Admissions

Office of Admissions
Phone: (540) 568-5681
Fax: (540) 568-3332
Web site: http://www.jmu.edu/admissions

The enrollment for the university is authorized by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia. The number of students admitted each year is limited by the resources available to the university.

Visiting the University
We encourage prospective students to attend a group information session and a walking tour of campus. To check our visitation schedule and make a reservation, visit www.jmu.edu/admissions/visit.shtml.
In inclement weather, the Office of Admissions cancels conferences and tours. If weather conditions are severe, please call the Office of Admissions, (540) 568-5681, before you come.

Freshman Admission
JMU’s admission process is competitive. In fact, we receive more qualified applications than we can accommodate. For the 2003 admissions process, approximately 57 percent of applicants were admitted; however, 80 percent of the applicants were competitive. There is not a prescribed formula for gaining admission. The admissions committee works to select the strongest candidates from a high quality pool.
We consider the following six factors in evaluating applicants: program of study, academic achievement, standardized test scores, Secondary School Report Form and recommendation, personal statement, and extracurricular activities. Each applicant is rated in the following four areas, listed in order of importance:

Academic Program
Competitive applicants should minimally have the following:
▪ four years of math (one full year beyond algebra II),
▪ three years of laboratory science (preferably including biology, chemistry and physics; general science or earth science usually does not count as a lab science);
▪ three to four years of the same foreign language or two years of two different foreign languages;
▪ four years of English; and
▪ four years of social studies.
Students who challenge themselves with the upper-level courses offered in their high school (i.e. Honors-level courses, Advanced Placement classes, dual enrollment) increase their competitiveness. Although schools provide different opportunities, applicants should pursue the most demanding college preparatory programs available. Because strong students come from many different types of schools, we evaluate applicants within the context of their high schools.

Academic Achievement
To evaluate achievement in high school, we evaluate grades in the core subject areas: mathematics, English, foreign language, social studies and lab sciences. A competitive candidate is an “A” or “B” student in core courses. We look at performance throughout the entire high school career.

Standardized Tests
Performance on the SAT I or ACT helps discern past academic achievements and potential for future academic success.
SAT IIs are not required for or considered in the admissions process; however, a SAT II Total Writing Score is required for placement into freshman composition courses. SAT II foreign language scores are necessary for placement for those planning to pursue a Bachelor of Arts degree or any other major with foreign language requirements.

Extracurricular Activities
We are looking for quality rather than quantity. For instance, we like to see what applicants have done in clubs, organizations and athletics beyond just being members. We also consider community service and part-time jobs. We look at the variety and depth of your involvement. Applicants must be academically competitive before extracurricular activities are reviewed.

Application Deadlines

Early Action Admission
Early Action is more competitive than the Regular Decision process. To be admitted through Early Action, a student needs to be superior in curriculum, grades, test scores and extracurricular activities. For the last two years, 35 percent of students deferred from Early Action to Regular Decision were eventually admitted. Students who apply Early Action do not have an advantage over students who apply Regular Decision. The university will offer non-binding early notification admission to qualified freshman applicants. The deadline for early notification is November 1. Successful candidates will be notified in mid-January and must submit a room or tuition deposit by May 1 to enroll at the university. Some students who are not selected for early notification are considered under the university’s regular admission process.

Regular Decision Admission
Because Early Action is more competitive than Regular Decision, students who apply through Regular Decision are not at a disadvantage. Applications must be postmarked by January 15 to be considered for regular decision admission. All applicants will receive notification of their admission status the first week of April. Admitted students must submit a room tuition deposit by May 1 to enroll at the university.

Application Procedure for Freshman Admission
There are four easy ways to submit applications. Go to www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply.shtml and select one of the following four options. The admissions office prefers use of the first or second option.

- Apply online by filling out the application and submitting it electronically with an electronic payment.
- Download the PDF application, type the application on a computer, print it out and send it in with a check or money order payment.
- Download the application, print it, complete it by hand and send it in with a check or money order payment.
- Call the Office of Admissions at (540) 568-5681 to request a paper version of the application.

Students applying to James Madison University must

- Carefully complete and submit the application, along with the $40 nonrefundable application fee.
- Request that a counselor send a copy of their transcript and a letter of recommendation to Office of Admissions, MSC 0101
  James Madison University
  Harrisonburg, VA 22807
- Submit a one-page personal statement and their Scholastic Aptitude Test or American College Testing Assessment scores. Applicants should request SAT or ACT scores be forwarded to James Madison University directly from the College Board or American College Testing, respectively.

Information furnished on applications and all other university documents and records must be accurate and complete without evasion or misrepresentation. Submitting inaccurate or incomplete documents is cause for rejection or dismissal from the university.
Transfer Admission Requirements

To transfer to JMU, a student must

- Have completed or be in the process of completing at least 24 credits at the college or university level at the time of application. Competitive transfer applicants must successfully complete college course work in the following areas: English, math, lab science and social science. The more college level course work a student completes, the less emphasis the admission committee places on the high school transcript.

- Be in good standing and eligible to continue or graduate from their previous institution(s). It is the student’s responsibility to provide the JMU Office of Admissions with official transcripts of work completed from all colleges attended. Concealment of previous attendance at a college or university is cause for cancellation of admission and registration. (Students with holds on their academic records will not be considered for admission until holds are released.)

- Have earned at least a “C” cumulative grade point average (2.0 on a 4.0 scale) for consideration in a college parallel program. The university recommends that students have a “B” cumulative grade point average to be competitive applicants.

Application Procedure for Transfer Admission

To apply for transfer admission to the university, applicants must

- Complete the application for undergraduate admission along with the application fee of $40 to Office of Admissions, MSC 0101 James Madison University Harrisonburg, VA 22807

  This fee is not refundable or transferable and will not be credited to the student’s account. The application fee must be paid by check, money order or credit card. Transfer applications must be completed by March 1 for fall admission and by January 15 for summer admission.

- Request official transcripts be sent from all colleges attended prior to the application deadline.

- Submit their high school transcript or a copy of a GED in addition to college transcripts, regardless of how many college credits are completed or how many years the applicant has been out of high school.

- Submit official SAT or ACT scores. If a transfer student has completed more than 30 credit hours of college work at the time of application, SAT or ACT scores are not required. Applicants who are 25 years or older are not required to submit test scores.

- Complete a one-page personal statement for review by the Admissions Committee.

Evaluation of Transfer Credits

Credit will be awarded for those courses equivalent to courses offered at JMU in which the student has earned a grade of “C” or better.

After the student has been approved for admission, the Office of the Registrar will evaluate the transcript(s) of each transfer student to show the credits accepted by the university. The academic unit head in which the student is majoring will determine the credits required for graduation.

With the exception of some degrees in General Studies, General Education requirements will be waived for those students who have completed either the Associate in Arts, Associate in Sciences, or the Associate in Arts and Sciences degree at a Virginia community college. Students who complete one of these associate degrees and are offered admission will receive junior-level status. For more details, consult the JMU Virginia Community College Transfer Guide, available at http://www.jmu.edu/admissions/transferguide.shtml.