Who Are the New Freshmen?

What do Belgium, Kenya and Saudi Arabia have in common? These diversified countries have national citizens among JMU's new freshman class. More than 23 countries and 30-plus states are represented in the current total number of freshmen who make their way to campus this year (4,528* as of 08/07).

Introducing Schedule Planner

Schedule Planner is a new feature that helps students create class schedules. Students can block unavailable times due to practice or other commitments. Schedule Planner will produce all available combinations of selected classes taking into account the reserved periods of time. Students can also lock in favorite sections of courses when generating schedules. VIEW TUTORIAL and encourage your students to take advantage of this great new resource!

Fall 2015 Dates and Deadlines (click here for printable .pdf)

General Education Reminders
Cluster One Courses

No overrides are offered for cluster one courses. Any student who needs to take a cluster one class has access to the classes during spring and summer sessions. All cluster one seats are held for incoming transfer and freshmen students.

Students seeking to take a critical thinking course as an elective will need to submit a request for an OPEN seat in a specific class to gened@jmu.edu along with their name and ID number. No other parts of cluster one can be repeated for repeat credit.

Students seeking to take a cluster one course repeat-forgive will need to submit a request for an OPEN seat in a specific class to gened@jmu.edu along with their name and ID number.

GenEd Overrides

The General Education Office does not issue overrides into individual GenEd courses. Students should speak directly with the professor. No overrides are offered for cluster one courses.

GenEd Program Planner

GenEd check sheets are no longer being used. The 2015-2016 GenEd Program Planner is available for DOWNLOAD.

MREST

All students must pass the Madison Research Essentials Test (MREST) by the Friday before spring break during their first year at JMU.

Curriculum Changes

No COB Overrides

The College of Business Academic Services Center no longer issues overrides into COB courses. Students must sign up on the course wait list in MyMadison if they are interested in getting into a class that is full. Students will be notified if they are taken off the wait list and given a seat in the class.

New Independent Scholars Program

The Independent Scholars Program allows high-achieving students to self-design a curricular pathway and research goals that have unique domains of intellectual inquiry and interweave multiple modes of thinking. Admission to the program is competitive and is open to all JMU students with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or higher. Dr. Fletcher Linder, IDLS; Dr. Matt Chamberlin, IDLS; and Dr. Philip Frana, Honors Program; serve as advisors for the program.

READ MORE

New Minor in Music and Human Services

This new minor will prepare students for vocational and avocational opportunities to use music performance, education, entrepreneurship and community engagement skills to serve diverse populations in human services settings. Students with interest and musical backgrounds are welcome.

READ MORE

School of Art, Design and History Program Changes

The former Interior Architecture major has been renamed Architectural Design. The Industrial Design concentration is now a major.
Newly Approved Admission and Progression Standards

Business Analytics Minor
Admission to the minor is based upon performance in prerequisite courses in 5 competency areas and letter of recommendation from COB 291 instructor. Application deadlines are November 1 and April 1.

Computer Science
"B-" grade or better is required in introductory courses CS 139/149 to progress in the major. Students can enroll in CS 139/149/159 no more than two times.

Independent Scholars Program
Students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25, approval to enroll in IND 200, and an approved program proposal. Upon students’ completion of IND 200, a faculty advisory committee will make decisions about students’ acceptance into the program.

Industrial Design
A portfolio review is required for admission to the major for all new students and major changers. A second portfolio review is required after core courses are completed (usually the end of sophomore year)

Intelligence Analysis
A grade of "C" or better in introductory courses is required to apply for admission to the major. Student cohorts of 54 have been approved through 2017-18.

Media Arts and Design
September and January admission to the major is available for qualified new transfer students; all other students apply in January. Criteria include SMAD 101, an admission test and letter.

A complete list of all programs and admission and progression standards can be found on the Academic Advising website.

New Associate Deans and Academic Unit Heads

Dr. Michael Busing, Associate Dean, College of Business
Dr. Steve Purcell, Assistant Dean, College of Education
Dr. Paula Daly, Academic Unit Head, Department of Management
Dr. Dolores Flamiano, Interim Academic Unit Head, School of Media Arts and Design
Dr. Teresa Harris, Interim Academic Unit Head, Department of Early, Elementary and Reading Education
Dr. Timothy Louwers, Academic Unit Head, School of Accounting
Dr. Kyle Schultz, Interim Academic Unit Head, Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education
Dr. David Slykhuis, Interim Academic Unit Head, Educational Foundations and Exceptionalities
Dr. Hui Sono, Academic Unit Head, Department of Finance and Business Law

New Academic Advisors for ISAT and Nursing
Kristin Sowden

Kristin Sowden serves as an academic advisor in the Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) department, and works specifically with the Intelligence Analysis and Geographic Science programs. Previously, Kristin worked in the office of Career and Academic Planning, where she served as both an academic advisor to undeclared first-year students and a career services liaison to Technology and Engineering. Before coming to Virginia, Kristin attended the College of New Jersey, where she earned a degree in English and Secondary Education. She now holds her Masters in College Student Personnel Administration from JMU, and is pursuing her PhD at JMU. Kristin also teaches with the Graduate Psychology department, and works with the Duke University Talent Identification Program on psychology curriculum development and education. Her professional interests are in the first generation college student experience, female professional identity development, faculty development, and qualitative inquiry.

Kelly Schuhmann

Kelly Schuhmann is the new academic advisor for Nursing. She received her undergraduate degree from Bridgewater College and a graduate degree in counseling from Eastern Mennonite University. She has worked for 15 years as a school counselor and high school counseling director. For the past 10 years, Kelly has been spending a part of each summer in Central America doing mission work and leading work teams. The teams provide clothing, shelter and medical clinics in low-income communities throughout Guatemala and El Salvador. These experiences have made the transition to working with nursing students feel natural. Kelly lives in Mt. Sidney with her husband, Jeff and her daughter, Olivia.

Pre-Professional Health Advising Programs Announcement

Heather Patterson is the new Assistant Director for Pre-Professional Health Advising. Over the next year, Heather will provide leadership with Sharon Babcock to settle into the new office location (Roop Hall, G24), enhance visibility and access to web-based advising information, and explore alternatives and identify a new model for the provision of pre-health advising. Prior to this position, Heather worked for eight years in Career & Academic Planning with increasing responsibilities for Freshman Advising. She is currently a student in the Strategic Leadership Ph.D. program with a concentration in Postsecondary Analysis & Leadership.

Do Your Students Need Advising Support?

The Madison Advising Peers are high achieving undergraduate students who have been hired to assist other students with General Education requirements, developing a 4-year academic plan, degree requirements, the course registration system and other general advising questions. They work in conjunction with major advisors by providing supplemental advising information. The MAPs are available during the academic year from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday through Thursday and from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm on Fridays in Roop Hall, room 200.
MAPs also have office hours in the College of Business Academic Services Center, the Pre-professional Health Advising Office, and the Chemistry Department.

Looking Ahead

Orientation and Advising for new transfer students matriculating spring 2016 will be held on Friday, December 11, 2015.

University Advising publishes the Madison Advisor. Members of the newsletter steering committee include Anna Lynn Bell, University Advising; Annick Dupal, SCOM; Kristin Knapp, WRTC; and Jennifer Litwiller, Career and Academic Planning. Newsletter suggestions can be sent to Kristin Knapp at knappkl@jmu.edu

James Madison University
800 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807
If you wish to be removed from this group’s mailing list, click here