

Welcome to Orientation!

Connecting with Your College

Exploratory Academic Advising



Today's Agenda

- Academic advising at GMU, in the Office of Academic Advising – Exploratory, and advising throughout the George 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 2025 Orientation



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

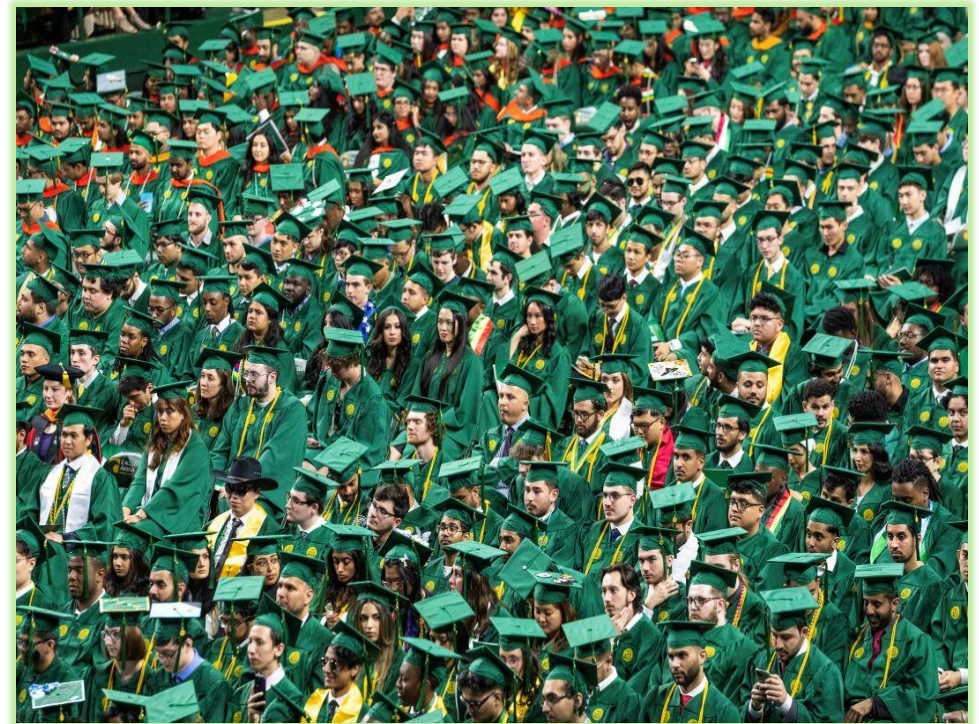
- Academic Planning
- Policy Interpretation
- General Support

Expectations – both directions!

- Professionalism
- Preparation
- Communication

Using Advising Effectively

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



Academic Deadlines

Description	Full Semester	7.5 Week: Session I	7.5 Week: Session II	8 Week: Session I	8 Week: Session II
Schedule of Classes Available in PatriotWeb	Tue. Mar 11	Tue. Mar 11	Tue. Mar 11	Tue. Mar 11	Tue. Mar 11
Priority Dates Begin	Tue. Apr 15	Tue. Apr 15	Tue. Apr 15	Tue. Apr 15	Tue. Apr 15
Consortium Registration Deadline	TBD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
First Day of Fall Classes:	Mon. Aug 25	Mon. Aug 25	Mon. Oct 20	Mon. Aug 25	Wed. Oct 22
Last Day to Submit Domicile Reclassification Application	Mon. Aug 25	Mon. Aug 25	Mon. Aug 25	Mon. Aug 25	Mon. Aug 25
Last Day to Add: All Individual Sections Forms Due	Tue. Sept 2	Wed. Aug 27	Wed. Oct 22	Thur. Aug 28	Sat. Oct 25
Labor Day : University Closed	Mon. Sept 1	Mon. Sept 1	N/A	Mon. Sept 1	N/A
Last Day to Drop: With 100% Tuition Refund	Mon. Sept 8	Fri. Aug 29 (Final Drop)	Fri. Oct 24 (Final Drop)	Tue. Sept 2 (Final Drop)	Wed. Oct 29 (Final Drop)
Last Day to Drop: With 50% Tuition Refund	Tue. Sept 16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 100% Tuition Liability	Wed. Sept 17 - Tue. Sept 30	Sat. Aug 30 - Fri. Sept 12	Sat. Oct 25 – Fri. Nov 7	Wed. Sept 3 - Sun. Sept 21	Thur. Oct 30 - Tue. Nov 18



registrar.gmu.edu/calendars

Finding Advising



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



advising.gmu.edu

Academic Advising in Exploratory

- Our office of academic advisors serves students who are:
 - Undeclared;
 - Undecided; and/or
 - Still exploring
- We work with Exploratory students to support and guide them through their academic goals and career aspirations. Our intention is for students to create their own George Mason story while exploring all the possible major options that align with their interests.

Academic Advising in Exploratory

- Our office of exploratory 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 the George Mason's timeline to declare (e.g., 60 credits)

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



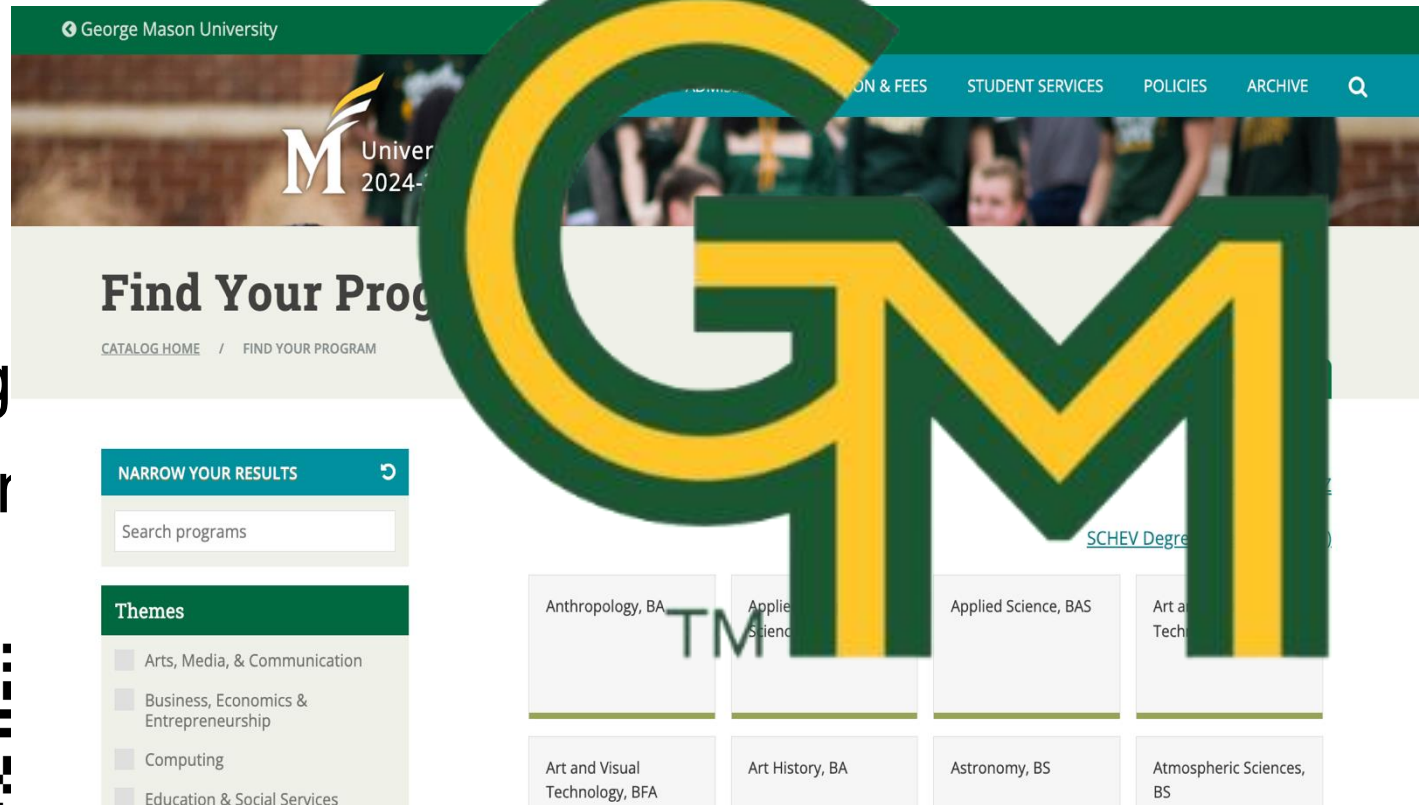
Virtual Advising & Registration

- Conducted remotely via Zoom
- Punctuality and preparation are essential – treat it like a 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
- Major Catalog Review
- What to Do
- Main Placement / Foreign
- Fall 2025 Course Plannir



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

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.

**Please complete this quick feedback survey
for this presentation!**

