

Welcome to Orientation!

Exploratory at George Mason: A Confident Start to Finding
Your Best-Fit Major



Introduce Yourself!

Peek around the room! Every Exploratory student has a name tag with an emoji. Each emoji comes with a question, and the one you have will guide you on what to answer. That way, we can get to know you better!

Summer 2026 Orientation



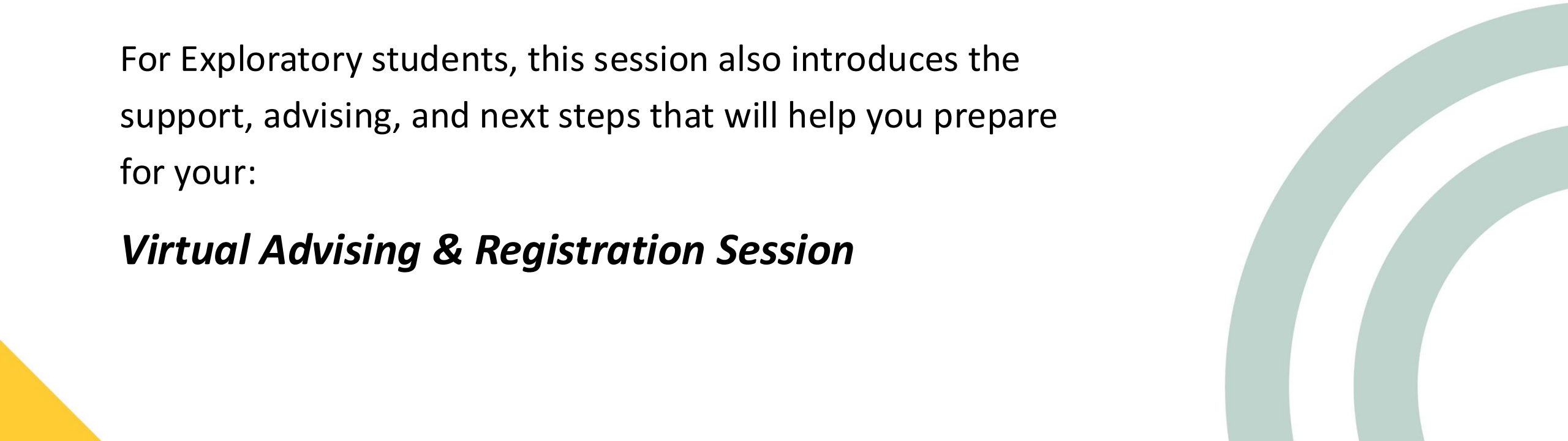
- **Name**
- **Possible Major/Career**
- **Emoji**

What's the Goal of this Session?

On-Campus Orientation is an interactive day designed to help you build relationships, connect with campus resources, and begin navigating your academic journey at Mason.

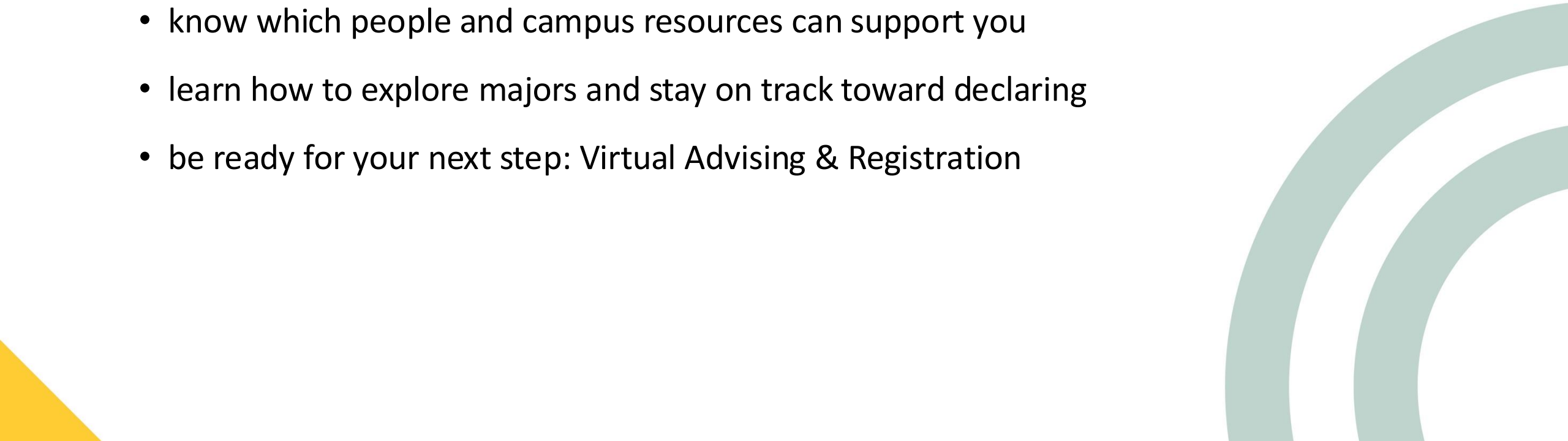
For Exploratory students, this session also introduces the support, advising, and next steps that will help you prepare for your:

Virtual Advising & Registration Session



What You'll Learn Before You Go

Before you leave, you will:

- better understand the Exploratory student experience at Mason
 - know which people and campus resources can support you
 - learn how to explore majors and stay on track toward declaring
 - be ready for your next step: Virtual Advising & Registration
- 

WHY EXPLORATORY?

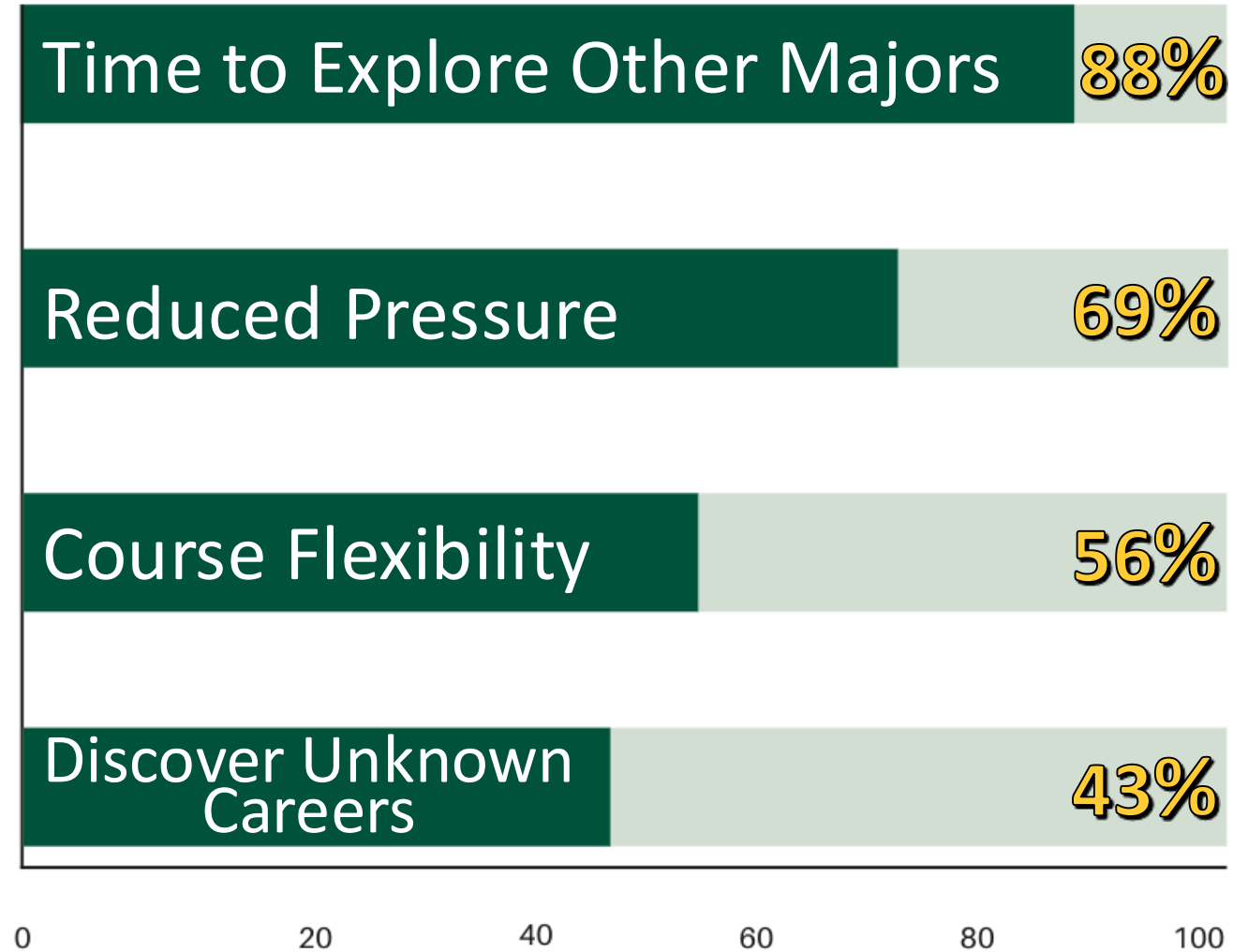


What Makes Exploratory Different

- Freedom to Discover Your Path
 - Explore multiple subjects and interests before committing to a field
 - Take courses across different disciplines
 - Avoid early burnout
- Reduced Pressure, Better Decisions
 - Time to understand your strengths and interests
 - Develop skills that last a lifetime
 - Build confidence through small, achievable goals

What Makes Exploratory Different

Students were asked
in a recent survey,
"What do you see as
the biggest benefits
of being an
Exploratory major?"



You're not delaying! You're building!

- Skills Employers Actually Want
 - Adaptability
 - Critical Thinking
 - Creative Problem-Solving
 - Communication
 - Decision-Making
 - Initiative and Persistence
 - Broader Perspective
 - Self-Efficacy



Beyond the "Practical" Major

- Myth: Electives are Useless
 - Extraneous courses are often the most engaging
 - Lead to enduring lessons and unexpected career opportunities
 - The Catch?
 - Value may not become clear until years later
- "Diversify the Portfolio of You"
 - Hedge against uncertain futures
 - Breadth creates more paths forward

Exploratory Academic Advising

What We Provide

- Academic Planning & Course Scheduling
- Major Exploration & Goal Alignment
- Policy Guidance & Support
- Ongoing Communication



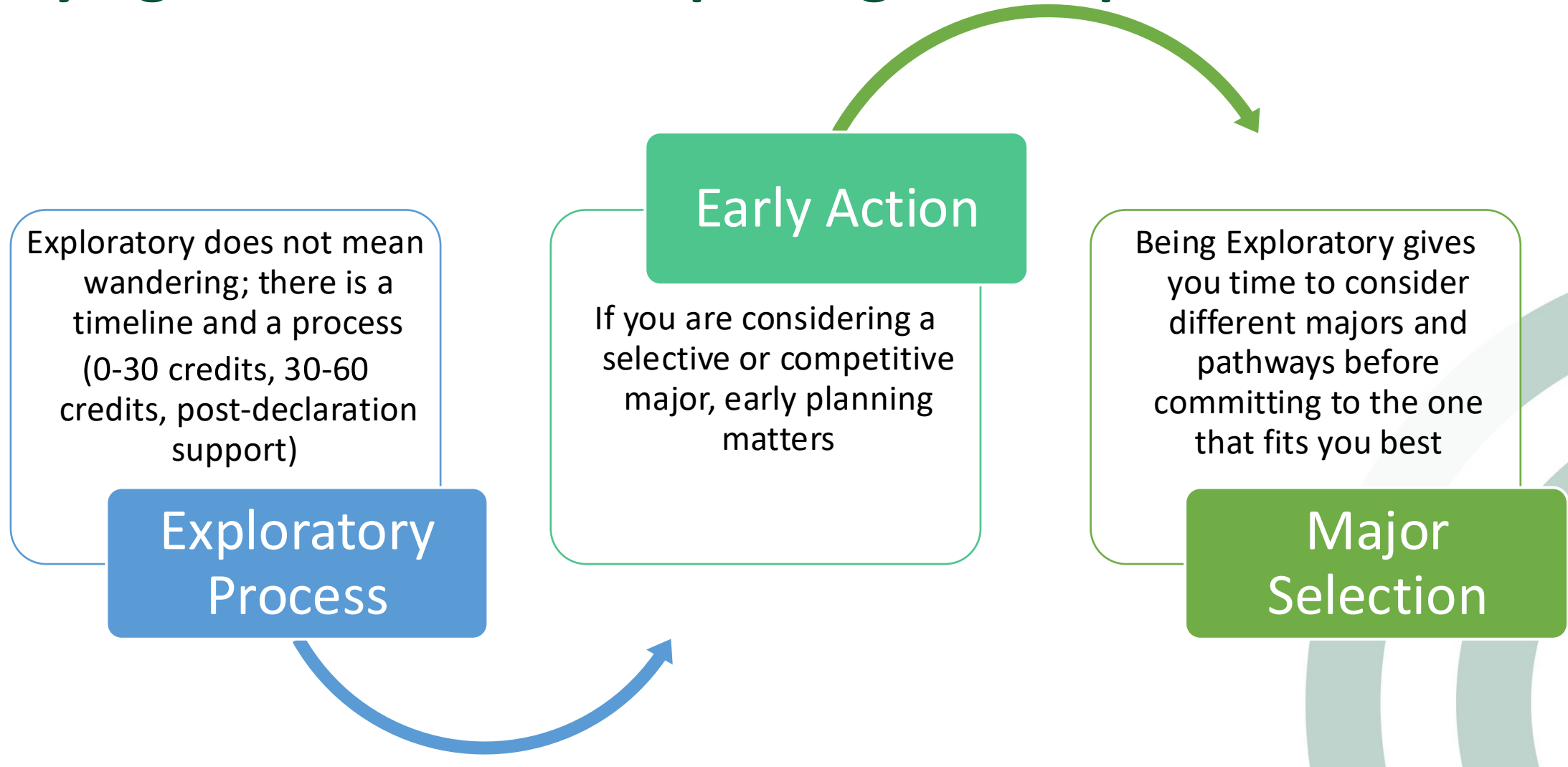
Academic Deadlines



SCAN ME

First Day of Fall Classes:	Mon. Aug 24	Mon. Aug 24	Mon. Oct 19	Mon. Aug 24	Wed. Oct 21
Last Day to Submit Domicile Reclassification Application	Mon. Aug 24	Mon. Aug 24	Mon. Aug 24	Mon. Aug 24	Mon. Aug 24
Last Day to Add: All Individual Sections Forms Due	Mon. Aug. 31	Wed. Aug 26	Wed. Oct 21	Thur. Aug 27	Sat. Oct 24
Labor Day : University Closed	Mon. Sept 7	Mon. Sept 7	N/A	Mon. Sept 7	N/A
Last Day to Drop: With 100% Tuition Refund	Tue. Sept 8	Fri. Aug 28 (Final Drop)	Fri. Oct 23 (Final Drop)	Mon. Aug. 31 (Final Drop)	Wed. Oct 28 (Final Drop)
Last Day to Drop: With 50% Tuition Refund	Tue. Sept 15	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unrestricted Withdrawal Period: 100% Tuition Liability	Wed. Sept 16 - Tue. Sept 29	Sat. Aug 29 - Fri. Sept 11	Sat. Oct 24 - Fri. Nov 6	Tue. Sept 1 - Sun. Sept 20	Thur. Oct 29 - Tue. Nov 17
Mid-term Evaluation Period: 100-200 level classes - Grades Available via PatriotWeb	Mon. Sept 21 - Fri. Oct 16	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Selective Withdrawal Period - Undergraduate Students Only (100% Tuition Liability)	Wed. Sep 30 - Mon. Oct 26	Sat. Sept 12 - Fri. Sept 18	Sat. Nov 7 - Fri. Nov 13	N/A	N/A

Staying on Track While Exploring Your Options



Staying on Track While Exploring Your Options

Your Exploratory Academic Advisor can help your major options and understand requirements.

Requirements	Readiness	Advising Support
Some majors have specific admission, progression, or continuation expectations. 	Math placement and early coursework can affect which major options stay open. 	Exploratory advising can help you understand expectations, plan strategically, and explore aligned options.

Mock Registration: Build Your First Semester



Goal: Practice navigating George Mason's registration system

Step 1: Pick a Sample Schedule (See Worksheet)

- Choose a schedule that matches your interests (this is just practice—you can explore multiple!)
- Identify one Mason Core category you need to fulfill

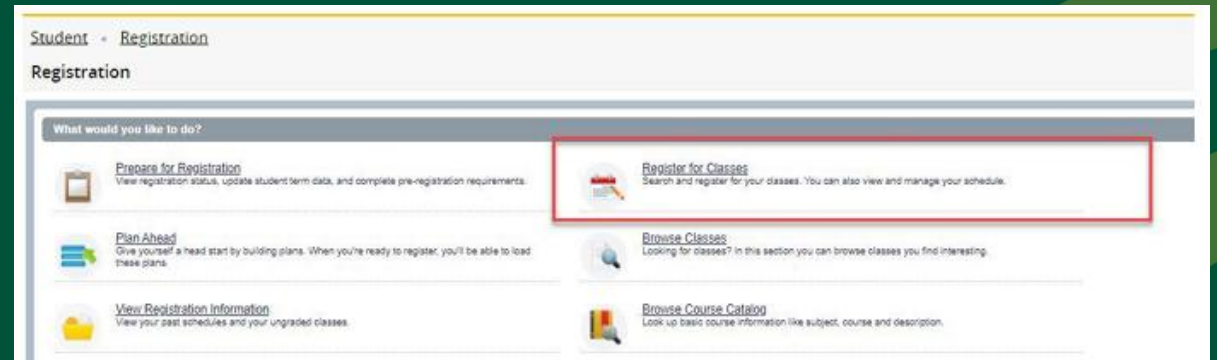
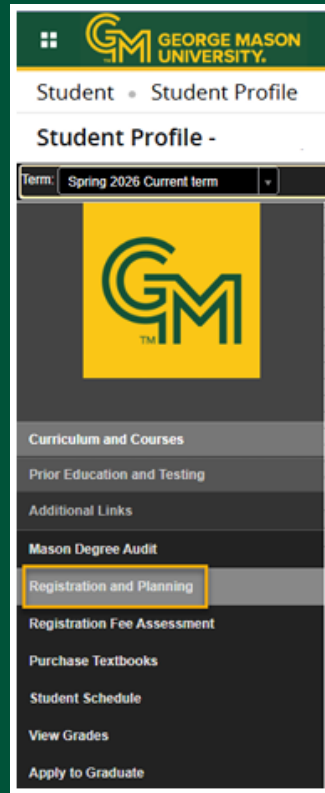
Step 2: Search for Courses

- Go to <https://catalog.gmu.edu/mason-core/>
- Search courses under your chosen Mason Core category
- Browse options and select one course that interests you

Mock Registration: Build Your First Semester

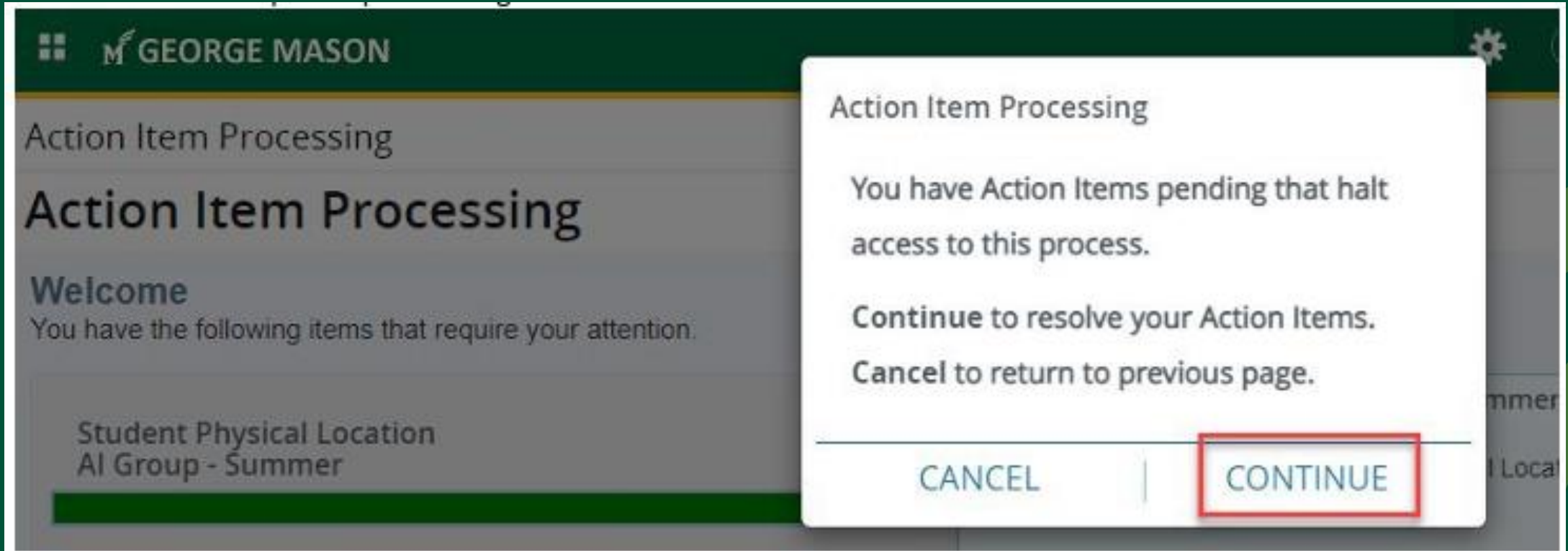
Step 3: Explore Your Course

- Go to <https://patriotweb.gmu.edu>



Mock Registration: Build Your First Semester

Step 3: Explore Your Course



The screenshot shows a web application interface for George Mason University. The main content area is titled "Action Item Processing" and includes a "Welcome" message: "You have the following items that require your attention." Below this, it lists "Student Physical Location" and "AI Group - Summer". A modal dialog box is overlaid on the right side of the screen. The dialog box is titled "Action Item Processing" and contains the following text: "You have Action Items pending that halt access to this process." and "Continue to resolve your Action Items. Cancel to return to previous page." At the bottom of the dialog box, there are two buttons: "CANCEL" and "CONTINUE". The "CONTINUE" button is highlighted with a red rectangular border.

GEORGE MASON

Action Item Processing

Action Item Processing

Welcome
You have the following items that require your attention.

Student Physical Location
AI Group - Summer

Action Item Processing

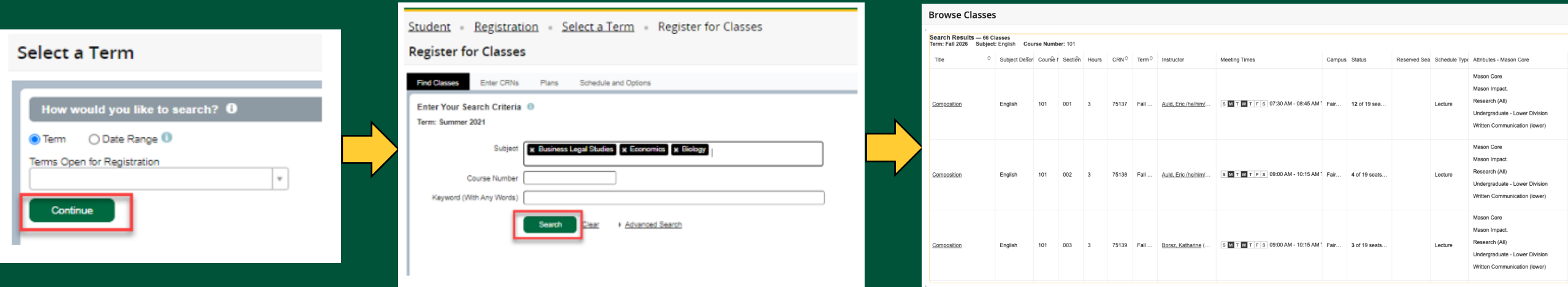
You have Action Items pending that halt access to this process.

Continue to resolve your Action Items.
Cancel to return to previous page.

CANCEL | **CONTINUE**

Mock Registration: Build Your First Semester

Step 3: Explore Your Course



Select a Term

How would you like to search? ⓘ

☒ Term ☐ Date Range ⓘ

Terms Open for Registration

Continue

Student • Registration • Select a Term • Register for Classes

Register for Classes

Find Classes Enter CRNs Plans Schedule and Options

Enter Your Search Criteria ⓘ

Term: Summer 2021

Subject

Course Number

Keyword (With Any Words)

Search Clear Advanced Search

Browse Classes

Search Results — 66 Classes
Term: Fall 2026 Subject: English Course Number: 101

Title	Subject Descri	Course I	Section	Hours	CRN	Term	Instructor	Meeting Times	Campus	Status	Reserved Sea	Schedule Typ	Attributes - Mason Core
Composition	English	101	001	3	75137	Fall ...	Auld, Eric (he/him/...	S M T W T F S 07:30 AM - 08:45 AM	Fair...	12 of 19 sea...		Lecture	Mason Core Mason Impact. Research (All) Undergraduate - Lower Division Written Communication (lower)
Composition	English	101	002	3	75138	Fall ...	Auld, Eric (he/him/...	S M T W T F S 09:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Fair...	4 of 19 seats...		Lecture	Mason Core Mason Impact. Research (All) Undergraduate - Lower Division Written Communication (lower)
Composition	English	101	003	3	75139	Fall ...	Boraz, Katharine (...)	S M T W T F S 09:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Fair...	3 of 19 seats...		Lecture	Mason Core Mason Impact. Research (All) Undergraduate - Lower Division Written Communication (lower)

Mock Registration: Build Your First Semester

Step 3: Explore Your Course

- Look up details about your selected course

Step 4: Complete Your Worksheet

- Answer questions based on what you found
 - Is the course offered in Fall 2026?
 - Are there seats available?
 - Are there prerequisites?

Virtual Advising & Registration

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



Next Steps

Freshmen

- ☐ Review sample plans
- ☐ Prepare list of AP/IB, dual-enrollment, other college-level credit earned, test scores sent to Office of Admissions
- ☐ Use Patriot Web to create a rough draft of your schedule

Transfers

- ☐ Review Transfer Credit Evaluation for missing credits
- ☐ Ensure **final** transcript was submitted to Office of Admissions
- ☐ Review Mason Degree Audit to see how transfer credits apply

Thank you!

Please complete this quick feedback survey
for this presentation!

