arts	GENL XXX	General Elective
A. A. LIBERAL ARTS (CST) DEGREE TOTAL 60-62					
For academic policies and procedures, please see NOVA catalog - https://www.nvcc.edu/catalog/index.html					
B.A. Communication					
Concentrations: Communication Studies; Journalism; Digital Production & Media Studies; Advocacy; Public Relations & Strategic Communication					
MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT		Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT	
22	Concentration Requirement	3	COMM 200 Communication Theory (<i>if not taken at NOVA</i>) OR COMM Concentration Coursework ⁴	Major	
23	Concentration Requirement	3	General Elective (See: Advisor)	General Elective	
24	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm	
25	Concentration Requirement	3	Upper Level COMM Concentration Coursework ⁴	Major	
26	Concentration Requirement or General Elective	3	Upper Level COMM Concentration Coursework ⁴ OR Upper Level General Elective or Minor (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	Major or General Elective	

27	General Elective or Minor Course	3	Upper Level General Electives or Minor (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	General Elective
28	Concentration Requirement	3	Upper Level COMM Concentration Coursework ⁴	Major
29	Concentration Requirement	3	Upper Level COMM Concentration Coursework ⁴	Major
30	Concentration Requirement	3	Upper Level COMM Concentration Coursework ⁴	Major
31	General Elective or Minor Course	3	Upper Level General Electives or Minor (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	Major
32	General Elective or Minor Course	3	Upper Level General Electives or Minor (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	Major
33	Core Course	3	COMM 300 Foundations of Public Communication	Writing Intensive
34	Core Course	3	COMM 400 Research Methods in Communication	Major
35	Concentration Requirement	3	COMM Concentration Coursework ⁴	Major
36	General Elective or Minor Course	3	Upper Level General Electives or Minor (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	Major
37	Communication Electives	3	Upper Level COMM Electives (Excludes COMM 100 and 101) ⁴	Major
38	Communication Electives	3	COMM Concentration Coursework or COMM Electives (Excludes COMM 100 and 101) ⁴	Major
39	Gen Ed: Apex	3	Approved Apex Course ⁵ Recommended: COMM 457 Communicating Dissent: Revolutions and Social Movements ⁶ OR COMM 459 Argument and Public Policy ⁶ OR COMM 454 Free Speech and Ethics ⁶	Apex
40	General Electives	3	Upper Level General Electives (See: Advisor) or Minor (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	General Elective
41	General Elective or Minor Course	0-3	General Electives or Minor (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	Major

B.A. COMMUNICATION DEGREE

120

TOTAL

Important Academic Information:

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

²Students who plan to take MTH 245 should take MTH 154 or MTH 161 first. Credit will not be awarded for both MTH 155 and MTH 245.

³200-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.

⁴For approved COMM Concentration Coursework, COMM Electives, and COMM Inquiry courses, please visit - <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/communication/communication-ba/#requirements-text>.

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

⁶Can double count towards concentration or COMM elective requirement.

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:

- Students pursuing this degree must complete 39 credits within the major, with a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. Of the 39 credits applied to the major, no more than 10 credits may be from courses listed in the Degree Requirements. In addition to 12 credits of core courses, students take 21 credits of courses in a concentration and 6 credits of additional communication courses. Of these last 27 credits, at least 12 credits must be at the 300-400 level, no more than 6 credits may be in COMM 450 Internship in Communication, and no more than 3 credits may be in COMM 452 Media Production Practicum. COMM 479 Digital Media and Web Design Capstone cannot be used toward the major.
- No more than 3 credits of 100-level RECR courses may apply towards the degree.
- 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.