

ADVANCE

A NOVA | GEORGE MASON PARTNERSHIP



A.S. Social Sciences / B.A. Geography
Pathway
2026-2027

A.S. Social Sciences

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 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 (recommended)	HIST 101T HIST 102T HIST 125	Global History
4 MTH 154 or MTH 161 or higher	3	MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning ¹	MATH 106	Quantitative
5 Transfer Elective #1	4	GIS 200 Geographic Information Systems I (GIS)	GGG L311	Major
6 Science Course #1	4	BIO 101 General Biology I OR ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science OR GOL 105 Physical Geology OR GOL 111 Oceanography OR PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 EVPP 108/109 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
7 ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II	ENGH 101	Written Comm
8 MTH 155 or MTH 245 or higher	3	MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning ¹ OR MTH 245 Statistics I	STAT 105T STAT 250	General Elective
9 Transfer Elective #2	4	GIS 201 Geographic Information Systems II (GIS) ²	GIS 201T	Major
10 Science Course #2	4	BIO 101 General Biology I OR BIO 102 General Biology II OR ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science OR ENV 122 Applications in Environmental Science OR GOL 105 Physical Geology OR GOL 106 Historical Geology OR GOL 111 Oceanography OR PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 BIOL 102 EVPP 108/109 EVPP 112/113 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 102/104 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
11 Social/Behavioral Sciences #1	3	GEO 210 People and the Land: An Intro to Cultural Geography	GGG 103	Major & Soc/Behav

12	CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking OR CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm
13	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 ENGL L372 MUSI 101	Arts
14	PSY 200 or SOC 200	3	PSY 200 Principles of Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology	PSYC 100 SOCI 101	COS BA Requirement
15	Social/Behavioral Science #2	3	GEO 200 Introduction to Physical Geography	GGG 102	Major
16	Social/Behavioral Science #3	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography	GGG 101	Global Contexts
17	General Education Elective	3	ITE 152 Introduction to Digital and Information Literacy and Computer Applications	IT 104	Info Tech
18	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	ENGL 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature
19	Social/Behavioral Science #4 (This elective is not needed if selections for all other requirements total 60 credits or more)	0-3	ECO 150 Economic Essentials: Theory & Application HIS 111 World Civilizations Pre-1500 CE OR HIS 203 History of African Civilizations OR HIS 231 Introduction to Latin American History OR HIS 254 History of Modern East Asian Civilizations OR PSY 200 Principles of Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology SOC 266 Race & Ethnicity SOC 268 Social Problems	ECON 100 HIST L387T HIST 261 HIST 272 HIST 252 PSYC 100 SOCI 101 ANTH 114 SOCI L308 SOCI L352	General Elective
20	Transfer Elective #3	4	GIS 205 GIS 3-Dimensional Analysis	GGG L470	Major

A.S. SOCIAL SCIENCES DEGREE
TOTAL 60

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

B.A. Geography

Concentrations: Environmental Geography; Health Geography; Geoanthropology; Urban Planning

GEORGE MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	GEORGE MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT	
21	Geography Core Courses	3	GGG 310 Cartographic Design	Major
22	College BA Requirement: Foreign Language	6	Approved foreign language course ⁴ <i>Students may opt to take a two course, 101/102 sequence if available</i>	COS BA Requirement
23	Concentration/Add'l Program Courses	3	Approved Concentration or Minor course ^{4,5}	Major
24	College BA Requirement	3	Select additional Upper-Level Mason Core Arts, Literature, or Global Contexts ⁶ (Course must be in a different discipline than selected at NOVA; See: Advisor)	COS BA Requirement
25	General Electives	3	Upper-Level General Elective (See: Advisor)	General Elective
26	Core Courses	3	GGG 300 Quantitative Methods for Geographical Analysis	Major
27	Breadth and Experience	3	Approved Regional Course ⁴	Major
28	Concentration/Add'l Program Courses	3	Approved Upper Level Concentration or Minor course ^{4,5}	Major

29	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
30	College BA Requirement: Foreign Language	3	Approved foreign language course ⁴	COS BA Requirement
31	Breadth and Experience	3	Approved Systematic Course ⁴	Major
32	Geography Electives	3	Upper-Level GGS elective ⁴	Major
33	Concentration/Add'l Program Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration or Minor course ^{4,5}	Major
34	Concentration/Add'l Program Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration or Minor course ^{4,5}	Major
35	College BA Requirement: Foreign Language	3	Approved foreign language course ⁴	COS BA Requirement
36	Core Courses	3	GGS 415 Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology	Writing Intensive
37	Gen Ed: Apex & Major	3	GGS 485 Capstone in Geography and Geoinformation Science	Apex
38	Geography Electives	3	Upper-Level GGS elective ⁴	Major
39	Concentration/Add'l Program Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration or Minor course ^{4,5}	Major

B.A. GEOGRAPHY DEGREE

TOTAL 120

Important Academic Information:

¹Students 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.

²GIS 201 will transfer as GIS 201T and fulfill the GGS 110 requirement for transfer students.

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 foreign language, Systematic, Regional, GGS Electives and Concentration courses, please visit: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/geography-geoinformation-science/geography-ba/#requirementstext> .

⁵Students who are not selecting a concentration must choose an established minor or second major that provides 15 unique credits. If 15 unique credits are not available in the chosen minor or second major, additional GGS courses may be taken to fulfill this requirement; please consult with an advisor for details.

⁶For approved additional Mason Core courses for the COS College BA Requirement, please visit - <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/geography-geoinformation-science/geography-ba/#requirementstext> .

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:

- Candidates for a degree in geography must complete the approved GGS geography courses with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Students interested in pursuing a Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's (BAM) program should contact their advisor in their first term after transferring to George Mason. For more information about BAM programs, visit: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/geography-geoinformation-science/geography-ba/#acceleratedmasterstext> .
- 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.