

How is ADVANCE different?

An important key to the success of the ADVANCE program is being able to communicate – both internally and externally – how it differentiates from the Pathway to the Baccalaureate (PtB) program and the Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA).

Pathway to the Baccalaureate

- **Starts earlier** – students apply for the program during their senior year of high school
- **Higher GPA requirement** – students must have a 2.85 or higher at NOVA to enter Mason
- **Less prescriptive** – Not limited to certain academic programs and students can change their major
- Students can transfer to more than just Mason
- **Application to Mason required**

ADVANCE

- Partnership between only NOVA and Mason
- Catalog year is locked in at point of Agreement
- Students join with 0-30 degree-applicable credits
- Requires a 2.5 GPA throughout the program
- Very prescriptive – students declare their Pathway when they enter the program and take specific set of courses to stay on track
- No guesswork is left to the student – as long as the pathway is followed, all coursework counts towards the degree
- Continuous enrollment is required
- No application to Mason required

Guaranteed Admission Agreement

- **Not specific to NOVA and Mason** – Agreement between Virginia's 23 community colleges and over 30 universities
- **Higher GPA requirement** – students must have a 2.85 or higher at NOVA to enter Mason
- **Less prescriptive** – Not limited to certain academic programs and students can change their major
- For **AA and AS degrees only**
- **Application to Mason required**

ADVANCE is best for the student who has selected their major and is ready to make a commitment to ADVANCE in their chosen field of study.