

Adult Degree Program

Pamela G. Brown, Learning Services Coordinator

Phone: (540) 568-6824

Location: Memorial Hall, Room 3305

E-mail: brownpg@jmu.edu

Web site: <http://www.jmu.edu/adultdegree/>

Mission Statement

The Adult Degree Program (ADP) provides returning adult students with the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree. This program differs from other degree programs presently offered at JMU in that ADP students tailor their major to meet their career and educational goals while still meeting JMU general education and degree requirements.

Admission

Applicants must have a lapse of at least three years in their full-time formal education and a minimum of 30 credit hours with a grade of "C" or better for each credit hour of college work. Applicants should be 25 or older.

Degrees Offered

ADP students have the opportunity to earn a Bachelor of Individualized Study (B.I.S.), a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), or a Bachelor of Science (B.S.). The general education core requirements differ by degree.

Program Requirements

- Completion of IS 200, Individualized Study Major Program Development, is required.
- A minimum of 120 credit hours will be required for graduation. The specific program agreement will be designed in consultation with a faculty adviser.
- A program agreement for meeting the requirements of the degree must be submitted to the Individualized Study Major office for approval while enrolled in the IS 200 course.
- A minimum of 41 general education credit hours in the seven areas of social and behavioral science, humanities, natural science, written communication, oral communication, mathematics and U.S. history must be completed. (See the General Education section for complete details.)
- To earn a B.S. degree, a student must earn the above 41 credit hours, plus an additional three hours to meet the quantitative requirement and an additional three hours to meet the scientific literacy requirement for a total of 47 general education credit hours.
- To earn a B.A. degree, a student must earn the above 41 credit hour requirements, plus an additional three hours of philosophy and six hours of foreign language at the intermediate (200) level for a total of 50 general education credit hours.
- A minimum of 30 credit hours in a particular concentration or field of study, at least 24 of which must be upper-division credits, is planned around some type of conceptual or cultural framework. Certain concentrations may require that students demonstrate competency in a "common body of knowledge" which may require course work or testing beyond the 30 hours.

- No more than 30 credit hours of course work can be selected from courses taught by the College of Business (CoB). This 30 credit hour limit includes COB courses transferred from other colleges and nontraditional credit earned in the COB.
- The concentration must be completed with a GPA of 2.0 or better.
- A minimum of 15 credit hours in the concentration must be JMU credits.
- IS 498/499, Individualized Study Project, is a capstone course that is directly related to the student's concentration or field of study. The project is coordinated by a content area faculty member and must be completed with a "C" minimum grade. A final oral report must be presented on the project.
- ADP requires all students to take the Information Seeking Skills Test, the Tech Level I exam to demonstrate technology competencies and the Honor Code test.
- Each graduate must have earned a minimum of 30 credit hours at JMU (a maximum of eight non-traditional credits may be applied to the JMU hours requirement).
- At least 60 credit hours must be earned from four year institutions.
- ADP students are expected to participate in assessment activities. Assessment information is used to assist faculty in modifying curricula.
- There is no residence requirement; however, program agreements that extend beyond six years may need to be amended if university policies change that affect the original program agreements.

Mechanisms for Earning Credit

The number of credits, which might be accepted or earned through the following methods, is determined by the student's approved program. It is reasonable to expect that the unique educational needs, background and personal circumstances of each student will determine to a great extent the manner in which credit has been and will be earned.

- Transfer credit
- Credit by departmental examination
- Prior learning assessment
- Credit for sponsored learning or independent studies
- Regular course work
- Credit for experiential learning
- Credit for educational programs of the Armed Forces
- College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
- American Council on Education College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE)

Prior Learning Assessment

College level learning, acquired through other than traditional classroom experience, must be documented by the student. Procedures for doing so have been established by the ADP office. Requests for experiential learning credit are to be presented no later than midterm of the semester prior to that in which the Individualized Study major plans to graduate. Experiential learning credit is not transferable to a traditional degree program. Majors requesting experiential learning credit must complete IS 203, Portfolio Development. A fee is charged for each learning component evaluated by academic units for credit.

College Credit Recommendation Service

The Adult Degree Program accepts credit as recommended in the National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs and the Guide to Educational Credit by Examination prepared by the American Council on Education. Additional information on program policies and procedures is available through the ADP Web site.

College-Level Examination Program

The Adult Degree Program at JMU participates in the College Level Examination Program. CLEP is a national program of credit by examination that offers students an opportunity to obtain recognition for achievement in specific college courses.

Interested individuals may schedule a CLEP test by directly contacting the Adult Degree Program office. Requests for specific information on CLEP examinations should be directed to:

College Level Examination Program
 Box 592
 Princeton, NJ 08540

Credit/No-Credit

Students enrolled in ADP may take courses on a credit/no-credit basis if they have completed 28 credit hours of college course work and have a 2.25 cumulative average.

Courses in the area of concentration, including the senior project, may not be taken on a credit/no-credit basis. Other provisions of the credit/no-credit option, as described in this catalog, will also be in effect.

Service-members Opportunity College

JMU has been designated as an institutional member of Service-members Opportunity College. As an SOC member, the university recognizes the unique nature of the military lifestyle and has committed itself to easing the transfer of relevant course credits, providing flexible academic residency requirements and crediting learning from appropriate military training and experiences.

Second Degree Requirements

Students who hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university may earn a second degree through this program following the general guidelines on Page 24 in this catalog. Second-degree students must complete a minimum of 33 credits, including a 30-hour concentration and IS 200, ISM Program Development. If appropriate, eight non-traditional hours may be included in the 30 hour concentration. Second-degree students requesting experiential learning credit must complete IS 203, Portfolio Development.

BIS Social Science Concentration

Within the BIS major there is an optional social science concentration that provides a more structured alternative for BIS majors. ADP students selecting the Social Sciences concentration will complete:

- 41 credits in General Education, including core courses PSYC 101, MATH 220 and GPOSC 225
 - Students seeking to earn a Bachelor of Science in Individualized Study will complete the baseline 41 credits in general education and an additional 3 credits in math and 3 credits in natural sciences.
 - Students seeking a Bachelor of Arts must complete 3 credits in philosophy and 6 credits of a foreign language at a 200-level or higher.
- 36 to 48 credits earned by completing all courses in two of the focus areas
- 12 credits in any two additional supporting focus areas
- IS 498
- 24 general elective credits.

Contact the program coordinator for information on the social science concentration.

General Education

General Education course work is designed to provide returning adult students with knowledge and skills that form the foundation for completing a baccalaureate degree, including a professional concentration, in the individualized study major.

	Credit Hours
Social/Behavioral Science	6
Any course with a number other than "000" in the areas of sociology, psychology, economics, history, anthropology, geography and political science	
Humanities	6
Any course with a number other than "000" in the areas of philosophy, religion and GHUM courses. Only the following type courses from the art, foreign languages, English, music and dance/theatre academic units count as humanities credit: art appreciation, art history, literature, theatre and dance history, theatre and dance appreciation, foreign language literature or culture, music appreciation or history.	
Scientific Literacy requirement	6
Any course with a number other than "000" in the areas of biology, chemistry, geology, physics and GSCI.	
Written Communication	6
Any course with a number other than "000" in the area of English composition. (If GWRTC 103 [formerly GWRT 103] is waived through writing assessment, credits may be earned in advanced composition or Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication. Choose from ENG 290, ENG 299, ENG 347, ENG 390, ENG 392, ENG 393, ENG 396, WRTC 210, WRTC 211, WRTC 240, WRTC 250, WRTC 320, WRTC 340, WRTC 410, WRTC 411, WRTC 412, WRTC 413, WRTC 460 or WRTC 480.)	
Oral Communication	3
Choose from GCOM 121, GCOM 122, SCOM 121, SCOM 122, SCOM 242 or SCOM 243.	
Quantitative requirement	3
Any course with a number other than "000" in the area of mathematics.	
U.S. History	4
Choose from GPOSC 225 or GHIST 225.	
Additional General Education credit	7
May be fulfilled through exceeding minimum in categories 1-7 or by courses accepted by General Education.	