

# Welcome to Orientation!

Connecting with the  
**College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA)**



# Today's Agenda

- How academic advising works in CVPA and at Mason overall
- Some important university systems and how to access them
- Crucial academic and registration deadlines
- Strategies for success as a Mason student
- How virtual orientation advising works and how to prepare for it

# Academic Advising in CVPA

- Advisors by major for all departments, and by alpha for the School of Art
- Advisors stay with you for your entire degree
- Best first points of contact for:
  - Understanding your **degree audit** and progression of your degree
  - **Challenges** beyond the subject matter of your courses and connection to **services**
  - Considering a **minor, double major, study abroad or an accelerated master's**
  - Understanding college **policy** and whether an **exception** is possible
  - Connecting to major-related **extracurriculars**

# Academic Advising at Mason

- **Your advisor is your primary resource**
- Understanding the rest of your “success team”
- Advisor meetings
  - When / how often
  - Expectations
    - Professionalism
    - Preparation
    - Communication
    - Follow through

## IMPORTANT TOOLS

**Patriot Connect** to schedule appointments -  
<https://plan.connect.gmu.edu/home/students/>

**Degree audit** to plan and check degree progress-  
<https://registrar.gmu.edu/degreeaudit/for-students/>

# Using Patriot Connect

The screenshot displays the Patriot Connect student portal. At the top, a dark green header contains the George Mason University logo, a search bar, and a user profile icon. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, MY APPOINTMENTS, MY NOTES, MY HOLDS, MY ACADEMIC PROFILE, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES, and SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column features a 'Welcome, Uma!' message, a 'Schedule Appointment' button, a 'Success Team' section, and a 'My Success Team' section. The right column features a 'Quick Action Center' with a 'Tasks' section showing 'Overall Progress (17%)' and a list of 'All Tasks'. Red boxes highlight the search bar, the 'Schedule Appointment' button, the 'My Success Team' section, and the 'Tasks' section. Dashed lines and arrows indicate relationships between these elements.

**Search...** **Search**

HOME MY APPOINTMENTS MY NOTES MY HOLDS MY ACADEMIC PROFILE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SCHEDULE APPOINTMENT

Welcome, Uma!  
Your student journey starts here

**Schedule Appointment**

**Success Team**  
View your assigned success team members and browse for additional support

**My Success Team**

Filter by  
All Teams ▼

Search advisors  
Q

▼ Student Success (4)

**Brielle DeMatteo**  
CHSS English Program Coordinator  
Email: bmatteo@gmu.test

**Josh Klabunde**  
Community Director  
Email: Not Available

**Kara McIntyre**  
Resident Assistant  
Email: kmcinty4@gmu.edu.primary

**Quick Action Center**

**Tasks**

Overall Progress (17%)  
1/6 tasks completed

**All Tasks**  
6 Items · Sorted by Due Date · Filtered by All Task Status

▼ **Referral: Career Services** **COMPLETED**  
Completed on Jan 28, 2025 · High priority  
Click here to book your appointment:  
<https://masonconnect-...na.sandbox.mv.site.com/PatriotConnectPortal/s/schedule>  
Mark Completed

# A few important dates and deadlines for fall

<b>First Day of Fall Classes:</b>	Mon. Aug 25
Last Day to Submit Domicile Reclassification Application	Mon. Aug 25
<b>Last Day to Add: All Individual Sections Forms Due</b>	Tue. Sept 2
<b>Labor Day : University Closed</b>	Mon. Sept 1
<b>Last Day to Drop: With 100% Tuition Refund</b>	Mon. Sept 8
<b>Last Day to Drop: With 50% Tuition Refund</b>	Tue. Sept 16
<b>Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 100% Tuition Liability</b>	Wed. Sept 17 - Tue. Sept 30
<b>Fall Break</b> (Classes Do Not Meet)	Mon. Oct 13
<b>Mid-term Evaluation Period:</b> 100-200 level classes - Grades Available via PatriotWeb	Mon. Sept 22 - Fri. Oct 17
<b>Selective Withdrawal Period</b> - Undergraduate Students Only <b>(100% Tuition Liability)</b>	Wed. Oct 1 - Mon. Oct 27



[registrar.gmu.edu/calendars](https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars)

# Success in College

'Free time' isn't always free - less in-class time, but more studying and out-of-class time

## Less structure & symmetry

- Every day is different
- Hard to set 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 when needed.**

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8 AM	CLASS 1	STUDY	CLASS 1	STUDY	CLASS 1
9 AM	STUDY	STUDY	STUDY	STUDY	STUDY
10 AM	STUDY	CLASS 3	STUDY	CLASS 3	STUDY
11 AM	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 2	CLASS 3	CLASS 2
12 PM	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
1 PM	STUDY	STUDY	STUDY	STUDY	LAB
2 PM	STUDY	CLASS 4	STUDY	CLASS 4	LAB
3 PM	LAB	CLASS 4	CLASS 5	CLASS 4	STUDY
4 PM	LAB	STUDY	CLASS 5	STUDY	STUDY
5 PM	LAB	STUDY	CLASS 5	STUDY	STUDY
6 PM	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER
7 M	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
8 PM	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE



## Lots of other resources at Mason

Academic, social, financial

Do you need accommodations?

Attend performances, exhibitions, games

**Free and accessible** to all Mason students



<https://advising.gmu.edu/resources/>





# Honors slide for relevant sections

## Virtual Advising & Registration

- Conducted via Zoom - main room plus major-specific breakout rooms
- Sessions are not 'drop-in' - they start **promptly at 9AM, 1:30PM or 6PM**
- Patriot Web = registration platform
- Schedule of Courses = courses available
- Degree plans (4-year, 2.5 year) will be shared by advisors
- Mason Core classes will be part of your first semester
- **NO Math Placement tests are required for CVPA**
- Foreign language waivers



<https://advising.gmu.edu/newstudent/>

# Next Steps

## For Freshmen:

- ☐ Do you have AP/IB, dual-enrollment, or any other college-level credits earned? If so, please **make sure any test scores or final transcripts have been sent to the Office of Admissions**
- ☐ Log into **Patriot Web** to familiarize yourself – tutorials on the Registrar’s website to help - <https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/patriot-web-tutorials/>
- ☐ Prepare any questions you may have 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



So great to meet you - thank you  
for joining!

Please complete this quick  
feedback survey for this  
presentation

