



NISTS 2020

REIMAGINING THE TRANSFER STUDENT EXPERIENCE FEBRUARY 5-7, 2020 • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

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Implementing the NOVA/Mason ADVANCE Partnership: Transforming the Transfer Student Experience

Partnerships and Collaboration, Transition Programs and Services

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA), one of the largest community colleges in the country, and George Mason University, the largest public institution in the Commonwealth of Virginia, have partnered to create the NOVA/Mason ADVANCE program to eliminate barriers, streamline the transfer experience, and increase degree completion. This session will discuss the overall purpose of ADVANCE, its implementation, and the current and anticipated student and institutional outcomes.

Rita Snyder Furr, Assistant Director, ADVANCE Operations
George Mason University

Jennifer Nelson, Coordinator of University Transfer Initiatives
Northern Virginia Community College



ADVANCE

A NOVA | MASON PARTNERSHIP

Implementing the NOVA/Mason ADVANCE Partnership: Transforming the Student Experience

Jennifer Nelson, Chief Transfer Officer, NOVA

Rita Snyder Furr, Assistant Director of ADVANCE Operations, Mason

Institutional Overview

Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA)

- Established in 1964
(One of 23 institutions within the VCCS)
- Serves over 70,000 students
- 6 campuses: Alexandria, Annandale, Loudoun, Manassas, Medical Education, Woodbridge
- 130+ Associate degree and certificate programs



George Mason University (Mason)

- Established in 1972
- Undergraduate enrollment for 2019-2020: 26,013
- 5 campuses: Fairfax, Arlington, Science & Technology, Mason in Loudoun, Mason Korea
- 80+ Bachelor level degrees offered



Transfer & Completion Trends



Nationally, **80%** of community college students intend to earn a bachelor's, but only **15%** achieve that goal in **7 years** ¹



In Virginia, **39%** of students earn a credential within **7 years** of initial enrollment, only **15%** transfer to the 4-year and earn a bachelor's in this timeframe ²



Credential completion rates for "non-traditional" student populations and students with identities historically marginalized in U.S. higher education are even lower ^{1 2}

¹The Campaign for College Opportunity, 2017

²Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission, 2017

NOVA → Mason Transfer Profile



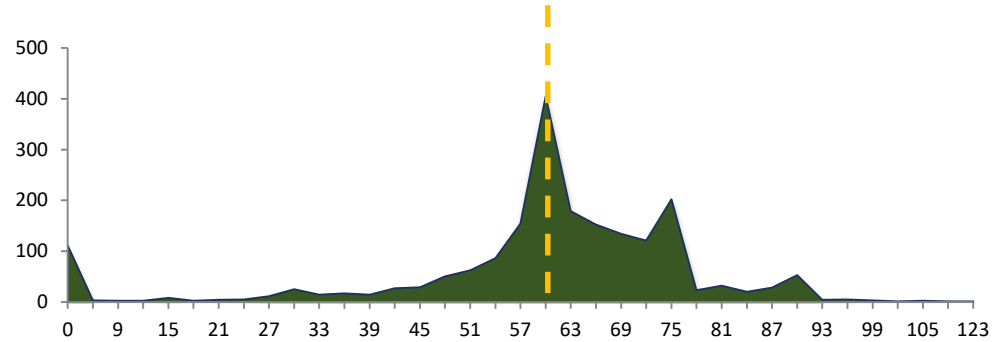
57%

OF TRANSFERS ARE AGE 22 OR YOUNGER; 33% FALL BETWEEN THE AGES OF 23 AND 30



3.3

AVERAGE TRANSFER GPA FROM NOVA TO MASON



61.8 AVERAGE NUMBER OF CREDITS TRANSFERRED (SUCCESSFULLY) BY TRANSFERS ACROSS THE LAST 3 YEARS

AVERAGE NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO TRANSFER TO MASON FROM NOVA ANNUALLY

3,100



11.5%

OF A TYPICAL YEAR'S TRANSFERS FROM NOVA TO MASON APPEAR TO BE WORKING ADULTS WITH INCOMES OF OVER \$30,000 PER YEAR



41%

RECEIVE SOME TYPE OF FEDERAL GRANT AID. FEW DIFFERENCES IN THE NUMBER OF CREDITS EARNED/TRANSFERRED FOR PELL AND NON-PELL STUDENTS



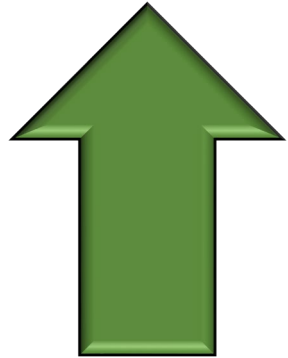
2.7

AVERAGE NUMBER OF YEARS STUDENTS SPEND AT NOVA BEFORE TRANSFERRING TO MASON

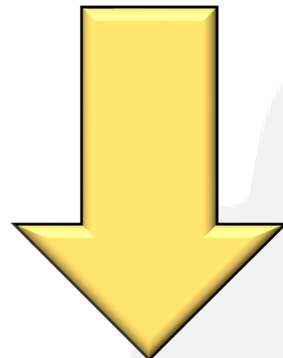
53%

OF NOVA TO MASON TRANSFERS HAVE COMPLETED AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE

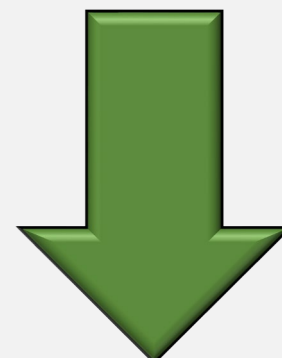
ADVANCE: Overview of Goals



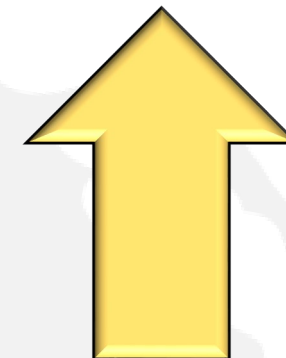
Increase number of NOVA students who **GRADUATE** with a 4-year degree



Decrease **TIME** it takes to graduate



Decrease the **COST** of a degree



Improve **ADVISING** and **STUDENT SUPPORT** for transfer students

The Benefits of ADVANCE

Targeted support to complete a bachelor's degree

Specialized, realigned degree programs to ensure credit transfer

Streamlined admission and financial aid process

Increased access to faculty, events, research, etc...

Significant cost savings
\$\$\$

Cohort-based model that allows students to build connections with peers

Success Coaches

- Serve as the primary point of contact for ADVANCE students
- Connects students to resources and services, including:
 - Financial Aid
 - Career Counseling
 - Academic Advising
 - Disability Services
 - Military Services
- Monitor progress towards ADVANCE milestones
- Assist with course enrollment each semester



Resources Available to ADVANCE Students



ADVANCE Curricular Pathways

- **Pathway Development**

- Approximately 100 pathways
- Focus on science, health related, and education programs
- Co-enrollment
- Faculty Summits

A.S. Engineering

NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE		➔	MASON	
NOVA Degree Requirement	NOVA Course	Credits	Transfer to MASON As	MASON Degree Requirement
SDV Course	SDV 100 College Success Skills or	1	UNIV 100	Elective
	SDV 101 Orientation to Engineering		UNIV 100	
ENG 111	ENG 111 College Composition I	3	ENGH 101	Written Comm
Social/Behavioral Sciences #1	HIS 101 History of Western Civilization I or	3	HIST 101	Western Civ
	HIS 102 History of Western Civilization II or		HIST 102	
	HIS 112 History of World Civilization		HIST 125	
MTH 263	MTH 263 Calculus I	4	MATH 113	Quantitative Reasoning
EGR 121	EGR 121 Foundations of Engineering	2	ENGR 107	DEGREE
CST Course	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking or	3	COMM 100	Oral Comm
	CST 110 Introduction to Communication		COMM 101	
Technical Elective #1	CSC 121 Computer Science I	4	CS 112	DEGREE
ENG 112	ENG 112 College Composition II	3	ENGH XXX	Elective

Eligibility Criteria

- In order to join **ADVANCE**, students must meet the following criteria:
 - High School Diploma or GED
 - <30 degree-applicable credits
 - >2.0 GPA (if college has already been completed)
 - Definite interest in transferring to Mason
 - Desire to pursue one of majors offered through ADVANCE



Declaration and Onboarding Process

The ADVANCE student admission and onboarding process includes the following steps:

Submit
Declaration
Form

Complete
ADVANCE
online Pre-
Orientation
video

Sign and
submit
ADVANCE
Agreement

Meet with
assigned
Success Coach
for new
student
appointment

Attend Welcome
Event and complete
Mason new student
requirements
(Mason e-mail, ID
card and
immunizations)

Milestones

Traditional Milestones

- Students must take SDV 100 or SDV 101 in the first semester at NOVA.
- Students must begin Developmental coursework in 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 MTE or ENF courses (excluding summer).
 - In the first 30 credits, students must:
 - Complete ENG 111 and ENG 112 with a C or better.
 - Complete the first college-level MTH course with a C or better.
- Students must complete at least six degree-applicable credits with a C or better each fall and spring semester.
- Students must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA.
- Students must apply for NOVA graduation and complete their Associate's degree.

Additional Milestones

- Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)
- College of Education
- College of Visual & Performing Arts (CVPA)
- School of Nursing/Allied Health Programs
- Volgenau School of Engineering (VSE)

ADVANCE at a Glance

Statistics:

1,000+
current students

Minority-
Majority
ADVANCE
Population

48 degree-
seeking students
at Mason as of
Spring 2020

48% Pell Eligible

Popular Pathways:

Cybersecurity, AAS

Cybersecurity, BAS

Business
Administration, AS

Business, BS

Criminology &
Criminal Justice, AS

Criminology, Law, &
Society, BS

Psychology, AS

Psychology, BS

Science, AS

Biology, BS

Important Considerations

Significant investment of time and resources

Cultural and infrastructural differences

Buy-in from cross-institutional stakeholders

Continual maintenance is required

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ADVANCE Website: <https://www.nvcc.edu/advance/>