

# ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.A. Liberal Arts: English Major/  
B.F.A. Creative Writing Pathway  
**2025-2026**

## A.A. Liberal Arts: English 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).

**ADVANCE Program-Specific Requirements:** All ADVANCE students in this degree program must adhere to the following requirements prior to matriculation. Failure to do so may prevent a student from matriculating into this program at Mason or progressing in coursework at Mason.

Students interested in the Creative Writing BFA must submit an application that includes the submission of a letter of recommendation from a NOVA creative writing faculty member, a writing sample, and short reflections on their own work and their feedback to other student writers. Contact [MasonCW@gmu.edu](mailto:MasonCW@gmu.edu) for specifics.

	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 XXX	General Elective
3	World Language #1	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 101 <b>OR</b> Any General Education Elective <i>if placed out of World Language</i>	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
4	MTH 154 or MTH 155 or higher	3	MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning <b>OR</b> MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning <sup>2</sup>	MATH 106 STAT 105T	Quantitative
5	Science Course #1	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 <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
6	ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II <sup>1</sup>	ENGH 101	Written Comm
7	World Language #2	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 102 <b>OR</b> Any General Education Elective <i>if placed out of World Language</i>	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
8	MTH 245 <sup>2</sup> or Transfer Elective	3	GEO 220 Regional World Geography <b>OR</b> REL 233 Introduction to Islam <b>OR</b> REL 237 Religions of the East <b>OR</b> REL 238 Religions of the West <b>OR</b> SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	GGG 101 RELI L312 RELI 212 RELI 211 ANTH 114	CHSS Non-Western

9	Science Course #2	4	BIO 101 General Biology I <b>OR</b> BIO 102 General Biology II <b>OR</b> CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry <b>OR</b> ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science <b>OR</b> ENV 122 Applications in Environmental Science <b>OR</b> GOL 105 Physical Geology <b>OR</b> GOL 106 Historical Geology <b>OR</b> GOL 111 Oceanography <b>OR</b> PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 BIOL 102 CHEM 103 EVPP 108/109 EVPP 112/113 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 102/104 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
10	Social/Behavioral Sciences #1	3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics <b>OR</b> ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics <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 PSYC 100 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	Soc/Behav
11	CST Elective	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking <b>OR</b> CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm
12	ENG 2XX-Level Literature	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 250 Children's 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> Other 200-Level ENG Literature course <sup>3</sup>	ENGH 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature
13	World Language #3	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 201 <b>OR</b> Any General Education Elective <i>if placed out of World Language</i>	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
14	HIS Course	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	Social/Behavioral Sciences #2 ( <i>This elective must be taken at Mason if total language credits are 15 or more - Please see your ADVANCE Coach</i> )	3	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	GGS 103 HIST 121 HIST 122 GOVT 103	CHSS Soc/Behav
16	ENG 2XX-Level Course	3	ENG 211 Creative Writing	ENGH L396	Arts & Major
17	ENG 2XX-Level Course	3	ENG 212 Creative Writing II <b>OR</b> ENG 215 Creative Writing: Fiction I <b>OR</b> ENG 217 Creative Writing: Poetry I <b>OR</b> ENG 261 Advanced Creative Writing I <b>OR</b> ENG 262 Advanced Creative Writing II	ENGH XXX	Major
18	World Language #4	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 202 <b>OR</b> Any General Education Elective <i>if placed out of World Language</i>	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
19	EDU 200 or Transfer Elective	3	EDU 200 Foundations of Education <b>OR</b> 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	EDUC 200 GGS 101 HIST L387T GOVT 133 GOVT 132 PSYC L379	General Elective
20	Humanities/Fine Arts	3	PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy <b>OR</b> PHI 111 Logic <b>OR</b> PHI 220 Ethics and Society <b>OR</b> REL 100 Introduction to the Study of Religion <b>OR</b> REL 233 Introduction to Islam <b>OR</b> REL 237 Religions of the East <b>OR</b> REL 238 Religions of the West	PHIL 100T PHIL 173T PHIL 151T RELI 100 RELI L312 RELI 212 RELI 211	CHSS Phil/Rel
A. A. LIBERAL ARTS (ENGLISH) DEGREE TOTAL			60-62		

**B.F.A. Creative Writing****Concentrations:** Fiction; Nonfiction; Poetry

	MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
21	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
22	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
23	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
24	Core Courses	3	ENGH 305 Dimensions of Writing and Literature	Writing Intensive
25	Core Courses	3	ENGH 377 Digital Creative Writing	Major
26	Literature before 1800	3	Approve Literature before 1800 course <sup>4</sup>	Major
27	Literature before 1915	3	Approved Literature before 1915 course <sup>4</sup>	Major
28	Minority, Folkloric, or Popular Literary and Cultural Traditions	3	Approved Minority, Folkloric, or Popular Literary and Cultural Traditions Course <sup>4</sup>	Major
29	Workshop Courses <sup>5</sup>	6-9	ENGH 397 Poetry Writing <b>OR</b> ENGH 398 Fiction Writing <b>OR</b> ENGH 399 Creative Nonfiction Writing (See: Advisor)	Major
30	Concentrations in the Major	3	Approved concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
31	Concentrations in the Major	3	Approved concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
32	Concentrations in the Major	3	Approved concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
33	Major Elective	3	Writing and Literature Electives <sup>4</sup> (Upper-level See: Advisor)	Major
34	Core Courses	3	ENGH 459 Internship	Major
35	Concentrations in the Major	3	Approved concentration course <sup>4</sup>	Major
36	Gen Ed: Apex	3	ENGH 495 Capstone and Thesis	Apex
37	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
38	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
39	General Electives	0-3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective

**B.F.A. CREATIVE WRITING  
DEGREE TOTAL****120****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 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.<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 Concentration, Literature before 1800, Literature before 1915, and Minority, Folkloric, or Popular Literary and Culture Traditions courses, please visit: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/english/creative-writing-bfa/#requirementstext><sup>5</sup>Workshops are in the two areas outside of chosen concentration. The remaining workshop is included as part of the concentration requirements. The ENG 200 level option from NOVA may partially satisfy Workshop Course requirement (See Advisor).

**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 will complete 21 credits of BFA core requirements, 12 credits from one of 3 concentrations, and 12 credits in English department requirements. 300-level courses in English and linguistics teach the foundational principles for a field of study, include courses of broad scope, and provide an introduction to a genre, literary period, or methodology. 400-level courses in English and linguistics provide an in-depth approach to a field of study, a single genre, literary period, or methodology. They include special topics classes and English honors classes. Some 400-level courses require ENGH 305 Dimensions of Writing and Literature as a prerequisite.
- 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.