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News & World
Report

JMU Fact Sheet 2020-21

Harrisonburg, VA Public, four-year institution

A state university founded in 1908, James Madison University offers programs on the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels with its primary emphasis on the undergraduate student. JMU provides a total education to students—one that has a broad range of the liberal arts as its foundation and encompasses an extensive variety of professional and pre-professional programs, supplemented by a multitude of learning experiences outside the classroom.

Located in the heart of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley along Interstate 81, approximately two hours from Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va., the campus is easily accessible from I-81 at Exit 245. The nearest airport is Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport at Weyers Cave, Va., 20 minutes south of campus.

Undergraduate Student Body (Fall 2020)

- In-state/out-of-state ratio: **77/23**
- Male/female ratio: **42/58**
- Minority students: **22.5%**
- International students: **1.7%**
- Total enrollment: **19,943**

88% of classes have fewer than 50 students.
Average Class Size of **25**

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Register for our mailing list: j.mu/info
Join our Counselor Education Program: j.mu/counselor

90% Freshmen Retention Rate

2020 Freshmen Application Stats

- Applications: **24,413**
- Applicants accepted: **78%**
- Applicants enrolled: **5,194**

2020 Admitted Freshmen

- **Mostly A's and B's** in core academic areas (English, math, lab science, social science, foreign language)
- **Ranked in top third** of their high-school class (46% reported ranks)
- **Standardized tests are optional** (76% submitted scores)
SAT Mid-50% range (1600 point scale): 1150-1310
ACT Mid-50% range: 24-30

2020-21 Tuition and Fees

(full-time students per year)

In-State	
Tuition	\$7,250
Comprehensive Fees	\$5,080
Room and Board*	\$11,588
Total	\$23,918
Out-of-State	
Tuition	\$24,150
Comprehensive Fees	\$5,080
Room and Board*	\$11,588
Total	\$40,818

*Includes \$240 internet connection fee

The Freshman Application File

We understand the pandemic has had an impact on every student's academic experience. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to us at admissions@jmu.edu. We are here to help.

Required:

- **Online application:** jmu.edu/applynow
- **High school transcripts, including senior-year schedule**

Optional Items:

The following items will be considered in the review of your application if you choose to submit them.

Extracurricular Activities

What have you done in clubs, organizations and athletics beyond just being a member? JMU is looking for quality involvement rather than quantity. Community service and part-time jobs count, too. List them on your application.

Letter of Recommendation

One letter of recommendation will be accepted and must be requested by the applicant through the application. JMU will contact the recommender with instructions for submitting a letter.

Personal Statement

Is there something important we should know about you? The personal statement section on the application is your opportunity to tell us in 500 words or less.

Standardized Tests

JMU no longer requires SAT/ACT scores. If you choose to submit a test score, your official test results must be sent to us electronically from the testing agency and arrive by the application deadline. If you do not submit test scores, you will not be penalized in the application, scholarship or Honors College review processes.

Additional Information

- Earning college credit for advanced-level courses (AP, IB, Cambridge International): jmu.edu/admissions/earncredit
- Some fine and performing arts areas require auditions, portfolio reviews and additional applications: jmu.edu/arts
- Scholarships: jmu.edu/admissions/scholarships
- Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships: jmu.edu/financialaid

Application Deadlines

Freshman

Early Action: **Nov. 15**
Regular Decision: **Feb. 1**

Transfer

Spring Semester: **Oct. 15**
Summer Semester: **Feb. 1**
Fall Semester: **March 1**

Freshman Admissions

JMU seeks to select the strongest candidates from a high quality applicant pool. Our application review focuses primarily on high school courses and grades. These two factors are the most consistent indicators of academic success in college. Each applicant's academic record is evaluated within the context of the applicant's school curriculum. Students may submit additional materials, such as a personal statement, letter of recommendation, extracurricular activities and/or standardized test scores that may be helpful in the review process but are not required.

High School Courses

Competitive applicants should take rigorous course work within the core academic areas (English, foreign language, social studies, mathematics* and lab sciences). This typically means taking college-level courses that are offered, such as Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Cambridge International, Governor's Schools, in addition to honors-level courses.

*Mathematics requirement: One full year beyond Algebra II in a course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite. Course recommendations may include pre-Calculus, Math Analysis, Trigonometry, Probability/Statistics, Finite Math, Computer Math, Advanced Functions and Modeling, and Calculus. Courses that DO NOT meet this requirement include Algebra Functions & Data Analysis, Computer Science, AP Computer Science, and Consumer Mathematics.

Grades*

JMU evaluates your grades throughout your entire high school career in core academic courses only rather than an overall GPA. A competitive applicant is an A/B student in core academic course work.

*COVID-19 Grade Considerations:

All grading anomalies for freshman and transfer students due to COVID-19 will be taken into consideration during the application review process.

Transfer Admissions*

To be eligible to apply for transfer admission, a student must have completed or be in the process of completing at least 24 credits post-high school graduation.

JMU reviews an applicant's high school and college course work, grades and grade point average. The more college courses completed, the less emphasis is placed on high school performance. Competitive applicants should have a minimum 3.0 cumulative college GPA and have successfully completed college-level course work in the areas of language (English, foreign language, or speech communications), mathematics, social science and lab science. More at jmu.edu/admissions/transfer

2020 Transfer Application Stats

- Applications: **2,673**
- Applicants accepted (spring, summer, fall): **62%**
- Applicants enrolled: **1,084**

