

I just transferred to Mason! What classes should I take?

This guide is meant only to help you make a tentative schedule so you can register for classes you *think* you should take; **it is critical that you get advising before you consider your schedule finalized.** Because each transfer student arrives with a different set of courses completed, without expert advice you might unwittingly take classes you don't need or fail to take classes you do need, wasting your time and money and delaying your graduation. **If you have not yet spoken to an Art History advisor, contact Dr. Angela Ho, aho5@gmu.edu, for new student advising.**

Once the semester starts you will be able to see up-to-date information for ongoing advising. Watch your email for advising information and see <https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/undergraduate/art-history-advising>.

Check your transfer credit evaluation

Mason provides a *degree evaluation* tool you can use to track your progress toward completing your degree (more about that below), but it is only as good as the information found in your *transfer credit evaluation*. If Mason has not yet received or processed all of the credit you expect to transfer, the credit will not appear in your degree evaluation. If you then take a class for which you're already getting transfer credit, you will lose credit (you can only get credit for the same class once). **Avoid this pitfall by checking your Transfer Credit Evaluation in Patriot Web** (select Student Services>Student Records>View Your Unofficial Transcript>Display Transfer Evaluation). Is everything there? All of your qualifying coursework? Any AP/IB/CLEP or other credit by exam? Any dual enrollment you took in high school?

- Note anything that is missing. Have you had your final transcripts sent to Mason?
- Note anything that seems incorrectly evaluated. There is a way to appeal this.
- Exam credit (such as AP/IB) does not transfer with you. You must have it sent directly to Mason.
- **You have only one year from the time of entering Mason to correct this evaluation.**
- **Tell your advisor about any problems you found in the evaluation.**
- **Avoid registering for any course that you think may still transfer.**

Get the overview of Art History BA requirements

See the Art History Requirements Worksheet and Art History Sample Degree Plan on our website at <https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/undergraduate/for-newly-admitted-students>. Note that your degree includes requirements for both Mason Core and CHSS (College of Humanities and Social Sciences) as well as for your major, but it also in many cases leaves room for additional programs, such as one or more minor's or even a second major.

Find your remaining unmet requirements in your degree evaluation

See How to View Your Degree Evaluation at <https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/undergraduate/for-newly-admitted-students>. Your degree evaluation shows you what all the requirements are for your degree and whether you have completed them, using red to indicate the requirement is unmet, green for met, and blue for in progress. Each time you open your evaluation you must click the refresh button and the Process button:

Worksheets

Data refreshed 11/11/2022 1:37 AM

Academic What-If

Format Student View

Degree progress Overall GPA

☒ In-progress classes ☒ Preregistered classes **Process**

Choose courses to fulfill requirements

Now you can draft a course schedule! Tips:

- **How many classes will you take?** Full-time tuition covers 12-15 credits (most courses are 3 credits each, so that's 4-5 courses). Full-time studies are considered equivalent to having a full-time job and typically an identical number of credits is more challenging at Mason than at a community college. Think about your total responsibilities as you decide how many courses you can succeed in.
- Even if a requirement is marked unmet in your degree evaluation, **skip that requirement for now if there is a chance you have a course or exam credit that counts for it** (see Transfer Credit Evaluation section above).
- **Choose upper-level courses wherever possible, especially for ARTH courses.** A Mason degree requires a minimum of 120 credits, including at least 45 credits at the 300/400 level ("upper-level"). So if you are transferring with about 60 credits from 100/200-level coursework, 45 of your 60 or so remaining credits must be upper-level. NOTE: Courses that transfer with an "L" in the number, such as "ARTH L362," count as *lower-level*.
- **Take a mix of courses to meet Mason Core/CHSS requirements and courses for the Art History major.**
 - **Take at least one but not more than three ARTH courses**, depending on your remaining requirements. Read our course descriptions at https://historyarthistory.gmu.edu/course_sections?code=ARTH – click on the link for each scheduled section.
 - **Have you met the CHSS foreign language requirement?** You must demonstrate proficiency through the intermediate level in a language other than English. If you already have a language, you can take a placement or waiver test to see which if any level of coursework you still need to complete. If you don't already have a language, it will take you three to four semesters, so please get started! For more information see the Modern & Classical Languages website at <https://mcl.gmu.edu/about-courses>, or, for American Sign Language, <https://education.gmu.edu/special-education/asl-waiver-testing-options>. Most languages start with a 6-credit 110 level (or the 4-credit EDSE 115 for ASL). If you plan to pursue graduate study in Art History, the languages many schools will look for are French or German, followed by any languages specific to your particular area of study.
 - **Consider taking ARTH 394: The Museum as one of the ARTH courses.** This course is required to complete the Art History major and to satisfy the Mason Core Synthesis requirement. Keep in mind that ARTH 394 is usually only offered each *spring* semester, so you need to plan ahead.
 - **Consider taking ENGH 302: Advanced Composition.** ENGH 302 is required for all students and a recommended prereq for all 400-level art history courses. Take a Humanities section or Social Sciences section (2nd choice).
 - **Use ARTH courses to double dip with general requirements where possible.** The most frequent examples are the Global Understanding requirement in Mason Core and CHSS Non-Western Culture.
 - **Use a HIST course to double or triple dip.** HIST 390 applies to the Mason Core IT requirement *and* the CHSS social/behavioral sciences. You can also use one 300-level history course (this can be HIST 390) to count toward your required 300-level ARTH course in the Art History major.
- **You can always see the full lists of courses that fulfill Mason Core/CHSS requirements at** <https://chss.gmu.edu/general-education/all-requirements>. To see which ones are being offered in the upcoming semester, use the Spring 2023 Mason Core and CHSS Requirement Classes list from the For Newly Admitted Students page.
- **A note on "topics courses":** Courses such as ARTH 303, 311, 372, 373 and 399 are offered on a variety of topics over time and are coded in the University Catalog as "Repeatable for credit." You can take these same course numbers more than once as long as on a different topic each time (see University Catalog for any limits).
- **Check for prerequisites by looking up a course in the Catalog at** <https://catalog.gmu.edu/>. Most ARTH courses have no prereqs but courses from other departments may.

Register!

See the step-by-step registration guide at <https://registrar.gmu.edu/students/registration/>.

That's it! But remember to check your schedule with your advisor, Dr. Angela Ho, aho5@gmu.edu.