

# the daily Mason Gazette

## George Mason Offers New Certificate Program in Nanotechnology

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With the offering of two new courses, Introduction to Nanomaterials and Interactions, and Nanoelectronics, this spring, George Mason University is beginning to focus on nanotechnology in a big way. The courses are the lead-ins for a new certificate program in nanotechnology and nanoscience offered through the School of Computational Sciences at the Fairfax Campus. Seven new courses have been designed and will be phased in for the certificate program.

"Nanotechnology and nanoscience are of great importance in a wide range of industries and are fundamental for the success of the region and the nation in the 21st century," says Estela Blaisten-Barojas, certificate coordinator. "Hence, it is imperative that these fields be incorporated into the education of the next generation of applied scientists and engineers." Nanotechnology is the art of manipulating materials on an atomic or molecular scale, especially to build nanoscopic devices.

Blaisten-Barojas explains that the certificate program should be attractive to students and professionals who wish to benefit from the employment boom in the nanoscience fields. "Graduates will be well prepared to fill the demand for personnel with nanoscience training who can serve as process controllers in area fabrication facilities or participate as members of interdisciplinary science teams," she says.

Ideal candidates for the certificate are those who have a background in physical or chemical sciences or in any branch of engineering, and are either currently working in or planning to enter into the fields of nanotechnology and nanoscience.

The Mason graduate certificate is composed of five courses for 15 credit hours focusing on nanomaterials and nanostructures and their relation to bulk materials, as well as methods for characterization and production of nanomaterials. Other courses to be offered include Strategies for Nanocharacterization, Survey of Nanostructures, Nanofabrication, Public Policy and Legal Issues in Nanotechnology, and Computational Modeling in Nanoscience.

The deadline for applying to the program has been extended to Jan. 25. More information and an application form are available [online](#). For other questions, contact Blaisten-Barojas at 703-993-1988 or [blaisten@gmu.edu](mailto:blaisten@gmu.edu).