ADVANCE
A NOVA | GEORGE MASON PARTNERSHIP

NOVA Northern Virginia Community College | GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

A.S. Science / B.S. Forensic Science Pathway
2026-2027

A.S. Science

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.

1. 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.

2. Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA at NOVA and must have a minimum 2.5 GPA upon matriculation to George Mason.

3. 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.

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	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	**General Education Elective**	3	ADJ 100 Survey of Criminal Justice	CRIM 100	Major & Soc/Behav
4	**MTH 167**	5	MTH 167 Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry[1]	MATH 105	General Elective
5	**MTH 263**	4	MTH 263 Calculus I	MATH 113	Major & Quantitative
6	**ENG 112**	3	ENG 112 College Composition II	ENGH 101	Written Comm
7	**MTH 245** ***(NOVA Catalog: MTH 264)***	3	MTH 245 Statistics I	STAT 250	Major
8	**Science Course #1**	4	CHM 111 General Chemistry I	CHEM 211-213	Major & Natural Science
9	**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 **OR** PSY 230 Developmental Psychology **OR** SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology **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	General Elective
10	**HIS Course**	3	HIS 101 Western Civilizations Pre-1600 CE **OR** HIS 102 Western Civilizations Post-1600 CE **OR** HIS 112 World Civilizations Post-1500 CE ***(recommended)***	HIST 101T HIST 102T HIST 125	Global History

11	**Humanities/Fine Arts #1**	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
12	**Math or Science #1**	4	CHM 112 General Chemistry II	CHEM 212-214	Major & Natural Science
13	**Math or Science #2**	4	PHY 201 General College Physics I[2]	PHYS 243-244	Major
14	**General Education Elective**	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography **OR** PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics **OR** PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations **OR** PSY 219 Cross-Cultural Psychology	GGS 101 GOVT 133 GOVT 132 PSYC L379	General Elective
15	**CST Course**	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking **OR** CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Gen Ed: Oral Comm
16	**Humanities/Fine Arts #2**	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
17	**Math or Science #3**	4	PHY 202 General College Physics II[2]	PHYS 245-246	Major
18	**Science Course #2**	4	BIOL 213 Cell Structure and Function[1] **AND** BIOL 215 Cell Structure and Function Lab[1]	BIOL 213/215	Major
19	**General Education Elective** ***(This elective is not needed if selections for all other requirements total 60 credits or more)***	0-3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics **OR** ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics **OR** HUM 210 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies **OR** PHI 111 Logic I **OR** PSY 200 Principles of Psychology **OR** REL 100 Introduction to the Study of Religion **OR** SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology	ECON 104 ECON 103 WMST 200 PHIL 173T PSYC 100 RELI 100 SOCI 101	General Elective
A.S. SCIENCE DEGREE TOTAL		**60-62**			

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

B.S. Forensic Science

Concentrations: Criminalistics, Forensic Biology, Forensic Chemistry, and Interdisciplinary Forensic Science

	GEORGE MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	GEORGE MASON CORE/DEGREE
20	**Forensic Science Core Courses**	3	FRSC 200 Survey of Forensic Science	Major
21	**Natural Science Core Courses**	5	CHEM 313 Organic Chemistry I **AND** CHEM 315 Organic Chemistry Lab I	Major
22	**Natural Science Core Courses**	4	BIOL 311 General Genetics **AND** BIOL 313 General Genetics Lab	Major
23	**Forensic Science Core Courses**	3	FRSC 201 Introduction to Criminalistics	Major
24	**Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper level)**	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
25	**Natural Science Core Courses**	5	CHEM 314 Organic Chemistry II **AND** CHEM 318 Organic Chemistry Lab II	Major
26	**Forensic Science Core Courses**	3	FRSC 302 Forensic Trace Analysis	Major & Writing Intensive
27	**Students must select one of the concentration areas below. See Mason Forensic Science advisor to plan courses by term.**			

28	**Concentration Requirements: Criminalistics**	32-39	**Extended Forensic Science Core:** FRSC 303 Forensic Evidence and Ethics FRSC 304/305 Forensic Chemistry & Lab FRSC 401 Crime Scene Investigations FRSC 405 Independent Research Methods **OR** FRSC 406 Forensic Internship FRSC 460/461 Forensic DNA Analysis & Lab **Required Concentration Courses:** Select approved two lecture and laboratory pairings for a minimum of 8 credits.[4] **Supporting Science Electives:** Select a minimum of approved 7 credits (not previously taken).[4]	Major
29	**Concentration Requirements: Forensic Biology**	32-35	**Extended Forensic Science Core:** FRSC 303 Forensic Evidence and Ethics FRSC 304/305 Forensic Chemistry & Lab FRSC 401 Crime Scene Investigations FRSC 405 Independent Research Methods **OR** FRSC 406 Forensic Internship FRSC 460/461 Forensic DNA Analysis & Lab **Required Concentration Courses:** FRSC 325/326 Molecular Biology & Lab FRSC 470 Forensic Genomics BIOL 483 General Biochemistry **Supporting Science Electives:** Select a minimum of 3 credits.[4]	Major
30	**Concentration Requirements: Forensic Chemistry**	36-39	**Extended Forensic Science Core:** FRSC 303 Forensic Evidence and Ethics FRSC 304/305 Forensic Chemistry & Lab FRSC 401 Crime Scene Investigations FRSC 405 Independent Research Methods **OR** FRSC 406 Forensic Internship FRSC 460/461 Forensic DNA Analysis & Lab **Required Concentration Courses:** FRSC 404 Advanced Instrumentation in Forensic Chemistry CHEM 321 Quantitative Chemical Analysis MATH 114 Analytic Geometry and Calculus II **Supporting Science Courses:** Select a minimum of 7 credits.[4]	Major
31	**Concentration Requirements: Interdisciplinary Forensic Science**	21	**Extended Forensic Science Core:** Select 6 credits (not previously taken) of any 300-400 level FRSC courses. **Required Concentration Courses or Minor:** Select a minimum of 15 credits (not previously taken) or choose a minor from the listed minors.[4]	Major
32	**General Electives**	0-10	General Electives (See Advisor)	General Elective
33	**Gen Ed: Apex**	3	Approved Apex Course[5]	Apex
B.S. FORENSIC SCIENCE DEGREE TOTAL		**120-130**		

Denotes a course that must be taken at George Mason University while attending NOVA. Failure to complete your co-enrollment course(s) while attending NOVA can significantly affect your timeline for George Mason graduation. Please see your ADVANCE Coach for more information and to enroll.

Important Academic Information:

[1]Students who place directly into MTH 263 should take BIO 101 in place of MTH 167. Students who meet the NOVA prerequisite for BIO 206: Cell Biology may take this course at NOVA in line 18 instead of co-enrollment in BIOL 213-215. Students are encouraged to take BIOL 213-215 or BIO 206: Cell Biology in their final semester at NOVA.

[2]Students interested in the Forensic Chemistry Concentration may choose PHY 241 and PHY 242.

[3]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.

[4]For approved Supporting Science/Concentration Courses, please visit - https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/forensic-program/forensic-science-bs/#requirementstext

[5]For 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:

• Students majoring in forensic science must complete their major coursework with a minimum GPA of 2.30. No more than three courses with a grade of 'D' (1.00) may be applied to the major. Students are advised to be aware of prerequisites that may be required for each course in the curriculum.

• For academic policies and procedures, please see the 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.