

ADVANCE

A NOVA | GEORGE MASON PARTNERSHIP



A.A. Liberal Arts/
B.A. Religious Studies 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.

- 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.
- Students must maintain a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA at NOVA and must have a minimum 2.5 GPA upon matriculation to George Mason.
- 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.
- Students must begin developmental coursework no later than the first semester in ADVANCE at NOVA.
- 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).
- In the first 30 credits, students must complete ENG 111 and ENG 112 with a C or better.
- 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 | GEORGE 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 #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 ¹ | MATH 106 STAT 105T | Quantitative |
| 6 ENG 112 | 3 | ENG 112 College Composition II | 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 | 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 ENGH L372 MUSI 101 | Arts |
| 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 |

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|----|---|-----|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| 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 ² | 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 ECO 202 Principles of Microeconomics 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 PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics OR PSY 200 Principles of Psychology OR PSY 230 Developmental Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology | ECON 104 ECON 103 GGG 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 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 | REL 237 Religions of the East | RELI 212 | Major & CHSS Phil/Reli |
| 17 | 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 | 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 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 272 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 OR GEO 220 World Regional Geography OR PLS 135 U.S. Government and Politics OR PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations OR PSY 200 Principles of Psychology OR SOC 200 Introduction to Sociology OR SOC 211 Cultural Anthropology | ECON 103 GGG 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 |

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| A. A. LIBERAL ARTS DEGREE | 60-62 |
| TOTAL | |

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

B.A. Religious Studies

| GEORGE MASON DEGREE REQUIREMENT | Credits | Course | GEORGE 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 ³ | 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 ³ | Major |
| 31 General Electives | 3 | General Electives (Upper-level: See Advisor) | Major |
| 32 Electives in the Major | 3 | Electives in the Major ³ (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 DEGREE TOTAL 120

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.

³Choose 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: <https://catalog.gmu.edu/colleges-schools/humanities-social-sciences/religious-studies/religious-studies-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 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 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 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.