

Program Change Request

Date Submitted: 09/22/25 2:28 pm

Viewing: : **College of Science**

Last approved: 05/13/25 9:47 am

Last edit: 10/02/25 7:49 am

Changes proposed by: jbazaz

Catalog Pages
Using this Program

[College of Science](#)

Are you completing this form on someone else's behalf?

Yes

Requestor:

Name	Extension	Email
Assad Khan	9033	akhanf

Effective Catalog: 2026-2027

Program Level: College/Department

Program Type: College

Title: College of Science

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SCHEV Approved

In Workflow

1. Registrar-Programs:College-Dept Workflow
2. SC Curriculum Committee
3. SC Assistant Dean
4. Assoc Provost-Graduate
5. Assoc Provost-Undergraduate
6. Registrar-Programs

Approval Path

1. 09/24/25 10:15 am
Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra):
Approved for
Registrar-Programs:College-Dept Workflow

History

1. Oct 31, 2017 by
clmig-jwehrheim

Status

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SCHEV
Letter

Registrar/OAPI Use
Only – SACSCOC
Status

College/School: College of Science

Is there an
embedded degree
as part of a
program?

Justification

What: Clarifying "Excluded Courses" and "Permission to Study Elsewhere" sections of the COS Undergraduate policies.

Why: To update and clarify the college's policies in order to inform student advising and planning.

What: Correcting links, aligning with branding.

Why: Performing general catalog clean-up.

- 2. Feb 22, 2018 by rzachari
- 3. Feb 28, 2018 by rzachari
- 4. Feb 28, 2018 by rzachari
- 5. Dec 7, 2018 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
- 6. Mar 14, 2019 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
- 7. Mar 9, 2021 by Tori Blocker (vblocke)
- 8. Mar 24, 2021 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
- 9. Mar 7, 2022 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
- 10. Apr 3, 2023 by Tory Sarro (vsarro)
- 11. May 2, 2024 by Jennifer Bazaz Gettys (jbazaz)
- 12. Apr 24, 2025 by Deborah Mcgarrah (dmcgarra)
- 13. May 13, 2025 by Christina Theodorou (ctheodo)

Catalog Published Information

College
Requirements &
Policies:

College Policies

Students in the College ~~The students~~ of Science (Mason Science) ~~the college~~ are governed by the policies and procedures of the university. Areas where the college provides additional guidance will be found in the Undergraduate Education and Graduate Education sections below.

Accommodations for Disabled Students

Students with documented disabilities should contact the [Office of Disability Services](#) (703-993-2474) to learn more about accommodations that may be available to them.

Undergraduate Education

The college offers numerous certificates, Bachelor of Arts, and Bachelor of Science degrees. These undergraduate degrees consist of coursework in the [Mason Core](#), in a major area of study, and in elective courses. To earn a bachelor's degree, students must at a minimum:

- Complete 120 credits, of which at least 45 must be in upper-level courses (numbered 300 and above).
- Complete at least one course designated as "writing intensive" (at the 300 or 400-level).
- All entering students who have not yet satisfied the [Mason Core](#) requirement in 'Quantitative Reasoning' are required to take the [Math Placement Test](#) prior to enrollment.
- Students should also consult [AP.5 Undergraduate Policies](#) for information concerning university-wide requirements for undergraduate degrees.

All students are responsible for meeting with their academic advisor and reviewing their transcripts and degree audits regularly to ensure that they are correct and meet all requirements. Transfer students are encouraged to meet with their academic advisor prior to registering for classes in order to review their transcripts and course equivalencies. In some cases, students may need to earn more than 120 credits to complete all of the [degree](#) requirements. More information regarding the undergraduate programs administered by the college is available on the [college's website](#).

College-level Degree Requirements

The baccalaureate degree is designed to provide a broad knowledge of the world, develop in students the ability to think conceptually and critically, acquaint them with many different methods of inquiry, and provide skills to continue intellectual growth throughout life.

Bachelor of Arts

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree provides students with a breadth of knowledge as well as the necessary skills to make in-depth study of a major truly meaningful. In addition to the [Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees](#) and the [Mason Core](#), students pursuing a BA degree must also complete the College Requirements for the BA Degree, and the degree program's requirements, both listed in the specific degree program's catalog page.

Bachelor of Science

The Bachelor of Science (BS) degree provides students with a more intensive approach to the technical core knowledge and concepts in their major field of study. Therefore, this curriculum has a reduced number of courses in humanities and social sciences in comparison with the BA degree in order to allow students to achieve greater depth in their majors. Students pursuing a BS degree must complete the [Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees](#), including the [Mason Core](#), and the requirements for their major. Requirements for each BS major are listed on the specific degree program's catalog page.

Minors

Students may elect to take a minor in addition to their major field of study. For policies governing all minors, see [AP.5.3.4 Minors](#). Students interested in earning a minor should complete the [Minor Declaration form](#).

Teacher Licensure

Degree programs that help to prepare students for teaching careers are available in the following programs:

- [Biology, BA](#)
- [Biology, BS](#)
- [Chemistry, BA](#)
- [Chemistry, BS](#)
- [Geology, BS](#)
- [Mathematics, BA](#)
- [Mathematics, BS](#)
- [Physics, BS](#)

Students who wish to become teachers and who plan to seek teacher licensure should also consult the [College of Education and Human Development](#) and attend an information session early in their undergraduate career. For more information, visit the [School of Education's website](#).

Undergraduate Policies

Students should become familiar with the university's general academic policies in addition to those specific to each department. Please see [AP.5 Undergraduate Policies](#).

Students with questions regarding exceptions to undergraduate academic policies and college-level requirements should contact the college's Office of Academic and Student Affairs (email: ugradCOS@gmu.edu). Additional academic information and forms are available online from the [college's webpage](#).

Registration

Students are personally responsible for correctly registering for courses and paying all tuition and fees by the official university registration and payment deadlines. Instructors do not have the authority to add students to courses. All students should verify the accuracy of their enrollment before the end of the official add period. Calendars are available on the [Office of the University Registrar's website](#).

Academic Load

Students should review the university policies regarding academic load in [AP.1.2 Academic Load](#).

In order to be considered for an overload, students must fulfill all of the following criteria:

- Be in good academic standing,
- Have completed the prior semester with a GPA of 2.75 or higher,
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher,
- No grades of 'C-' or lower in the previous semester,
- Have demonstrated in prior semesters at George Mason the ability to handle an increased and demanding course load while maintaining high performance, and
- Have no remaining incompletes ('IN') from a previous semester

Freshmen and transfer students in their first semesters are not given permission for overloads as they have yet to establish an academic record at [George Mason](#).

If approved for an overload, the student is responsible for adding the additional class(es) and paying for the related tuition and fees by the official university deadlines. Calendars are available on the [Office of the University Registrar's website](#).

Excluded Courses

The college's students are limited to 3 credits of coursework in [Recreation \(RECR\)](#) and [Physical Education \(PHED\)](#) activity courses which may be taken to satisfy degree requirements and applied as general elective credits toward a degree in the college.

Military Science courses [MLSC 400](#) Leadership and Management and [MLSC 402](#) Leadership and Ethics can be used for credit toward a degree in the [college](#). ~~college, but credit from other MLSC courses may not be applied toward the college's degrees.~~ [Additionally, up to 3 credits of 100-level MLSC coursework may be applied toward the college's degrees.](#)

[Students may apply credits from CLEP exams to the college's degrees only if those credits were awarded and reported prior to matriculation. Once matriculated at George Mason, students may not take CLEP exams and apply credits from those exams toward the college's degrees.](#)

~~Once matriculated at Mason, students may not take CLEP exams and apply credits from those exams toward the college's degrees. Students may apply credits from CLEP exams to the college's degrees only if those credits were awarded and reported prior to admission.~~

University Consortium Registration

Students should review the university policies in [AP.1.4 Special Registration Procedures](#), including the University Consortium listing.

In addition, students who have failed a course at [George](#) Mason are not permitted to take the equivalent course through the consortium under any circumstances. All consortium registration requests must be submitted to the [Office of Academic and Student Affairs](#) at least three weeks prior to the first day of classes for the relevant semester at [George](#) Mason.

Permission to Study Elsewhere

Once enrolled in degree status at [George](#) Mason, students with less than 60 hours of earned transfer credits (excluding any credits earned through the [Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area](#) or through [the Global Education Office](#)) are eligible to take one course (which ~~Mason Abroad~~) may include a lecture and lab/corequisite pairing) take no more than 9 credits of COS-equivalent coursework in the college's disciplines at another regionally accredited US institution of higher education. institution: A lecture course with an associated lab/corequisite must be requested and taken within the same term.

Students with 60 or more transfer credit hours are prohibited from taking additional coursework in the college's disciplines at another institution.

A request to study elsewhere should only be requested for the purpose of timely progression and must count toward a major/degree requirement. Students are only permitted to take courses elsewhere under unusual circumstances. Scheduling or modality convenience, or financial reasons are not permissible circumstances to study elsewhere. Courses deemed as elective credit will not be considered.

Students requesting to study elsewhere must have both a cumulative and previous semester/term grade point average of 2.00 or above. All approvals are provisional until all final grades from the previous semester/term have been submitted.

The course requested by the student cannot be offered through George Mason in a virtual/asynchronous fashion for the semester/term requested.

In addition, students requesting to study elsewhere for a course which contains a laboratory portion must provide proof that the laboratory is being taught in an in-person modality. The request will not be reviewed until this verification is provided. Virtual/online labs will not be considered.

See AP.1.4.2 Permission to Study Elsewhere for more information.

~~Students with 60 or more hours of transfer credits are prohibited from taking additional coursework in the college's disciplines at another institution. Students may request special permission for additional credits beyond these listed limits for summer registration if their permanent residence is more than 50 miles from Mason's Fairfax campus. See AP.1.4.2 Permission to Study Elsewhere for more information.~~

Study Abroad

In order to be considered for study through [the Global Education Office](#), ~~Mason Abroad~~, students must plan well in advance and receive prior, written permission from the college's Office of Academic and Student Affairs. Students must also meet all of the following criteria:

- Meet all eligibility criteria for their program as specified by [the Global Education Office](#), ~~Mason Abroad~~, including minimum GPA requirements,
- Completed the immediately preceding semester at [George Mason](#) with a GPA of 2.00 or higher, and
- Completed the necessary forms and obtained all required signatures and course equivalencies.

[The Global Education Office](#) ~~Mason Abroad~~ may have higher academic standards and students must meet all eligibility requirements.

Students in danger of probation, suspension, or dismissal should plan very carefully before requesting to study abroad. Students who are not in good academic standing will not be permitted to study abroad.

Leave of Absence

Please consult [AP.1.8 Undergraduate Leave of Absence](#) regarding the leave of absence policy.

Withdrawals

Courses for which a withdrawal is approved receive a grade of 'W'.

Students are responsible for all courses in which they remain officially enrolled once the unrestricted withdrawal period has ended. Please review the applicable [academic calendar](#) for pertinent dates.

Instructors do not have the authority to withdraw students from classes. Withdrawals require the approval of the college's associate dean for student affairs, are typically allowed only for full semesters at a time (all enrolled courses), and are only permitted for non-academic reasons. Withdrawals cannot be approved for academic reasons. ~~When submitting a withdrawal request, students must provide verifiable, third-party documentation for the reason for the withdrawal. Requests for withdrawals should be submitted as early in the semester as possible, and never after the last day of classes.~~

When submitting a withdrawal request, students must provide verifiable, third-party documentation for the reason for the withdrawal. Requests for withdrawals should be submitted as early in the semester as possible, and never after the last day of classes.

Credits graded 'W' do not affect a student's GPA, but do count as attempted hours. The total attempted hours and cumulative GPA determine a student's academic standing. If the cumulative GPA is below 2.00, withdrawals may affect whether a student will be on warning, probation, suspension, or dismissal. Students should be familiar with [AP.5.2 Academic Standing](#). ~~AP.5.2.3 Student Retention Categories.~~

Academic Clemency

Students should review the university policies regarding academic clemency in [AP.5.2.9 Academic Clemency](#).

In extraordinary cases, students who (a) have been absent from Mason for a minimum of three consecutive calendar years, and (b) are currently in their first semester back at the university may request that the college's [Associate Dean](#) ~~associate dean~~ for [Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs](#) ~~student affairs~~ consider allowing clemency from up to 16 hours of coursework from previous semesters.

To be considered for this clemency, students must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be absent from [George](#) Mason for a minimum of three consecutive calendar years,
- Provide a detailed explanation for why they were unsuccessful in those courses and how they have made changes to ensure their academic progress upon their return,
- Submit their request within 12 months of the first day of the re-enrollment term,
- In order to make this request, students should
 1. Enroll in at least 6 hours during their first 12 months back at [George Mason](#), ~~Mason~~ and
 2. Earn a minimum GPA of 2.50 each semester back prior to making the clemency request, with no grade below 2.00.

If these minimum academic requirements are not met during the first semester of return, ~~then~~ clemency will not be allowed under any circumstances.

Appeals Process

Students may appeal departmental decisions concerning academic actions to Office of Academic and Student Affairs. They may further appeal the decisions of Office of Academic and Student Affairs to the [Mason](#) ~~College of~~ Science Dean's Council, a committee composed of college deans and faculty members. These levels of appeal are subject to the limits below concerning the final level of appeal for each type of academic action. Students who feel that the college appeal process was conducted unfairly may appeal to the Office of the Provost as specified in [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). Grade appeals should first be made to the department or program, following the process specified in [AP.3.9 Grade Appeals](#). If they are resolved within the department or program, that is the final level of appeal. The departmental decision may be appealed to the college's [Associate Dean](#) ~~associate dean~~ for [Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs](#) ~~student affairs~~ only on the basis of procedural irregularity. Such appeals should be made through the Office of Academic and Student Affairs. If the grade appeal is not resolved within the department or program, the chair makes a recommendation to the college's [Associate Dean](#) ~~associate dean~~ for [Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs](#), ~~student affairs~~, who makes the final determination. The decision of the associate dean is not subject to review or further appeal.

Departments set the requirements for the majors and minors that they administer. Substitutions and waivers of requirements require the approval of Office of Academic and Student Affairs. When a department denies a substitution or waiver of a requirement, this decision may be appealed to the Office of Academic and Student Affairs on the basis of procedural irregularity only, and is the final level of approval.

The [Mason](#) ~~College of~~ Science Dean's Council is the final level of appeal for course overloads, consortium registration, study elsewhere, and withdrawals after the drop deadline within the semester.

The college's [Associate Dean](#) ~~associate dean~~ for [Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs](#) ~~student affairs~~ is the final level of appeal for college-level requirements, retroactive adds, withdrawals, graduation, and return from suspension and dismissal.

There is no waiver or appeal of satisfactory performance standards (minimum grades or grade point average, GPA) that have been set by the department or program faculty for the courses in their major or minor.

Students should file all appeals in a timely manner, usually within the semester in which the original decision is rendered, but no later than the [last](#) ~~final~~ day of classes in the following semester.

Grievances

Grievances should be directed, in writing, to the department chair or program director overseeing the major or course.

Transfer Students

Admitted and enrolled transfer students who have completed an AA, AS, or AA&S degree from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and have been offered admission to Mason by the [Office of Admissions](#) may be eligible for a waiver of all of Mason's lower level [Mason Core](#) requirements in accordance with the Guaranteed Admission Agreement. Students eligible for this waiver are still required by the university to complete [ENGH 302](#) Advanced Composition([Mason Core](#)) and [an Apex a-synthesis](#) course. Transfer students who have been offered admission under the terms of the Guaranteed Admission Agreement and are pursuing a degree in the college are still responsible for any outstanding college requirements not covered by transfer coursework, including intermediate proficiency in a foreign language (required of [Mason Science](#) BA students).

Graduate Education

[Mason](#) ~~Mason's College of~~ Science offers numerous graduate certificates, master's programs, and doctoral programs; the requirements for each can be found in the program's description in this catalog. More information regarding the college's graduate programs is available on the [college's website](#).

Graduate Admission

Admissions decisions are made by the faculty committee in the respective graduate program. Denial of admission is not subject to appeal. Further information can be found in [Graduate Admission Policies](#).

Provisional and Conditional Admission

Provisionally admitted students are not eligible to participate in any consortium coursework, studying at another institution, or study abroad programs until the conditions of the provisional contract have been met. Transfer of credit requests for coursework taken in non-degree status at Mason or another institution will not be considered until the provisional contact has been fulfilled. Further information on provisional admission can be found in [Graduate Admissions Policies](#).

Details on conditional admission, the need for additional requirements to be met before enrollment, can be found in [Graduate Admission Policies](#).

Non-degree Enrollment

The college gladly admits qualified students for non-degree studies. Some of the factors that are considered by the college while making non-degree admissions decisions include: previous academic performance, professional experience, and academic fit. To apply, applicants are to complete the non-degree [George Mason University Graduate Application](#) and provide official transcripts from all institutions attended. Further information can be found in [Non-degree Enrollment](#) and on the [Office of Admissions' website](#).

Upon admission to graduate non-degree studies, students are considered graduate students and are charged tuition accordingly (regardless of the course's level). The college permits up to 12 credits of relevant graduate coursework earned in non-degree status to be considered for transfer into many of its graduate programs.

Transferring Previous Graduate Credit into Programs and Certificates

Previously earned and relevant graduate credits may be eligible for transfer into [Mason Science](#) ~~EOS~~ programs and certificates; details can be found in the [AP 6.5 Credit by Exam or Transfer](#) section of this catalog.

Credit from Other Institutions (Permission to Study Elsewhere)

Students enrolled in a degree program may take graduate courses at another regionally accredited institution and apply these credits to a master's or doctoral degree with prior approval. Details and related restrictions can be found in [AP.6.5.3 Permission to Study Elsewhere](#). Students enrolling in courses at other institutions with different drop/add timetables must still abide by Mason's drop/add deadlines in terms of acquiring necessary approvals.

Academic Load

Graduate students can enroll in up to 12 credits each semester; non-degree graduate students can enroll in up to 10 credits each semester. Students should review the university's policies in [AP.1.2 Academic Load](#).

University Consortium

Students should review university policies regarding the University Consortium under [AP.1.4.9 University Consortium](#).

In addition, in order to register for a consortium course, students must have an overall GPA of at least 3.00 and be in good academic standing. Students with grades of 'IN' on their record or who earned grades of 'C' or 'F' in the most recent semester are not eligible to register for a consortium course. Students who have received a grade less than 3.00 in a consortium course are not permitted to enroll in additional consortium courses. Newly admitted graduate students are not permitted to enroll in consortium courses during their first semester of graduate study. Students who wish to enroll in consortium courses during their second semester of study must wait until the grades for the previous semester have been posted.

Dissertation Committee

The college follows university policies regarding dissertation committees. Please see [AP.6.10.5 Dissertation Committee](#). Please note that some programs within the college may have a more stringent policy.

Dissertation (998/999) Registration

Most programs within the college follow university policies regarding dissertation registration; please see [AP.6.10.6 Dissertation Registration \(998, 999\)](#). Some departments may have ~~require~~ additional requirements.

Time Limit for Doctoral Students

The college follows university policies regarding doctoral time limits. Please see [AP.6.10.1 Time Limit](#). If your catalog term was before this year's current catalog, please visit the [archived catalogs page](#) and find your catalog term's policy on time limits.

Requests for an extension of the time limit must be submitted online and must include all required documentation listed on the Office of the University Registrar's [website](#).

Graduate Appeals of Termination

All graduate students should be familiar with the university's policies on termination, please see [AP.6.6.2 Academic Termination](#). Students who meet the criteria for academic termination may submit a [Graduate Termination Exception Request](#) to the college's Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs. Exception requests must include (a) specific details describing the unique and extenuating circumstances under which the student is unable to maintain minimum standards of academic performance and (b) a letter of support from Advisor or Dissertation/Thesis Chair/Graduate Program Director addressing why an exception should be granted, how the program will be supportive, any recommendations/requirements associated with approval, any other relevant information for consideration.

Exceptions for termination are reviewed by the college's Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Student Affairs with input from the Graduate Program Director or Department Chair within the student's department. If the student's [Academic Exception Request](#) is denied, the student may appeal that decision to the Associate Provost of Graduate Education.

Program Outcomes

Have you reached out to the Libraries to determine whether there are adequate resources to support your program? If not, please email Meg Meiman, Associate University Librarian for Learning, Research, and Engagement at mmeiman2@gmu.edu.

OAPI Use Only – Determination of SACSCOC Impact

Comments or Notes

Additional
Attachments

Reviewer
Comments

Additional
Comments

Is this course required of all students in this degree program?

%wi_required.eshtml%

Key: 135