

## **Policy 1212**

### **Information Technology Infrastructure, Architecture and Ongoing Operations**

**Date of Current Revision: July 2021**

**Responsible Officer: Assistant Vice President for Information Technology and CIO**

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#### **1. PURPOSE**

It is critically important that James Madison University's information technology (IT) infrastructure, architecture, and ongoing operations support the mission of the institution. To help ensure this need is met, decisions affecting these areas must reflect standards, guidelines, and practices found to be effective in the higher education environment. This policy establishes the nationally recognized codes of practice with which the university aligns its IT infrastructure, architecture, and ongoing operations.

The Commonwealth of Virginia Restructured Higher Education Financial and Administrative Operations Act of 2005 grants institutions additional authority over financial and administrative operations, on condition that certain commitments to the Commonwealth are met. Chapters 124 and 125 of the 2019 Virginia Acts of the Assembly and JMU's Management Agreement with the Commonwealth provide full delegated responsibility for management of the institution's information technology infrastructure, architecture, and ongoing operations. This delegation includes the authority to conduct these activities in accordance with industry best practices appropriately tailored for the specific circumstances of the university, in lieu of following Commonwealth-determined specifications. This policy documents the industry best practices with which the university will align its infrastructure, architecture, and ongoing operations.

#### **2. AUTHORITY**

The Board of Visitors has been authorized by the Commonwealth of Virginia to govern James Madison University. See Code of Virginia § 23.1-1600; § 23.1-1301. The Board has delegated the authority to manage the university to the president.

#### **3. DEFINITIONS**

None.

#### **4. APPLICABILITY**

This policy applies to all campus systems and operations related to the conceptualization, design, acquisition, and maintenance of information technology.

#### **5. POLICY**

The university will maintain a list of specific standards and guidelines that should influence decisions affecting key components of its IT infrastructure, architecture, and operations. These standards and guidelines will align with industry best practices as described by EDUCAUSE, Internet2, and others within higher education, as well as those from selected technology industries. It is not the intent of this guidance to in any way inhibit research or other institutional endeavors that by their nature may require the use of cutting-edge technology not yet appropriate for normal use. The guidance is descriptive rather than prescriptive to achieve flexibility where needed. The ultimate goal is to create logical relationships between information technology resources and the mission of the university and its units.

This policy applies to all university information technology, whether owned and operated by the university or used for university business through contractual arrangements.

## **6. PROCEDURES**

6.1 An overview of the framework for infrastructure, architecture, and ongoing operations, along with the standards and guidelines shall be posted at the [computing policy website](#).

6.2 For more information regarding the management of technology infrastructure, please refer to the following sources:

The [Campus Cyberinfrastructure Working Group](#) of Net@EDU helps educational institutions develop institutional strategies and plan their resource deployment in this emerging and evolving technological landscape and helps their users harness and optimize the power and capabilities of new integrated IT tools and systems for educational and research applications in higher education.

[EDUCAUSE](#) is a nonprofit association whose mission is to advance higher education by promoting the intelligent use of information technology.

[Internet2](#) develops and deploys advanced network applications and technologies for research and higher education, accelerating the creation of tomorrow's Internet.

The [Postsecondary Electronic Standards Council](#) is a non-profit association of colleges and universities; professional and commercial organizations; data, software, and service providers; and state and federal government agencies.

## **7. RESPONSIBILITIES**

Information technology is responsible for the oversight and effective management of this policy.

Departments, offices, and employees that generate, receive, or maintain public records under the terms of this policy are also responsible for compliance with [Policy 1109](#) - Records Management.

## **8. SANCTIONS**

None.

## **9. EXCLUSIONS**

None.

## **10. INTERPRETATION**

Authority to interpret this policy rests with the president and is generally delegated to the assistant vice president for information technology and CIO.

Previous version: January 2018

Approved by the President: September 2008