

ADVANCE

A NOVA | GEORGE MASON PARTNERSHIP



A.S. Social Sciences / B.S. 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 167 Required (NOVA Catalog: MTH 154 or Higher)	5	MTH 167 Pre-Calculus with Trigonometry ¹	MATH 105	General Elective
5 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
6 ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II	ENGH 101	Written Comm
7 ITE 152 or Transfer Elective	4	GIS 200 Geographical Information Systems I	GGG L311	Major
8 Transfer Elective #1	3	GIS 205 GIS 3-Dimensional Analysis	GGG L470	Info Tech
9 MTH 263 Required (NOVA Catalog: MTH 155 or MTH 245 or Higher)	4	MTH 263 Calculus I	MATH 113	Major & Quantitative
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	GGS 103	Major
12	Transfer Elective #2	4	GIS 201 Geographical Information Systems II ²	GGS 201T	Major
13	CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking OR CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm
14	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
15	PSY 200 or SOC 200	3	PSY 200 Principles of Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology	PSYC 100 SOCI 101	General Elective
16	Social/Behavioral Science #2	3	GEO 200 Introduction to Physical Geography	GGS 102	Major
17	Social/Behavioral Science #3	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography	GGS 101	Major & Global Contexts
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	ENGH 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	General Education Elective	3	ITE 152 Introduction to Digital and Information Literacy and Computer Applications	IT 104	Info Tech

A. S. SOCIAL SCIENCES (GEO)
DEGREE TOTAL 60-62

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

B.S. Geography

Concentrations: Geoinformatics, Geospatial Intelligence, Urban Science

GEORGE MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	GEORGE MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
21 Core Courses	3	GGS 300 Quantitative Methods for Geographical Analysis	Major
22 Geography Core Courses	3	GGS 310 Cartographic Design	Major
23 Breadth and Experience Courses	3	GGS 379 Remote Sensing	Major
24 Concentration Courses	3	Approved Concentration Course ⁴	Major
25 General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
26 Breadth and Experience Courses	3	GGS 366 Spatial Computing	Major
27 Concentration Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration Course ⁴	Major

28	Concentration Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration Course ⁴		Major
29	Breadth and Experience Courses	3	Approved Systematic Course ⁴		Major
30	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition		Written Comm
31	Geography Electives	3	Upper-Level GGS Elective ⁴		Major
32	Breadth and Experience Courses	3	Approved Regional Course ⁴		Major
33	Concentration Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration Course ⁴		Major
34	Concentration Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration Course ⁴		Major
35	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)		General Elective
36	Core Courses	3	GGS 415 Seminar in Geographic Thought and Methodology ⁵	Spring only	Writing Intensive
37	Gen Ed: Apex & Core Courses	3	GGS 485 Capstone in Geography and Geoinformation Science		Apex
38	Concentration Courses	3	Approved Upper-Level Concentration Course ⁴		Major
39	Geography Electives	3	Upper-Level GGS Elective ⁴		Major
40	General Electives	1-3	General Electives (See: Advisor)		General Elective

B.A. GEOGRAPHY DEGREE					
TOTAL		120			

Important Academic Information:

¹Students who place directly into MTH 263 may complete MTH 154 or higher, in addition to completing MTH 263.

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 Breadth and Experience and other major-related courses, please visit: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/geography-geoinformation-science/geography-bs/#requirements> .

⁵GGS 415 is generally offered in the Spring term.

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 the Geography degree must complete the following Core, Breadth and Experience, and Geography Elective courses with a minimum GPA of 2.00. Students interested pursuing a Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's (BAM) program should contact their advisor soon after transferring to George Mason. For more information about BAM program, visit: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/science/geography-geoinformation-science/geography-bs/#acceleratedmaster> .
- 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.