

ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.S. Social Science / B.A. Psychology
Pathway
Online Option Available
2025-2026

A.S. Social 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 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	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 (<i>recommended</i>)	HIST 101T HIST 102T HIST 125	Global History
4	MTH 154 or MTH 161 or Higher	3	MTH 154 Quantitative Reasoning	MATH 106	Quantitative
5	Transfer Elective #1	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 101 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ²	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang OR Elective
6	Science Course #1	4	BIO 101 General Biology I (<i>recommended</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
7	ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II ¹	ENGH 101	Written Comm
8	MTH 155 or MTH 245	3	MTH 245 Statistics I	STAT 250	General Elective
9	Science Course #2	4	BIO 101 General Biology I OR BIO 102 General Biology II (<i>recommended</i>) OR CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry 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 I OR PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 BIOL 102 CHEM 103 EVPP 108/109 EVPP 112/113 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 102/104 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
10	PSY 200	3	PSY 200 Principles of Psychology	PSYC 100	Major & Soc/Behav
11	Transfer Elective #2	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 102 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ²	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang OR Elective
12	Social/Behavioral Sciences #1	3	PSY 216 Social Psychology	PSYC 231	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	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
15	General Education Elective	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 201 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ²	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang OR Elective
16	Humanities/Fine Arts #2	3	PHI 100 Introduction to Philosophy OR PHI 111 Logic OR PHI 220 Ethics and Society OR PHI 227 Biomedical Ethics OR REL 100 Introduction to the Study of Religion OR REL 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	PHIL 100T PHIL 173T PHIL 151T PHIL L309 RELI 100 RELI L312 RELI 212 RELI 211	CHSS Phil/Reli
17	Social/Behavioral Sciences #2	3	PSY 230 Developmental Psychology	PSYC 211	Major
18	Social/Behavioral Science #3	3	GEO 220 World Regional Geography OR HIS 111 World Civilizations Pre-1500 CE OR PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics OR PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations OR PSY 219 Cross-Cultural Psychology (<i>recommended</i>) OR SSC 115 Introduction to Global Affairs	GGG 101 HIST L387 GOVT 133 GOVT 132 PSYC L379 GLOA 101	Major or General Elective
19	ITE 152 or General Education Elective	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 202 OR Any General Education Elective (<i>if placed out of World Language</i>) ²	GMU Equivalent	CHSS For. Lang OR Elective
20	Social/Behavioral Science #4 (<i>This elective is not needed if selections for all other requirements total 60 credits or more</i>)	3	SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology OR GEO 220 World Regional Geography	ANTH 114 GGG 101	CHSS Soc/Behav & Non-Western

A.S. SOCIAL SCIENCE DEGREE
TOTAL 60-62

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

B.A. Psychology

Concentrations: Forensic Psychology, Human Factors and Applied Cognition, Work and Organizational Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Educational Psychology, Health Psychology, Clinical Psychology, Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience.

Courses required for a concentration may simultaneously satisfy other degree requirements and may have differing GPA standards. The concentrations in Forensic Psychology, Human Factors and Applied Cognition, and Work and Organizational Psychology meet the applied psychology requirement.

	MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
21	General Elective	3	General Elective	General Elective
22	General Elective	3	General Elective	General Elective
23	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
24	Research Methods Courses	4	PSYC 300 Statistics in Psychology	Major
25	Foundation Courses	3	PSYC 317 Cognitive Psychology	Major

26	Biopsychology	3-6	PSYC 372 Biopsychology OR PSYC 375 Brain and Sensory Processes AND PSYC 376 Brain and Behavior	Major	
	27	Research Methods Courses	4	PSYC 301 Research Methods in Psychology	Writing Intensive
	28	Optional Concentration/General Elective	3	Upper-level Psychology (PSYC) course or General Elective (Upper level)	Major
	29	Optional Concentration/General Elective	3	Upper-level Psychology (PSYC) course or General Elective (Upper level)	Major
	30	Electives in Major/Applied Psychology Course	3	Applied Psychology (PSYC) course (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	Major
	31	Electives in Major/Applied Psychology Course	3	Applied Psychology (PSYC) course (See: Advisor as some requirements may double count)	Major
	32	Optional Concentration/General Elective	3	Upper-level Psychology (PSYC) course or General Elective (Upper level)	Major
	33	Optional Concentration/General Elective	3	Upper-level Psychology (PSYC) course or General Elective (Upper level)	Major
	34	Electives in Major	3	Upper-level Psychology (PSYC) course	Major
	35	Electives in Major	3	Upper-level Psychology (PSYC) course	Major
	36	General Elective or College- Level Requirements	3	General Electives OR Approved CHSS Soc/Behav & Non-Western course ⁴ <i>(if not taken at NOVA)</i>	General Elective or CHSS Soc/Behav & Non-Western
	37	Gen Ed: Apex	3	PSYC 405 Mystery, Madness, and Murder OR PSYC 406 Psychology of Communication OR PSYC 427 Community Engagement for Social Change	Apex
	38	Professional Development Course	3	PSYC 399 College to Career OR PSYC 327 Psychology in the Community OR PSYC 427 Community Engagement for Social Change OR PSYC 430 Clinical Practicum in Psychology OR PSYC 491 Psychology Honors II OR PSYC 492 RS: Psychology Honors III OR PSYC 461 Special Topics (with approval) <i>(See Advisor as some requirements may double count)</i>	Major
	39	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level, See: Advisor)	General Elective
	40	General Electives	0-3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
	B.A. PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE				
TOTAL		120			
Please note: Some fully online courses may require a campus presence for orientations, tests, final exams, or labs.					
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 may use credit by exam to fulfill language requirements; minimum exam scores needed for requirements may be different at NOVA and Mason. Student must carefully check that the requirements fulfill BOTH NOVA (https://www.nvcc.edu/prior-learning/) and 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/Mason, students must complete the exams no later than the semester prior to matriculation. Consult with your ADVANCE Coach or advisor.					
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 CHSS required courses, please visit: https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/psychology/psychology-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 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 complete the 37 required credits with electives in psychology (PSYC) with the following restrictions:
 1. A maximum of 6 credits of PSYC 327 Psychology in the Community and PSYC 328 Psychology in the Community Laboratory may be applied to required psychology credits.
 2. A maximum of 6 credits of PSYC 260 Basic Research Methods in Psychology, PSYC 350 Directed Reading and Research in Psychology, and PSYC 460 Independent Study in Psychology may be applied to required psychology credits.
 3. No more than 9 credits of PSYC 327 Psychology in the Community, PSYC 328 Psychology in the Community Laboratory, PSYC 260 Basic Research Methods in Psychology, PSYC 350 Directed Reading and Research in Psychology, and PSYC 460 Independent Study in Psychology can be taken without written permission of the department chair.
 4. No more than 6 credits of D may be applied toward major elective requirement at Mason.
- Students pursuing this degree must complete 37 credits within the major, with 24 credits at the 300 and 400 level. Students must have a minimum GPA of 2.00 in these courses with a minimum grade of 1.67 (C-) in each one. A minimum grade of C is needed for any course used to fulfill the Applied Psychology requirement.
- 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.