

ADVANCE

A NOVA | GEORGE MASON PARTNERSHIP



A.A. Liberal Arts /
B.A. Political Science & International
Politics Pathway
2026-2027

A.A. Liberal Arts

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	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	CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking OR CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm
4	World Language 101	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 101 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ¹	GMU Equivalent	SCHAR For. Lang or General Elective
5	MTH 154 or MTH 155	3	MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning OR MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning ²	MATH 106 STAT 105T	Quantitative
6	ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II	ENGH 101	Written Comm
7	World Language 102	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 102 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ¹	GMU Equivalent	SCHAR For. Lang or General Elective
8	PLS 135 Required (NOVA Catalog: MTH 245 ² or Transfer Elective)	3	PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics	GOVT 103	Major & Soc/Behav
9	Lab Science Course	4	BIO 101 General Biology I OR CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry OR ENV 121 Foundation 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
10	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's Literature OR Any 200-Level ENG Literature course ³	ENGH 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature
11	World Language 201	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 201 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ¹	GMU Equivalent	SCHAR For. Lang or General Elective

12	HIS Elective #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	HIST 101T HIST 102T HIST 125	Global History
13	Science Course #2 or General Education Elective	3-4	BIO 101 General Biology I OR BIO 102 General Biology II OR CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry OR ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science OR ENV 122 Applications in Environmental Science OR GEO 200 Introduction to Physical Geography OR GOL 105 Physical Geology OR GOL 106 Historical Geology OR GOL 111 Oceanography I OR PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 BIOL 102 CHEM 103 EVPP 108/109 EVPP 112/113 GGG 102 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 102/104 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
14	Social/Behavioral Sciences #1	3	PLS 200 Introduction to Political and Democratic Theory	GOVT 101	Major
15	World Language 202	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 202 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ¹	GMU Equivalent	SCHAR For. Lang or General Elective
16	HIS Elective #2	3	HIS 121 United States History to 1877 OR HIS 122 United States History Since 1865 OR HIS 203 History of African Civilizations OR HIS 231 Introduction to Latin American History OR HIS 251 History of Middle East Civilization I OR HIS 254 History of Modern East Asian Civilizations	HIST 121 HIST 122 HIST 261 HIST 272 HIST 281 HIST 252	General Elective
17	HUM 298	1	HUM 298 Humanities Seminar	GENL ---	General Elective
18	Humanities/Fine Arts	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
19	Open Elective #1	3	PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics	GOVT 133	Major
20	Open Elective #2 (<i>This elective must be taken at George Mason if selections for all other requirements total 60 credits or more</i>)	3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics OR ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics OR GEO 210 People & the Land: Intro. to Cultural Geography OR GEO 220 World Regional Geography OR PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy OR PHI 111 Logic OR PHI 220 Ethics and Society OR RELI 230 Religions of the World OR REL 233 Introduction to Islam OR REL 237 Religions of the East OR REL 238 Religions of the West OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 104 ECON 103 GGG 103 GGG 101 PHIL 100 PHIL 173 PHIL 151 RELI 100 RELI L312 RELI 212 RELI 211 ANTH 114	General Elective
21	Social/Behavioral Sciences #2	3	PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations	GOVT 132	Major & SCHAR Soc/Behav

A. A. LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE
TOTAL 60-62

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

B.A. Political Science and International Politics

Concentrations: American Institutions and Processes; Comparative Politics; International Political Economy; International Relations; Law, Philosophy and Governance; Political Analysis; Political Behavior and Identity Politics; Public Policy and Administration; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics; Individualized
Students interested in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics concentration should contact their George Mason Advisor⁴

GEORGE MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
22 Gen Ed: Information Technology/Core Course	4	GOVT 300 Research Methods and Analysis	Info Tech
23 General Electives	3	General Electives	General Elective

24	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
25	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper- level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
26	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
27	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
28	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
29	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
30	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
31	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
32	Concentration or Advanced Field Study Courses	3	Any approved Advanced Political Science Field Study course ^{4,5}	Major
33	General Electives	3	General Elective	General Elective
34	General Electives	3	General Elective	General Elective
35	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Elective
36	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Elective
37	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Elective
38	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
39	Gen Ed: Apex/Core Requirement	3	GOVT 490 Synthesis Seminar OR GOVT 491 Honors Seminar ^{4,5}	Apex & Writing Intensive
40	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
41	General Electives	0-2	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective

**B.A. POLITICAL SCI &
INTERNATIONAL POLITICS 120**

Important Academic Information:

¹Students may use credit by exam to fulfill language requirements; minimum exam scores needed for requirements may be different at NOVA and George Mason. Student must carefully check that the requirements fulfill BOTH NOVA (<https://www.nvcc.edu/prior-learning/>) and George Mason requirements (<https://www.gmu.edu/admissions-aid/apply-now/how-apply/transfer/transfer-credit-policy>). If students plan to use credit by exam for languages at NOVA/George Mason, students must complete the exams no later than the semester prior to matriculation. Consult with your ADVANCE Coach or advisor.

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.

⁴Students may complete up to two concentrations. A concentration consists of four unique courses from the chosen field. If a student has one concentration, then they must complete any four more advanced political science field courses to satisfy this requirement. If a student selects two concentrations, then they must complete four unique courses for each concentration. Students who do not pursue any concentration may choose 24 credits (8 courses) from the advanced political science field courses (with restriction) for a broader learning experience.

⁵For approved Concentration courses and college-level requirement courses, please visit - <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/policy-government/political-science-international-politics-ba/>.

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 pursuing this degree must complete 43 credits in GOVT and earn a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course applied to the major.
- 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.