

NISTS 2023

BE A CONNECTOR FOR TRANSFER STUDENT SUCCESS

Virtual • February 1-3 | Portland, OR • February 22-24

The following presentation was given at the 21st Annual Conference for the National Institute for the Study of Transfer Students. Please cite responsibly and direct questions to the original presenter(s).

Educational Session

2769 - Connecting Faculty to Transfer Student Success: Managing a Transfer Pathway Development Process

Credits and Degree Pathways, Partnerships and Collaboration

As institutions increasingly look to transfer enrollment to meet recruitment goals, they must simultaneously consider how to ensure an efficient pathway to a baccalaureate degree, which requires departments to include transfer considerations in curriculum decisions at the discipline level. Cross-institutional partnerships amongst faculty and staff are vital to this goal. Participants will learn how an award-winning transfer partnership manages a faculty-engaged pathway development process, including key factors that have supported the success of these efforts.

Elizabeth Bartles, *Coordinator for Transfer Pathways and Prior Learning*
George Mason University

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Northern Virginia Community College



NOVA

Northern Virginia
Community College

**GEORGE
MASON
UNIVERSITY**

ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

Liz Bartles

Coordinator for Transfer Pathways and Prior Learning
George Mason University (Mason)

Dr. Casey Lukszo

Associate Director, Curriculum and Innovative Education
Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)

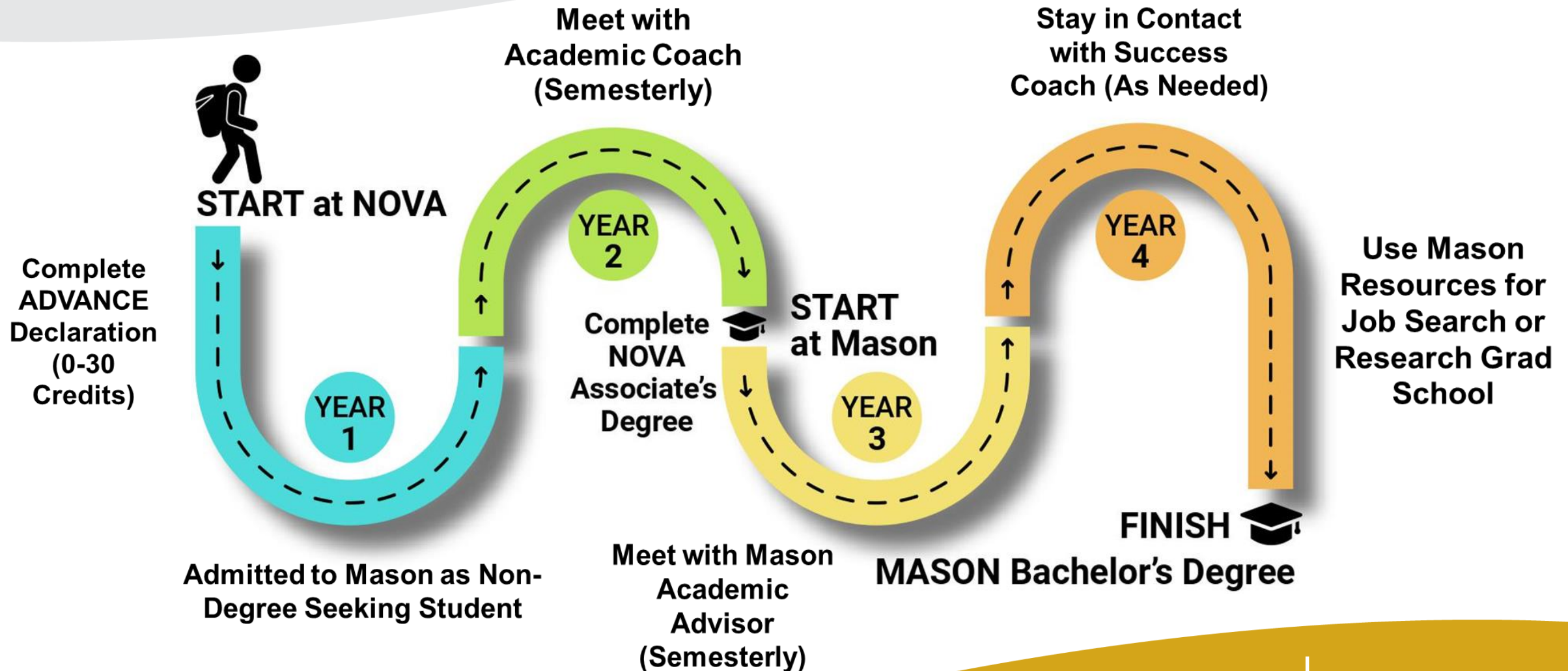
Reflection Worksheet

- [Reflection Worksheet.docx](#)

Connecting Faculty to Transfer Student Success: | Managing a Transfer Pathway Development Process

- Do you have established transfer partner(s)?
 - If not, how would you identify those partners and start building relationships?
 - If yes, what opportunities exist to strengthen the partnership(s)?
- Do you have existing transfer guide documents?
 - If not, what interest/capacity is there to create such documents?
 - If so, what needs are these documents serving and what needs are not met?

ADVANCE Overview: Pathways in Context



Institutional Contexts

Mason

- Total Enrollment: 37,677
Undergraduate: 25,508
- Over 3,000 new transfer undergraduates per year
- 45% of undergrad pop. is transfer
- 90% of VCCCS transfers are from NOVA

NOVA

- NOVA Total Undergraduate Enrollment: 69,427
- Over 60% of NOVA transfers go to Mason

In VA, articulation agreements are independent

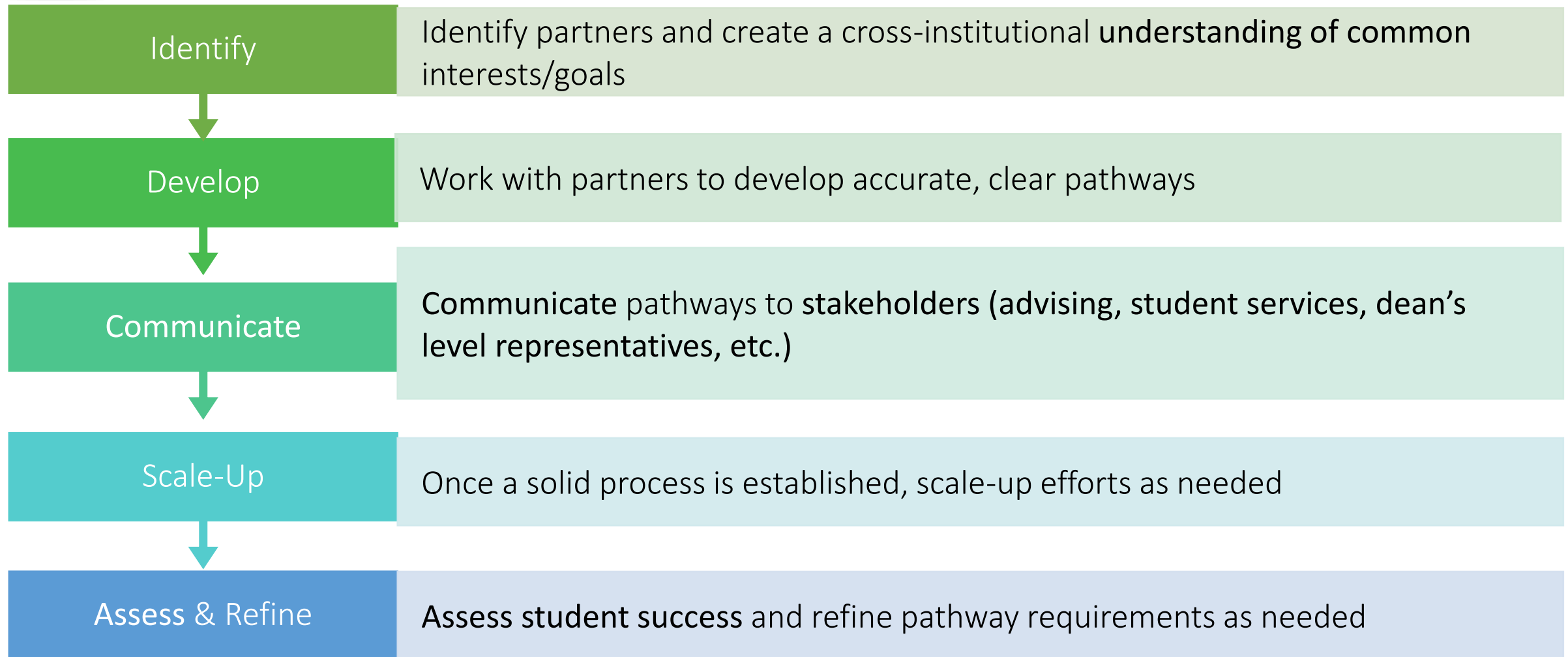
Sources:

http://relations.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/18-384_StateGovtKeyFacts_2.pdf

<https://www.nvcc.edu/osi/docs/oir/Fact-Book-2017-2022.pdf>

<https://research.schev.edu/TR01.asp>

Early Steps in Development of Pathways



Pause to Reflect

- Do you have established transfer partner(s)?
 - If not, how would you identify those partners and start building relationships?
 - If yes, what opportunities exist to strengthen the partnership(s)?

What's on a pathway?

Degree Titles

ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

A.S. Business Administration/
B.S. Business - Accounting Concentration Pathway
Online Option Available
2022-2023

[Pathways](#)
[Archive](#)

A.S. Business Administration

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 complete their NOVA degree 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 Mason Core Quantitative Reasoning course equivalent with a C or better no later than one semester before NOVA graduation. Refer to your pathway to select the appropriate MTH course(s).

Comprehensive
Degree and
Equivalency
Info

Milestone
requirements

	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 Business	UNIV 100	General Elective
2	ENG 111	3	ENG 111 College Composition I	ENGH 101	Written Comm
3	MTH Course	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking OR	COMM 100	Quantitative Reasoning

Pathway Examples

- ADVANCE: [23-24 pathways](#)
- [Transfer Virginia Transfer Guides](#) (see specific example [here](#))
- [Florida International University Transfer Guides](#)

Pathway Lifecycle: Timeline

ADVANCE Pathway Review Process Timeline	Timeframe
Academic Summit	Mid-October
Review Round 1: NOVA Review and approval	December – February
Review Round 2: Mason Review and approval	March – Mid-April
NOVA Catalog Published	April
Pathway Final Formatting for publication	Mid- April – Mid-May
Mason Catalog Published	June 1
Pathways published to web and available for students to select	June 10

Pathway Lifecycle: Faculty Engagement

- Mid-October Summit is strategic in catalog cycle
- Opportunity for NOVA and Mason faculty to discuss:
 - Issues and opportunities for engagement
 - Curriculum updates, course transferability
 - Patterns in students' experience/success
 - **Build trust, cultivate relationships**
- Provided: draft pathway(s), a review checklist, and a facilitator/note taker.

Pause to Reflect

- Do you have existing transfer guide documents?
 - If not, what interest/capacity is there to create such documents?
 - If so, what needs are these documents serving and what needs are not met?
- Who are your transfer champions? Who is the first person you can speak with about transfer pathway development?

Factors Influencing Success

- Strong existing partnership
- High transfer traffic
- Physical proximity
- Leadership support
- FOMO
- Engaged faculty
- Dedicated staff at both institutions

Lessons Learned

- Project management is key; significant time investment
- Must have clear guidelines for pathway development and specific timeline for changes
- Document clarity requires considerable refinement
- **Faculty engagement = collaboration and troubleshooting**
- Student feedback:
 - Pathway document
 - Academic Coach

Engagement Activity

- Discuss your reflection answers with those in your breakout room
 - Based on my position and available support, what strategies might work best for my institutional context?
 - Develop three immediate steps you can take to develop or enhance your pathway process
- We'll come back together to share/process

Extra Resource & Contact Info

Resource

[ASPEN Transfer Playbook](#)

Contact Info

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