

# ADVANCE

A NOVA | GEORGE MASON PARTNERSHIP



A.S. Social Sciences: Political Science  
Major/B.S. Public Administration Pathway  
**2026-2027**

## A.S. Social Sciences: Political Science Major

### 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 <b>OR</b> SDV 101 Orientation to XXX	UNIV 100	General Elective
2 ENG 111	3	ENG 111 College Composition I	ENGH XXX	General Elective
3 HIS Course	3	HIS 101 Western Civilizations Pre-1600 CE <b>OR</b> HIS 102 Western Civilizations Post-1600 CE <b>OR</b> 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 <sup>1</sup>	MATH 106	Quantitative
5 PLS 135	3	PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics	GOVT 103	Major
6 PLS 241	3	PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations	GOVT 132	Major
7 ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II	ENGH 101	Written Comm
8 ITE 152	3	ITE 152 Introduction to Digital and Information Literacy and Computer Applications	IT 104	Info Tech
9 MTH 155 or MTH 245 or higher	3	MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning <sup>1</sup> <b>OR</b> MTH 245 Statistics I	STAT 105T STAT 250	Major
10 PLS 136	3	PLS 136 State and Local Government and Politics	GOVT L304	Major
11 Science Course #1	4	BIO 101 General Biology I <b>OR</b> CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry <b>OR</b> ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science <b>OR</b> GOL 105 Physical Geology <b>OR</b> GOL 111 Oceanography I <b>OR</b> PHY 100 Elements of Physics	BIOL 103/105 CHEM 103 EVPP 108/109 GEOL 101/103 GEOL 120/121 PHYS 103	Nat Science
12 CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking <b>OR</b> CST 110 Introduction to Human Communication	COMM 100 COMM 101	Oral Comm
13 Humanities/Fine Arts #1	3	ART 100 Art Appreciation <b>OR</b> ART 101 History of Art: Prehistoric to Gothic <b>OR</b> ART 102 History of Art: Renaissance to Modern <b>OR</b> CST 130 Introduction to Theatre <b>OR</b> CST 151 Film Appreciation I <b>OR</b> MUS 121 Music in Society	ARTH 101 ARTH 200 ARTH 201 THR 101 ENGH L372 MUSI 101	Arts

14	PLS 140	3	PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics	GOVT 133	General Elective
15	Science Course #2	4	BIO 101 General Biology I <b>OR</b> BIO 102 General Biology II <b>OR</b> CHM 101 Introductory Chemistry <b>OR</b> ENV 121 Foundations of Environmental Science <b>OR</b> ENV 122 Applications in Environmental Science <b>OR</b> GOL 105 Physical Geology <b>OR</b> GOL 106 Historical Geology <b>OR</b> GOL 111 Oceanography I <b>OR</b> 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
16	SOC Course	3	SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology <b>OR</b> SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology <b>OR</b> SOC 268 Social Problems	SOCI 101 ANTH 114 SOCI L352	General Elective
17	PLS 200	3	PLS 200 Introduction to Political and Democratic Theory	GOVT 101	Major
18	General Education Elective	3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics <b>OR</b> ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics <b>OR</b> GEO 210 People and the Land: An Introduction to Cultural Geography <b>OR</b> HIS 121 United States History to 1877 <b>OR</b> HIS 122 United States History Since 1865 <b>OR</b> HUM 210 Introduction to Women and Gender Studies <b>OR</b> PSY 200 Principles of Psychology <b>OR</b> PSY 230 Developmental Psychology <b>OR</b> SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology <b>OR</b> SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 104 ECON 103 GGS 103 HIST 121 HIST 122 WMST 200 PSYC 100 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	General Elective
19	Humanities/Fine Arts #2	3	ENG 225 Reading Literature: Culture and Ideas <b>OR</b> ENG 245 British Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 246 American Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 255 World Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 258 African American Literature <b>OR</b> ENG 275 Women in Literature <b>OR</b> Any 200-Level ENG Literature course <sup>2</sup>	ENGH 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature
20	Social/Behavioral Sciences	3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics <b>OR</b> ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics <b>OR</b> GEO 210 People and the Land: An Introduction to Cultural Geography <b>OR</b> HIS 121 United States History to 1877 <b>OR</b> HIS 122 United States History Since 1865 <b>OR</b> PSY 200 Principles of Psychology <b>OR</b> PSY 230 Developmental Psychology <b>OR</b> SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology <b>OR</b> SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 104 ECON 103 GGS 103 HIST 121 HIST 122 PSYC 100 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	Soc/Behav

**A. S. SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**(POLITICAL SCI) DEGREE TOTAL 60**

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

**B.S. Public Administration**

**Concentrations:** Administration and Management; Public Policy; Nonprofit Management; US Government Institutions; Economic Policy Analysis; International Political Economy; Technology Policy; Individualized.<sup>3</sup>

**Note:** Students pursuing a concentration will complete the degree by taking four courses (minimum of 12 credits) within one concentration, chosen from the lists of advanced field courses shown below, to complete a minimum of 24 credits of field courses.

GEORGE MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT	
21	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
22	Core Course	4	GOVT 300 Research Methods and Analysis	Major

23	Core Course	3	GOVT 351 Administration in the Political System	Major
24	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
25	Core Course	3	GOVT 367 Money, Markets and Economic Policy	Fall only Major
26	Govt. Concentration or Advanced Govt. Field Courses	3	Approved Field Study or Concentration Course <sup>3,4</sup>	Major
27	Core Course	3	GOVT 368 Tools for Economic Policy Analysis	Spring only Major
28	Govt. Concentration or Advanced Govt. Field Courses	3	Approved Field Study or Concentration Course <sup>3,4</sup>	Major
29	Govt. Concentration or Advanced Govt. Field Courses	3	Approved Field Study or Concentration Course <sup>3,4</sup>	Major
30	Govt. Concentration or Advanced Govt. Field Courses	3	Approved Field Study or Concentration Course <sup>3,4</sup>	Major
31	Govt. Concentration or Advanced Govt. Field Courses	3	Approved Field Study or Concentration Course <sup>4</sup>	Major
32	Govt. Concentration or Advanced Govt. Field Courses	3	Approved Field Study or Concentration Course <sup>4</sup>	Major
33	Govt. Concentration or Advanced Govt. Field Courses	3	Approved Field Study or Concentration Course <sup>4</sup>	Major
34	General Elective	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Elective
35	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level See: Advisor)	General Elective
36	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
37	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
38	Gen Ed: Apex/Core Requirement	3	GOVT 490 Synthesis Seminar <b>OR</b> GOVT 491 Honors Seminar	Apex & Writing Intensive
39	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective
40	General Electives	3	General Electives (See: Advisor)	General Elective

**B.S. PUBLIC**

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**ADMINISTRATION DEGREE**

**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.

2200-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.

3Students may complete up to two government concentrations. A concentration consists of 12 credits from the chosen field. If a student has one concentration, then they must complete any 12 credits of advanced government field courses to satisfy this requirement. If a student selects two concentrations, then they must complete 12 credits for each concentration. Students who do not pursue any government concentration may choose 24 credits (8 courses) from the advanced government field courses listed below (with restriction) for a broader learning experience. Up to three credits of GOVT 399 Research Practicum and GOVT 480 Internship may be used to fulfill the field course requirement with prior advisor approval. Up to six credits of GOVT 496 Directed Readings and Research may be used to fulfill this requirement with prior advisor approval. GOVT 490 Synthesis Seminar (Mason Core) or GOVT 491 Honors Seminar (Mason Core) may not be used to fulfill this requirement. Advanced government field courses include courses numbered GOVT 301 - GOVT 499.

4For a list of approved Field Study or Concentration courses, please visit - <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/policy-government/public-administration-bs/> .

**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 must earn a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course applied to the major, including GOVT courses as well as the supporting courses in other disciplines used to fulfill the requirements below. See an advisor before registering.
- 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.



















