

**WELCOME TO
ORIENTATION!**

Connecting with Your College

Exploratory Academic Advising



University Life
**NEW STUDENT AND
FAMILY PROGRAMS**
George Mason University®

Today's Agenda

- Academic advising at GMU; in the Office of Academic Advising – Exploratory; and advising throughout Mason experience
- Important university systems and how to access them
- Crucial academic and registration deadlines and processes
- Strategies for success at George Mason
- How virtual orientation advising works and how to prepare for it

Name Tag Icebreaker

Summer 2024 Orientation



Preferred First Name Last Name

Personal Pronouns

Reg Program College



Take a look around the room, each Exploratory student has a name tag with an emoji.

Each emoji has a question assigned to it – depending on which you have; you'll answer the question so we can get to know you!

Academic Advising at Mason

Role of an Academic Advisor

- Academic Planning
- Policy Interpretation
- General Support

Expectations – both directions!

- Professionalism
- Preparation
- Communication

Using Advising Effectively

- When to meet?
- Why to meet?
- Academic deadlines



Academic Deadlines

registrar.gmu.edu/calendars

Description	Full Semester	7.5 Week: Session I	7.5 Week: Session II
Election Day (Classes Do Not Meet)	Tue. Nov 5	N/A	Tue. Nov 5
Schedule of Classes Available in PatriotWeb	Tue. Mar 12	Tue. Mar 12	Tue. Mar 12
Priority Dates Begin	Tue. Apr 16	Tue. Apr 16	Tue. Apr 16
Consortium Registration Deadline	TBD	N/A	N/A
First Day of Fall Classes:	Mon. Aug 26	Mon. Aug 26	Mon. Oct 21
Last Day to Submit Domicile Reclassification Application	Mon. Aug 26	Mon. Aug 26	Mon. Aug 26
Last Day to Add: All Individual Sections Forms Due	Tue. Sept 3	Wed. Aug 28	Wed. Oct 23
Labor Day : University Closed	Mon. Sept 2	Mon. Sept 2	N/A
Last Day to Drop: With 100% Tuition Refund	Mon. Sept 9	Fri. Aug 30 (Final Drop)	Fri. Oct 25 (Final Drop)
Last Day to Drop: With 50% Tuition Refund	Tue. Sept 17	N/A	N/A
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 100% Tuition Liability	Wed. Sept 18 - Tue. Oct 1	Sat. Aug 31 - Fri. Sept 13	Sat. Oct 26 – Fri. Nov 8



Finding Advising

advising.gmu.edu



Advisor Locator



Academic Planning & Registration



Majors and Minors:
Explore, Change, Add



Change of Major



First-Year Student
Advising



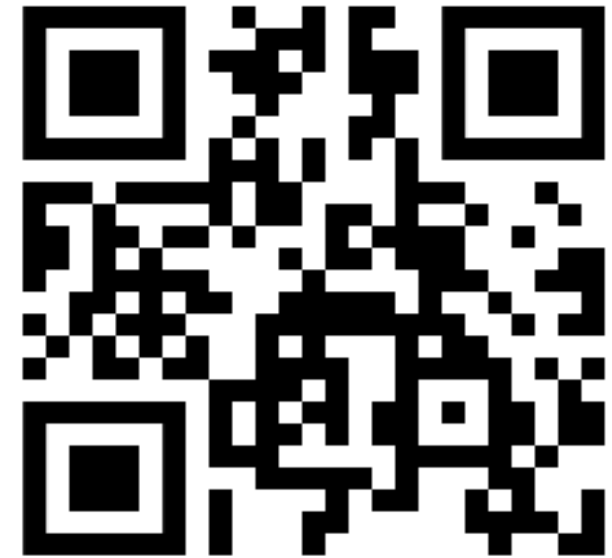
Exploratory Academic
Advising



Transfer Student
Advising



Non-Degree Student
Advising



Academic Advising in Exploratory

Our office of academic advisors serve students who are:

- Undeclared;
- Undecided; and/or
- Still exploring

We work with Exploratory students to support and guide them with their academic goals and career aspirations. Our intention is for students to create their own Mason story while exploring all the possible major options that align with their interests.

Academic Advising in Exploratory

Our office of academic advisors supports students by :

- Assisting with course scheduling and degree planning
- Helping students align their personal, academic, and career goals
- Providing personalized guidance during major exploration
- Assisting students with the major declaration process
- Ensuring awareness of Mason's timeline to declare (e.g., 60 credits)

Exploratory Ice Breaker: Beach Ball Toss



Gather in a circle and toss the ball to another
Exploratory student! Whichever question your right
thumb lands on, share your answer with the group.

Be sure to share your name before you answer the question. Once you've said your name and answered the question, toss the ball on to someone else in the group.

Success in College

Less class time, more studying

- Deceptive “free” time

Less structure & symmetry

- Every day is different
- Hard to set a consistent weekly routine

Less external accountability

- Nobody is “making sure” you’re doing anything
- Set your own systems of accountability

Infinite distractions

- Always something you could do instead

Intelligence + Effort + Support + Resilience

- Intelligence is not enough. Effort is not enough. **Seek support.**



Resources at Mason

- Academic, Social, Financial, Well-being
- Free and accessible to all Mason students
- advising.gmu.edu/resources



Virtual Advising & Registration

- Conducted remotely via Zoom
- Punctuality and preparation are essential – treat it like class
- Meet college/program advisors and leaders
- Focus on Fall courses
- Transfer/Freshmen Timelines



Preparing for Your Virtual Advising Session

- Patriot Web

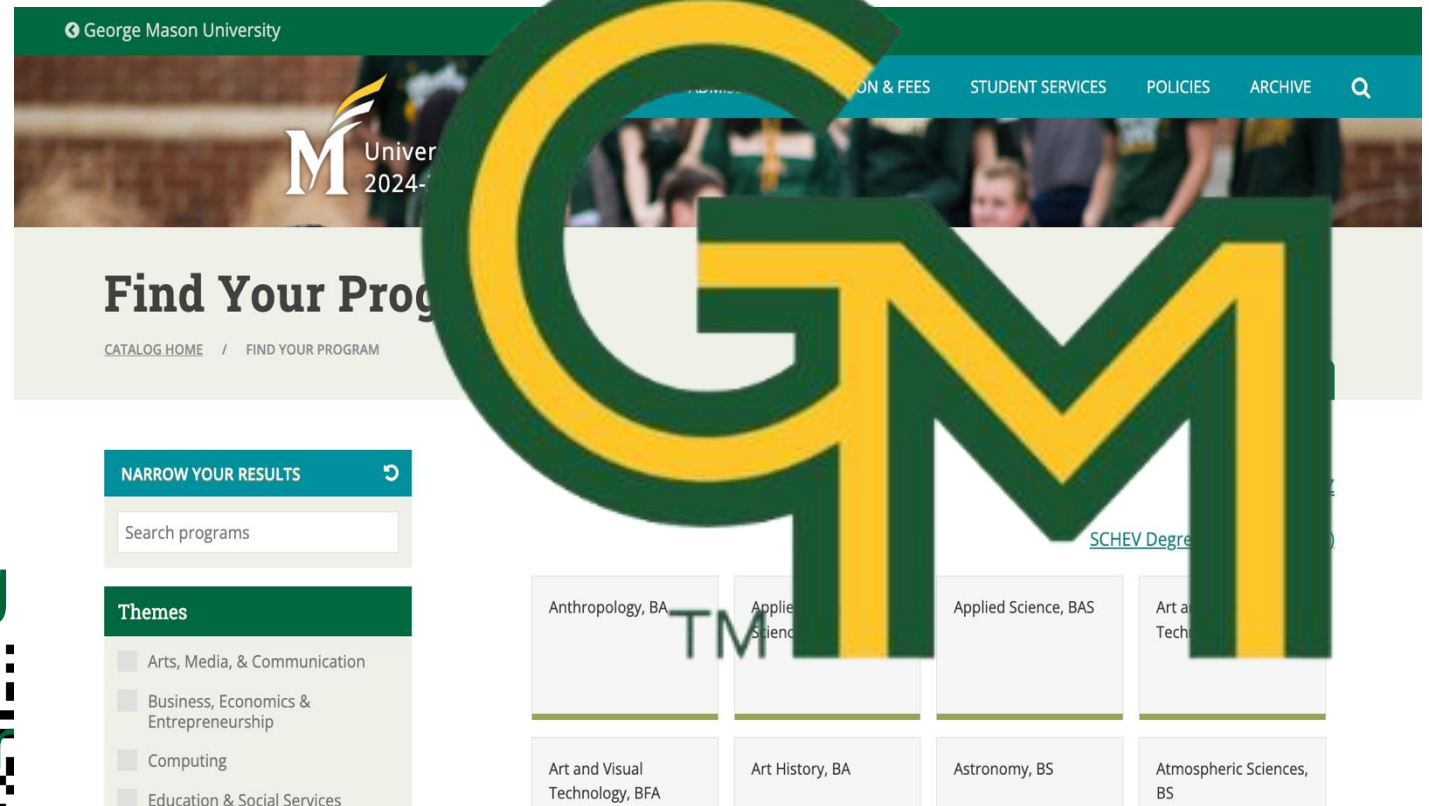
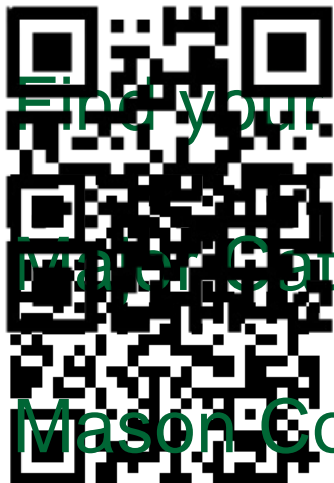
- Find your Program Tool

- Mason Catalog Review

- Mason Core

- Math Placement / Foreign

- Spring 2025 Course Plan



Your Next Steps

For Freshmen:

- ☐ Review sample 4-year plans for your major of choice
- ☐ Prepare a list of AP/IB, dual-enrollment, or any other college-level credits earned, if applicable, and make sure any test scores have been sent to the Office of Admissions
- ☐ Use Patriot Web to complete a rough draft of your schedule
- ☐ Identify at least three questions to ask during virtual advising

For Transfers:

- ☐ Review your Transfer Credit Evaluation for any missing credits
- ☐ Ensure your **final** transcript is submitted to the Office of Admissions
- ☐ Review your degree audit to see how your transfer credits are applying to requirements
- ☐ Identify at least three questions to ask during virtual advising

Please complete this quick feedback
survey for this presentation!

