

ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.A. Liberal Arts /
B.A. Philosophy Pathway
2025-2026

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 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).

	NOVA DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Courses	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 ¹	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 #1	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 101 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
5	MTH 154 or MTH 155 or higher	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 ¹	ENGH 101	Written Comm
7	World Language #2	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 102 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
8	MTH 245 or Transfer Elective	3	PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy OR PHI 220 Ethics and Society	PHIL 100T PHIL 151T	CHSS Phil/Rel & Major
9	Science Course #1	4	BIO 101 General Biology I OR CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry OR ENV 121 Foundations 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 Elective	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
11	World Language #3	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 201 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective

12	HIS Course #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 (<i>recommended</i>)	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	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics 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 PSY 200 Principles of Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 104 GGG 103 HIST 121 HIST 122 PSYC 100 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	Soc/Behav
15	World Language #4	3	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 202 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>)	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang or General Elective
16	Open Elective #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 1372 MUSI 101	Arts
17	Open Elective #2 (<i>This elective must be taken at Mason if selections for all other requirements total 60 credits or more - Please see your ADVANCE Coach.</i>)	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography OR HIS 111 World Civilizations Pre-1500 CE OR HIS 254 History of Modern East Asian Civilizations OR REL 237 Religions of the East OR REL 238 Religions of the West OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology OR	GGG 101 HIST 387T HIST 252 RELI 212 RELI 211 ANTH 114	CHSS Non-Western
18	HIS Course #2	3	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 261 HIST 271 HIST 281 HIST 252	General Elective
19	Humanities/Fine Arts	3	PHI 111 Logic	PHIL 173	Major
20	Social/Behavioral Sciences #2 (<i>Must select discipline different from Soc/Behav above</i>)	3	ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics OR GEO 220 World Regional Geography OR PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics OR PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations OR PSY 230 Developmental Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 103 GGG 101 GOVT 103 GOVT 132 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	CHSS Soc/Behav
21	HUM 298	1	HUM 298 Seminar and Project - Liberal Arts	GENL XXX	General Elective

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. Philosophy

Optional Concentrations: Philosophy and Law; Philosophy; Politics; Economics

NOTE: Students interested in the Philosophy, Politics, and Economics concentration have more complex requirements. Please contact your ADVANCE Coach or a Mason Advisor to create a degree plan.

MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT		Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
22	General Electives	3	General Elective	General Elective
23	History of Philosophy	3	PHIL 301 History of Western Philosophy: Ancient	Major
24	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
25	History of Philosophy	3	PHIL 303 History of Western Philosophy: Modern	Major
26	Analytic Tradition	3	Approved Analytic Tradition course ⁴	Major
27	Electives in the Major	3	Any Philosophy (PHIL) course ⁵	Major
28	Continental Tradition	3	Approved Continental Tradition course ⁴	Major
29	Ethics and Social and Political Philosophy	3	Approved Ethics and Social and Political Philosophy course ⁵	Major
30	Electives in the Major	3	Any Philosophy (PHIL) course ⁵	Major
31	Electives in the Major	3	Any Philosophy (PHIL) course (Upper-level) ⁵	Major
32	Electives in the Major	3	Any Philosophy (PHIL) course (Upper-level) ⁵	Major
33	Electives in the Major	3	Any Philosophy (PHIL) course (Upper-level) ⁵	Major
34	Electives in the Major/General Elective	3	Any Philosophy (PHIL) course or General Elective ⁵	Major
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 (See: Advisor)	General Elective
38	Gen Ed: Apex	3	PHIL 421 Seminar	Apex & Writing Intensive
39	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Elective
40	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Elective
41	General Electives	1-3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
B.A. PHILOSOPHY DEGREE TOTAL		120		
Important Academic Information:				
¹ Students who complete ENG 111 after Spring 2024 will earn ENGH elective for ENG 111 and ENGH 101 for ENG 112.				
² 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.				
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 Analytic Tradition, Continental Tradition, Ethics and Social and Political Philosophy, and Non-Western course options, please visit: https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/philosophy/philosophy-ba/#requirementstext				
⁵ Philosophy electives may include those from other major requirements that are not used to meet another degree requirement. If both the analytic or continental philosophy and the ethics and political philosophy requirements are met with the same course, the student will complete six elective courses.				
General Education Waiver Policy and Guidance:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 pursuing this degree must complete at least 33 credits within the major, earning a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. At least 21 credits must be at the 300 level or above, including at least 3 credits in PHIL 421 Seminar (Mason Core)/PHIL 422 Honors Seminar (Mason Core). If a course counts for the requirement in analytic or continental philosophy, and also for the ethics and political philosophy requirement, then both requirements are fulfilled with that course.
- 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.