

# ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.A. Liberal Arts/  
B.A. Religious Studies 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 <b>OR</b> SDV 101 Orientation to XXX	UNIV 100	General Elective
2	ENG 111	3	ENG 111 College Composition I <sup>1</sup>	ENGH XXX	General Elective
3	CST Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking <b>OR</b> 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 <b>OR</b> 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 <b>OR</b> MTH 155 Statistical Reasoning <sup>2</sup>	MATH 106 STAT 105T	Quantitative
6	ENG 112	3	ENG 112 College Composition II <sup>1</sup>	ENGH 101	Written Comm
7	World Language #2	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 102 <b>OR</b> 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	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
9	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

10	ENG Literature Elective	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>3</sup>	ENGH 202 or FRLN L330 (ENG 255 only)	Literature
11	World Language #3	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 201 <b>OR</b> 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 <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
13	Science Course #2 or General Education Elective	3-4	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> GEO 200 Introduction to Physical Geography <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 GGS 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 <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> PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics <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 GOVT 103 PSYC 100 PSYC 211 SOCI 101 ANTH 114	Soc/Behav
15	World Language #4	3-4	Any World Language/ASL course sequence 202 <b>OR</b> 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	REL 237 Religions of the East	RELI 212	Major & CHSS Phil/Reli
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	ITE 152 Introduction to Digital and Information Literacy and Computer Applications	IT 104	Info Tech
18	HIS Course #2	3	HIS 203 History of African Civilizations <b>OR</b> HIS 231 Introduction to Latin American History <b>OR</b> HIS 251 History of Middle East Civilization I <b>OR</b> HIS 254 History of Modern East Asian Civilizations	HIST 261 HIST 271 HIST 281 HIST 252	General Elective
19	Humanities/Fine Arts	3	REL 238 Religions of the West	RELI 211	Major & CHSS Non- Western
20	Social/Behavioral Sciences #2 <i>(Must select discipline different            from Soc/Behav above)</i>	3	ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics <b>OR</b> GEO 220 World Regional Geography <b>OR</b> PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics <b>OR</b> PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations <b>OR</b> PSY 200 Principles of Psychology <b>OR</b> SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology <b>OR</b> SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology	ECON 103 GGS 101 GOVT 103 GOVT 132 PSYC 100 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		60-62		
TOTAL				
For academic policies and procedures, please see NOVA catalog - <a href="http://www.nvcc.edu/catalog/index.html">http://www.nvcc.edu/catalog/index.html</a>				
B.A. Religious Studies				
	MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Course	MASON CORE/DEGREE EQUIVALENT
22	General Electives	3	General Elective	General Elective
23	Core Courses in the Major	3	RELI 300 Theories and Methods in Religious Studies	Writing Intensive
24	Gen Ed: Written Communication (Upper-level)	3	ENGH 302 Advanced Composition	Written Comm
25	Core Courses in the Major	3	300- or 400-level Religious Studies course	Major
26	Core Courses in the Major	3	300- or 400-level Religious Studies course	Major
27	Electives in the Major	3	Electives in the Major <sup>4</sup>	Major
28	Core Courses in the Major	3	300- or 400-level Religious Studies course	Major
29	Core Courses in the Major	3	300- or 400-level Religious Studies course	Major
30	Electives in the Major	3	Electives in the Major <sup>4</sup>	Major
31	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level: See Advisor)	Major
32	Electives in the Major	3	Electives in the Major <sup>4</sup> (Upper Level: See Advisor)	Major
33	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level: See Advisor)	General Elective
34	General Electives	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 (Upper-level: See Advisor)	General Elective
37	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level: See Advisor)	General Elective
38	Gen Ed: Apex	3	RELI 490 Comparative Study of Religions	Apex
39	General Electives	3	General Electives (Upper-level: See Advisor)	General Elective
40	General Electives	3	General Electives (See Advisor)	General Elective
41	General Electives	1-3	General Electives (See Advisor)	General Elective
B.A. RELIGIOUS STUDIES		120		
DEGREE TOTAL				
Important Academic Information:				
<sup>1</sup> Students who complete ENG 111 after Spring 2024 will earn ENGH elective for ENG 111 and ENGH 101 for ENG 112.				
<sup>2</sup> 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.				
<sup>3</sup> 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.				
<sup>4</sup> Choose from additional 300- or 400-level courses in religious studies, related disciplines (including anthropology, art history, and history), or a scriptural language (such as Arabic, Biblical Hebrew, Chinese, Classical Greek, Latin, or Sanskrit). For a list of approved options see: <a href="https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/religious-studies-ba/#requirements">https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/religious-studies-ba/#requirements</a>				

**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 in this major complete at least 33 credits within the major, earning a minimum grade of 2.00 in each course. No course applied to the major in religious studies may be used to fulfill more than one 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.