

Academic Advising Center

Explorer Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Summer and Fall Registration	2
University Resources	3
Art and Visual Technology	4
Pre-Health Advising	4
News from the Departments	5
Math Placement	6

Advising Expo: April 2nd in Dewberry Hall!!!

Unsure of what fall classes to register for? Don't know if you'll graduate on time? Looking for a major or minor? Have no idea who to talk to in order to find answers to your academic questions? Come to Dewberry Hall on April 2nd between

11am and 2pm! Talk to advisors from various departments on campus, who will be able to provide information and advice on class and degree options. Discover University offices that provide academic services and keep you on track. If the chance to

meet and talk with your academic advisor is not enough, come for the free prizes! Be a part of Student Government and the Academic Advising Center's first ever Advising Expo, and put yourself back on the road to academic success.

Teaching is Within Your Reach!

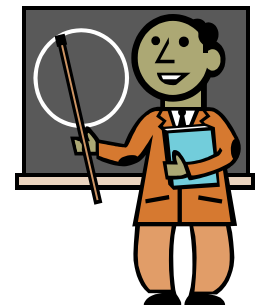
By Eva Nolen, Undergraduate Education Advisor

If you've been wondering what career you'd like to enter when you graduate from Mason and would love the opportunity to spend your life helping kids, teaching is worth your consideration!

If you're interested in becoming a teacher, you can earn your teacher licensure right here at Mason! Mason has many teacher licensure programs available for you. If you're interested in teaching Biology, Music, Chemistry, English, Physics, Mathematics, Health & Physical Education, Earth Science or Dance, you can earn both your bachelor degree and license during your four undergraduate

years at Mason. And if you'd like to teach any of the previous subjects or Social Studies, Elementary Education, English as a Second Language, Foreign Language, Special Education or Early Childhood Education, there are plenty of options for graduate study that lead to a license in your area of interest and even a masters degree! Just remember that whether you plan to get a license through an undergraduate or graduate program, there are licensure requirements that you have the opportunity to meet right now. Please be sure to take full advantage of these opportunities.

It's important that you meet with your advisor for guidance on choosing a major. Believe it or not, you have several options for a solid, impressive major with which to earn your bachelor degree (English, Integrative Studies, Mathematics, History and Psychology are just a few). When you decide on a major, be sure to see both your major advisor and your education advisor once per semester to make sure you're on track. The advisor for your major will help you select courses to earn your degree, and your education advisor will guide you concerning the critical Virginia State education requirements



that will lead to licensure. Please remember that because of fast approaching deadlines and vital course sequence matters, you will need to see your education advisor as soon as possible.

Contact Eva Nolen at: enolen2@gmu.edu or call 703-993-2078 to set up an appointment to learn more about teaching!

**Teach.
Make a Difference.
Change Lives.**

Summer 2009: School, Work, or Vacation?

There are many ways you can spend your summer vacation, but it's a good idea to think about the plan that will work best for you. Whether you decide to fill summer 2009 with school, a job or internship, or taking a much needed break, here are a few hints to help you decide:

If taking **courses** over the summer is something you've thought about, you'd want to first consider whether it is financially possible. The cost of summer courses

Are you thinking about enrolling in summer courses? For more information on summer courses and dates visit:

<http://summer.gmu.edu/>

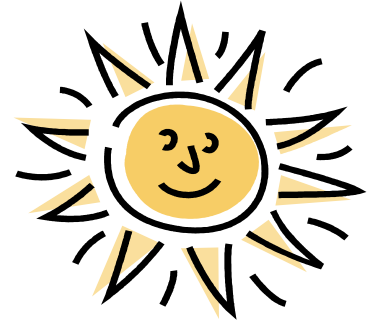
is not included in full time tuition. Many students rely on financial aid to pay tuition and the aid is used up with fall and spring tuition. To find out if you qualify for summer financial aid, visit the Financial Aid Office and fill out the summer financial aid application.

Many students are also interested in **taking courses at other institutions** over the summer. Please be advised that you must first apply for permission to take courses elsewhere, in order for them to transfer back to Mason. You can find the paperwork for this at the Academic Advising Center or on the Registrar's website. Please note that you need to earn a grade of 'C' or better in order

for the credit to transfer back to Mason. Any grade that you earn at other institutions will not be reflected in your GPA at Mason.

Additionally, you will want to consider the possibility of **"burnout"**. Often times when a student decides to take courses over the summer without leaving any time for a break, he or she will experience burnout when the fall semester arrives. To be sure that you don't have this experience, think about leaving at least one summer term for a much needed **vacation!**

Another valuable summer experience could involve a **part or full-time job or internship**. Volunteering or shadowing a career professional are also



excellent uses of your summer break! As an undeclared student, you might be in the process of deciding what majors or careers interest you the most. Summer is the perfect time to learn about a career by interning, volunteering, shadowing, or picking up a job. This is an extremely valuable experience, even if you find something you don't like. To get help finding a job or internship, make an appointment with a career counselor in Career Services, SUB I, Room 348.

Fall Registration is Right Down the Road: Are You Prepared?

Soon it will be time for fall registration! Are you prepared? Here are some helpful tips in preparing for the big day:

- 1.) Make an appointment to see your advisor EARLY! Space is limited and fills up quickly as we get closer to registration. Call 703-993-2470 to schedule your appointment today.
- 2.) Have you checked your

student account lately? Log in to Patriot Web and view your holds. If you have a hold, you will be unable to register for courses. Contact the office that placed the hold on your account to have it lifted in advance of registration.

3.) View the schedule of classes on Patriot Web. (Paper versions of class schedules are no longer available).

4.) Make a list of classes you wish to take that will fulfill general education requirements, meet potential major or minor requirements, or address personal interests.

5.) Make sure the schedule you create is realistic and takes into account other responsibilities. Think about what time of the day

and days of the week that work best for you.

6.) Check Patriot Web for your specifically assigned registration date and time. Registration dates are below.

Registration	Dates for Fall	2009
Seniors	90+ credits	April 14
Juniors	60-89 credits	April 15
Sophomores	30-59 credits	April 16
Freshmen	0-29 credits	April 17

University Resources You Should Know About

Learning Services

SUB I, Room 354 703-993-2999

Learning Services provides a variety of experience-based learning opportunities through which students can explore a wide range of academic concerns. Individual academic skills counseling and study skills workshops are provided. To see the full listing of workshops and dates, please visit the Learning Services website at: <http://www.gmu.edu/departments/csdc/lc.htm>

Math Tutoring Center

Johnson Center, Room 311C
703-993-1460

Need some extra help solving those equations? Free tutoring is available on a walk-in basis for all George Mason students enrolled in math courses up to MATH 290. Open Monday thru Thursday, 9:30am to 9:30pm and Fridays 9:30am to 3:30pm.

The Writing Center

Robinson A, 114 & Enterprise 040
703-993-1200 & 1824

The Writing Center provides FREE tutoring. Trained graduate and undergraduate tutors from a variety of majors are eager to assist you at any stage of your writing process, whether you're just beginning to brainstorm or want to go over a final version of your work. We'll help whether your assignment is a long research paper or a short personal note. The Writing Center will not proofread your work for you, but we will work with you to develop revision and editing strategies that can last a lifetime. Our tutors want to emphasize positive attitudes and helpful ways of thinking about writing. We want you to become more confident and effective writers. The Writing Center is open on Monday through Thursday from 9:30am - 7:30pm and Friday from 9:30am - 2:30pm. The Enterprise Hall location is closed on Fridays and has limited hours on Mondays.

Counseling and Psychological Services

SUB I, Room 364

Counseling and Psychological Services provides FREE personal counseling to all Mason students. CAPS also offers group workshops dealing with several issues including managing stress, anger, perfectionism, and relaxation techniques. For a full schedule of workshops or to schedule an appointment with a licensed counselor, call 703-993-2380.

Career Services

SUB I Room 348 703-993-2370

What can Career Services offer you?

- Help discovering or confirming your skills
- Exploring careers and majors
- Gain related experience
- Job hunt effectively

Make an appointment to meet with a career counselor or visit their website to view the schedule of upcoming workshops and events!

<http://careers.gmu.edu/>

The Art and Visual Technology Major: Bachelor of Arts (BA) vs. Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA)

So you're interested in becoming an art major, but aren't sure if the BA or BFA is right for you. Well, the Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design (AICAD) believes that neither the BFA or

BA is inherently "better" than the other. The degree that is best for you depends almost entirely on your educational goals. However, the AICAD does believe that the BFA is the most appropriate degree for

serious, motivated students seeking to become professional artists and designers. That being said, let's take a look at some of the differences between the two:

BACHELOR OF ART (BA)

Entrance Requirement:

Successful portfolio review or earn at least a 3.5 in AVT 104, 105, 222.

Content:

- Liberal arts degree focused on art and design in the context of a broad program of general studies.
- About half of required coursework in general education and electives.

Credits Required:

AVT Core.....	38
Art History.....	9
Concentration.....	12
Senior Project.....	4

Total Major Requirements.....63

General Education.....	37
Electives.....	20

*Including foreign language or minor requirement

Total Credits.....120

BACHELOR OF FINE ART (BFA)

Entrance Requirement:

BA Student. Completed AVT 104, 105, 222, and successful portfolio review.

Content:

- Professional degree focused on intensive work in the visual arts supported by a program of general studies.
- Two thirds of coursework in art and design.

Credits Required:

AVT Core.....	41
Art History.....	12
Concentration.....	24
Senior Project.....	4

Total Major Requirements.....81

General Education.....	37
Electives.....	2

*No foreign language or minor required

Total Credits.....120

For more information on AVT undergraduate degree programs and concentrations, visit:

www.avt.gmu.edu/pages/advising.html

New Century College: Integrative Studies Degree

Do you want the freedom to study numerous ideas and the connections between them? Are you seeking a sense of community and a place where students and faculty work together to explore and learn? Do you desire the opportunity to connect what you learn in class to the world? Then New Century College (NCC) at George Mason University is the place for you. NCC's Integrative Studies major allows you to take advantage of a small-college experience while retaining access to all the

academic resources of a large university. It is also designed to prepare you for the real world with practical skill-building and knowledge that go beyond traditional classes. You can join NCC at any point in your education – you do not need to have started with us as a freshman. In fact, approximately half of the students who graduate with an Integrative Studies major each year came to us by transferring from within Mason or from another institution outside Mason. The Integrative Studies major allows you to earn a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor

of Science in a wide variety of concentrations including: **Education; Legal Studies; Public & Community Engagement; Organizational Administration; Leadership Studies; Conservation Studies; Life Sciences such as Pre-Medical Studies, Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Occupational Therapy; and many more.** NCC graduates go on to earn prestigious positions with government agencies, the White House, consulting firms, advertising and public relations firms, technology companies, Fortune 500 companies, nonprofit organizations in the United

States and abroad, educational institutions, and health agencies and hospitals. Many others have accomplished professional, master's and doctoral degrees in areas including education, law, public administration, medicine, and other health professions. To learn more about New Century College's Integrative Studies major, visit ncc.gmu.edu. To schedule an appointment with an advisor to see exactly how you fit into our community, call the NCC Front Desk at 703-993-1436 or stop by Enterprise Hall, 4th Floor.

News from the Departments

SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT:



Are you interested in a minor but can't decide which one? Do you have a passion for your major but are looking for an edge as you start your career? A Minor in Business can add value to your degree. Students majoring in Psychology, Communication, Art and Visual Technology, Computer Science and many others are pursuing the Business Minor. The five courses required for this minor cover the business fundamentals needed for success in the rapidly evolving world of contemporary business. Learn to read a financial report, motivate a group of people, integrate information systems into management decisions and develop many other skills needed in today's workplaces. For more information go to the School of Management's web site (som.gmu.edu) and click on Minor. Come to our offices in Enterprise Hall to speak with a SOM Advisor to learn more about this exciting program.

SPANISH:



The language of Spanish and the history and cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples are a significant part of our local and global communities. The Spanish program at George Mason seeks to place students' study of the Spanish language within the contexts of these vital communities. Spanish majors develop proficiency

in speaking, reading, and writing Spanish as they develop critical understanding on Latin American, Latino and/or Spanish language practices, histories and cultures. Faculty in the Spanish program at George Mason come from a wide array of disciplines in Spanish linguistics, Hispanic literature, and the study of Hispanic culture and are dedicated to the expansion of students' engagement with these fields as they increase their linguistic repertoires in Spanish. After introductory courses in linguistics, literature, and culture at the 300-level, students may choose from an array of courses in these fields at the advanced level. The Spanish program at George Mason offers several opportunities for enhancing students' study outside of the Mason classroom. Spanish majors often take advantage of the high quality study abroad programs with established partners in Madrid and Granada, Spain, in Guanajuato, Mexico, and in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Critical service-learning and internships in local community organizations are also available for students majoring in Spanish.

For more information contact Lisa Rabin, 703.993.1350, lrabin@gmu.edu.

BIOLOGY:



The BA and BS Degrees in Biology and the BS Degree in Medical Technology will now be administered by the

Biology Undergraduate Program. The Program will be administered by the Biology Program Director, Dr. Larry Rockwood, and the Assistant Program Director, Dr. Cynthia Beck. The Dean of the College of Science has charged the program with improving undergraduate Biology course offerings in terms of quantity, quality and regularity of course offerings. In addition, the program faculty will work to modernize the curriculum. Within four years most Biology courses will be offered in a new science building, currently in design phase. By 2012-13 undergraduate biology majors can look forward to a new curriculum as well as new, modern equipment in a new building. Also, there are two new concentrations in Biology: a BS in Biology with a concentration in Freshwater and Marine Biology, and both a BA and BS in Biology with a concentration in Education with Licensure for those thinking about teaching K-12.

RUSSIAN & EURASIAN STUDIES :

Starting fall 2009, you will have the opportunity to declare an exciting new interdisciplinary major in *Russian and Eurasian Studies*. Russia has reasserted itself as a major international political player and economic force, positioning itself once again as an alternative to U.S./Western European leadership, while Ukraine



and the new Central Asian states have taken on their own international significance. As a student in this major, you will take courses with recognized experts in their fields. You will study the Russian language (or a language of Eurasia), along with the history, culture, literature, politics, geography, and economic structure of the region. You will learn about Russia's past, and gain an understanding of the forces that have shaped Russia and Eurasia today. Depending on your interests, you will be able to choose one of three concentrations: (1) Russian Language and Culture, (2) Russia Studies, or (3) Eurasia Studies. Through a cooperative agreement with the American Councils for International Education, you will have the opportunity to supplement your coursework at GMU with a study abroad experience in Russia or Central Asia, and apply the credits earned toward your Mason degree. A major in *Russian and Eurasian Studies* will prepare you for a wide range of career options in the private sector, in government, and in education. Graduates of this major are needed in US firms that sell goods and services to Russia, in technology companies, environmental organizations, as teachers, and as analysts in agencies of the U.S government. For more information, contact Dr. James Levine (jlevin2@gmu.edu), or check us out on the web at russianstudies.gmu.edu.

Academic Advising Center
SUB I, Room 304
703-993-2470

Visit us on the web!
advising.gmu.edu

The Academic Advising Center is here to assist you with all of your advising needs! We cater to **undeclared** students as well as students who are thinking about **changing their majors**. We also have advisors that can help you with choosing appropriate courses if you are thinking about any **pre-health** fields such as medical, dental, pharmaceutical or veterinary school.

Call to schedule your appointment today!

Academic Advising Center Staff:

Nancy Dickerson – Director
Paul Bousel – Assistant Director/ General & Pre-Health Advisor
Debbie Bohn – General & Pre-Health Advisor
Jon May – General & EIP/STEP Advisor
Jade Page – General & Mason Explorers Advisor/Co-Editor
Explorer Newsletter
Jill Swiatowy – General Advisor/Co-Editor Explorer Newsletter
Amy Duffey – Office Specialist
Angela Jenkins – Office Manager

Are you planning to leave Mason? Please come in to speak with your advisor about your current situation and to evaluate your options. Learn about the steps you should take before exiting by referring to the checklist at:

<http://registrar.gmu.edu/forms/BLM.pdf>

Math Placement Test: What Should You Know?

Should I take the math placement test? If you want to take Math 105, 108, 110, 111, 113, or 125 then you need to take the placement test. For fall 2009, If you want to take Math 106 or Stat 250 you DO NOT need to take the placement test.

Do I sign up for the placement test? No. The test is first come first serve. Dates are available on the Mathematics website.

What do I need to bring with me to the test? You will need a photo ID, a pencil or pen, your G number, and the name of the math class you wish to test into. Hand-held calculators are not allowed.

What math course should I take? If you are undeclared but have good math skills and are interested in taking math, science, or computer science courses, you are encouraged to take the test for Math 113. If you are not interested in math you should speak with your advisor to determine what math class you should take as you may not need to take the test.

Can I earn credit? No. The purpose of the placement test is to determine if you are prepared to take a particular course.

Do the placement test results expire? Yes. Your test results are valid for one year. After that time, if you have not taken the math course

you placed into, you will need to retake the test.

Is there a limit to how many times I can take the test? Yes. Students may take the test 3 times per semester and are advised to wait at least one week between attempts so that they can sufficiently study the material.

Is there any thing I can do to help prepare for the test? “A Guide to the Placement Test” is available in the JC Bookstore and has sample problems, solutions and review of the material on the placement test.

