

How to Succeed at JMU

Perhaps you didn't have to work that hard in high school to get good grades because it was not that challenging to you; however, college is a different story. It will seem as though you have a lot more time to do your work, but that perception is deceptive because you have much more reading, researching, writing papers, etc. than you did in high school. Listed below are areas that you may discover are challenging and places that offer resources.

CHALLENGE	RESOURCE (WHERE TO GO)
Study skills, stress and time management, test-taking skills, speed reading	First Year Involvement, Academic Support Instruction, Huffman 100A, 568-3598, http://web.jmu.edu/reslife/role_indexes/incoming_freshmen.htm
Difficulty with extensive reading in each class	Learning Strategies Instruction – Kathy Fisher (568-1759, fisherkd), Wilson 4 th Floor, or Melinda Burchard (568-6705, burchams) http://www.jmu.edu/ods/Learningstrategies.shtml
Statistics, Calculus, Chemistry, Physics, GSCI 101etc.	Science and Math Learning Center, Roop Hall room 200, 568-3379 http://www.jmu.edu/smrc/
Improve and enhance writing in any subject. Writing consultation for any writer – including faculty.	University Writing Center Wilson 4 th Floor, www.jmu.edu/wrc
Peer writing assistance for freshmen.	FYI Writing Center, Huffman Hall , A100 http://web.jmu.edu/reslife/programs_services/writing_center/index.htm
GCOM classes, oral presentations in other classes, writing speeches, PowerPoint presentations, interpersonal communication	Communication Resource Center (CRC) Wilson 4 th Floor, 568-1759 www.jmu.edu/crc
Studying hard, doing the homework, using available academic support services, but learning is still very challenging & nothing seems to help.	Learning Resource Centers – Screening & Assessment Service Must visit Wilson 4 th floor to fill out intake packet and schedule a screening appointment. (568-1759) http://www.jmu.edu/lrc/screeningassessment.shtml
English is your second language	University Writing Center - ESL Specialist, (568-2881), Wilson 4 th Floor, http://www.jmu.edu/uwc/ESOLServices.shtml
Homesick, roommate troubles, boyfriend/girlfriend problems, being assertive, communicating, etc.	Counseling and Student Development Center (CSDC), Varner House, 568-6552 www.jmu.edu/counselingctr
Finding a major, changing a major, what can I do with a major in____?	Career and Academic Planning Wilson 301, 568-6555 www.jmu.edu/cap
Questions about academic requirements, academic policies, course descriptions	Check your printed 2007-08 Undergraduate Catalog or view it online at http://www.jmu.edu/catalog/ Also check Registrar's web site: http://www.jmu.edu/registar

HELPFUL HINTS

- Take advantage of university resources; if you're having trouble, seek help quickly; talk to your advisor
- Professors don't bite—talk to them, ask questions, participate in class
- Get involved but not too much; Student Organization Services, www.jmu.edu/ucenter/sos/ 568-8157 Taylor 205A
- Keep up on your reading and assignments—your final grade may only be based on three tests and a paper (or less)
- You've reached your goal & are now at JMU—why are you here? Identify specific goals that you want to accomplish
- If you have a part-time job, try not to work more than 10-15 hours per week
- Take care of your health, University Health Center, 568-6178, <http://www.jmu.edu/healthctr/>

Sample GPA Calculations

Term (semester) GPA = Total quality points earned for the semester ÷ Total credit hours attempted for the semester

Quality points (QP) are assigned to each grade;
for example, A = 4 QP per credit hour; B+ = 3.30 QP, etc. (catalog p. 29)

To determine quality points for a class, multiply number of credit hours by the quality points for that grade; for example,

Class	Grade	QP	Credit hours	QP earned
GWRIT 103	B+	3.30	3	9.90

Examples

Course	Grade	QP	Credit hours	QP earned for the course
GWRIT 103	B+	3.30	3	9.90
GCOM 121	C-	1.70	3	5.10
MATH 231	A	4.00	4	16.00
GSCI 101	C	2.00	3	6.00
GPSYC 101	B-	2.70	3	8.10
		Total	16	45.10

$45.10 \div 16 = 2.818$ Semester GPA
Good Standing

Course	Grade	QP	Credit hours	QP earned for the course
GWRIT 103	C	2.00	3	6.00
GCOM 121	C-	1.70	3	5.10
MATH 231	C	2.00	4	8.00
GSCI 101	C-	1.70	3	5.10
GPSYC 101	C	2.00	3	6.00
		Total	16	30.20

$30.20 \div 16 = 1.887$ Semester GPA
Academic Probation

Course	Grade	QP	Credit hours	QP earned for the course
GWRIT 103	B	3.00	3	9.00
GCOM 121	A	4.00	3	12.00
MATH 231	B	3.00	4	12.00
GSCI 101	A	4.00	3	12.00
GPSYC 101	A	4.00	3	12.00
		Total	16	57.00

$57.00 \div 16 = 3.562$ Semester GPA
Dean's List

To figure the cumulative GPA, divide the total number of attempted credit hours for all semesters by the total number of quality points earned for all semesters.