

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM OCTOBER 2023



EARLY ACTION DEADLINE REMINDER

The Early Action deadline is **November 1st**. Students who wish to be considered for Early Action must have their application submitted and documents requested no later than November 1st. Decision notification for Early Action applicants will occur in mid- to late- January

If you or your students have any questions or need any assistance while working through the application process, please reach out to your school's regional admissions counselor.

IN THIS E- NEWSLETTER

Admissions Insights

Fall Academic Open
House

New @ JMU

Freshman
Scholarships &
Financial Aid

Athletics Spotlight

Upcoming Webinars &
Ways to Stay
Connected

ADMISSIONS INSIGHT

Recognizing Competitive Applicants:

Our primary considerations in our evaluation process both relate to academic performance.

- Taking a rigorous course curriculum (defined within the context of each high school) such as:
 - College-level courses (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Cambridge International, Governor's Schools)
 - Honors, advanced, or college preparatory courses
- Earning As and Bs in core academic classes (English, foreign language*, social studies, mathematics** and lab sciences).
 - *Foreign language requirement: either two years of 2 languages or three years of 1 language.
 - **Mathematics requirement: One full year beyond Algebra II in a course for which Algebra II is the prerequisite.

At a school that offers college-level and honors-level courses, competitive applicants will take advantage of these opportunities. We expect to see a nice sampling of both college-level and honors-level classes on an applicant's transcript, as that demonstrates to us that the applicant is prepared for the academic rigor of JMU.

At a school that does not offer college or honors-level curriculum, competitive applicants will challenge themselves with advanced core subjects or additional core classes than required for graduation. For example, students can take a fourth year of a foreign language or physics as their lab science.

Students who take both a rigorous course curriculum and earn strong grades will be competitive for admission.

Optional Application Components:

Students are not advantaged or disadvantaged by electing to send in optional components in the application, scholarship, or Honors College review processes.

The following items are optional:

- Extracurricular Activities
- Letter of Recommendation
- Common App Essay / Personal Statement
- Standardized Tests

*Submission of optional materials is most beneficial to an applicant when it provides context and insight into a student's academic performance.

Read more about our application and evaluation processes [here](#).

EXPLORE JMU: ACADEMIC OPEN HOUSES

November 4th On-Campus Academic Open House

Our September Academic Open House was a success. We welcomed a little over two thousand visitors attending our in-person event. Open Houses are a great opportunity to learn more about the Madison Experience. Each academic college will be hosting information sessions, opportunities to meet with an admissions counselor will be available, a student services fair will be held, campus tours will be running, and much more.

We hope you and your students can join us for one of these days. Registration can be found [here](#).

NEW @ JMU

James Madison University Rankings

In only its second year of being ranked among national universities, James Madison University jumped eight spots to No. 64 among public institutions in U.S. News & World Report's 2024 Best Colleges rankings.

Overall, JMU moved up 27 spots to No. 124 nationally. U.S. News & World Report defines "national universities" as offering "a range of undergraduate majors, plus master's and doctoral programs, and [emphasizing] faculty research or [awarding] professional practice doctorates."

In 2022, JMU earned a Carnegie Commission classification of R2 Doctoral University with "high research activity." JMU's U.S. News ranking profile places it in the top tier of academic institutions in the country.

This year's rankings reflect a change in methodology, including an increased emphasis on how often a school's students from all socioeconomic backgrounds earned degrees as well as graduation rates. Other measures included peer assessments, first-year retention rates, performance of first-generation students and Pell Grant recipients, graduates' earnings, faculty salaries and financial resources per student.

JMU's notable rankings in the 2024 Best Colleges report include:

- National Universities — No. 124
- Top Public Schools — No. 64
- Best Undergraduate Business — No. 103
- Best Undergraduate Engineering — Non-Doctorate No. 30
- Best Undergraduate Nursing — No. 86
- Best Undergraduate Economics — No. 145
- Best Undergraduate Psychology — No. 98



NEW @ JMU, CONT.

Renovation Revealed

James Madison Athletics initiated a new era impacting 200 student-athletes across eight sport programs with the completed renovation of the JMU Convocation Center in August.

"We're excited for this new opportunity for our student-athletes with the renovation of the Convocation Center," JMU Director of Athletics Jeff Bourne said. "The building has transformed from one that served 30 basketball student-athletes to 200 athletes across eight sport programs while meeting all of their needs for their success at JMU. I'd like to thank everyone involved with this project and the university for its support. The Convo has been an important part of our past for 40 years, and I look forward to it being an important part of our future."



FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

Madison Scholarships Hub

Each year we award more than 400 one- to four-year scholarships to incoming students. The primary criterion for merit-based scholarships is exceptional academic performance. Some of our scholarships take a more holistic review and look at a student's leadership experience, service to the community, extra-curricular involvement, and career goals.

The Madison Scholarships Hub, which opened on October 5th, is the one-stop-shop for most scholarship opportunities at JMU. After a student applies to JMU, they will access the Hub in their MyMadison account. While we do automatically consider all students for some merit-based scholarships, there are additional opportunities that require supplemental information/an additional application to be considered. Please encourage your student to utilize and continuously check the Hub for scholarship information.

Financial Aid:

A student's college education is one of the most significant investments a student and their family will ever make. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will help guide students and their families through the financial aid process by providing clear direction and helpful resources. To determine a student's eligibility for assistance, he/she will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To receive a financial aid package, our federal school code (003721) must be listed on the form. The priority filing deadline is March 1st.

Financial aid preliminary award notices will be uploaded into admitted students' MyMadison accounts approximately two weeks after admissions decisions are released.

Students can use our [Net Price Calculator](#) to help plan for future educational costs.

Please refer any additional questions on this front to your school's regional admissions counselor.

ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

JMU Football Team Remains Unbeaten

JMU has had a great start to the football season so far, including beating UVA for the first time in 40 years. Most recently, JMU moved to 6-0 with a 41-13 victory over Georgia Southern.



Dukes Set Defensive Record in Draw at App State

An 89th minute goal from App State to equalize James Madison snapped a program record 492:09 consecutive minutes without conceding a goal for the Dukes, as the two sides drew, 1-1, on Sunday, September 24 at Appalachian Soccer Stadium at the Ted Mackorell Soccer Complex in Sun Belt Conference women's soccer.



UPCOMING WEBINAR: JMU HONORS COLLEGE

Wednesday, October 25th, 10-11 AM

[Register Here](#)

The James Madison University Honors College is a great fit for highly motivated, academically talented and intellectually curious students looking for a challenging and supportive learning environment. In this information session, you will learn more about the JMU Honors College admissions process, the benefits of being an Honors student, and the many opportunities available to Honors students.

Dr. Alysia Davis, Director of Student Engagement in the JMU Honors College, will discuss the following topics:

- What is the Honors College and why should I apply?
- What are the benefits of being an Honors student?
- What are the requirements for admission to the Honors College?
- What is the Honors College application process like?
- What are some of the unique opportunities available to Honors students?

Participants will be able to ask follow-up questions, as well.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Check out our newly updated [counselor website](#), including the [downloadable resources section](#). This is a great place to find additional information on various academic programs, our admissions process, and other topics of interest.

We invite you and your students to follow us on Instagram [@JMUadmissions](#), too. If you have not already, please consider joining our counselor [mailing list](#) to stay up to date on all things JMU!

HAVE WE MISSED ANYTHING?

Do you have ideas for new content, questions, or concerns?

Please let us know!

We are always looking for ways to improve and to provide the most current and helpful information possible.

Your opinions and ideas are valuable to us.

Please feel free to email the Counselor Education Program at counselored@jmu.edu or reach out to your [regional admissions counselor](#) with any questions or concerns.