College of Arts and Letters

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Mission Statement
The College of Arts and Letters serves multiple vital needs of JMU students. First, it offers high-quality programs of specialized study in the social sciences, humanities and communication and in several pre-professional and cross-disciplinary areas. Second, the college provides a challenging array of courses designed to promote lifelong learning by sharpening analytical abilities; improving computational and communications skills; cultivating a facility with written expression; enhancing cultural awareness, intensifying moral and aesthetic sensitivity and fostering awareness of the contingent nature of knowledge. Linking these two missions is a college-wide commitment to free but rigorous and controlled inquiry into human nature.

Goals
In addition to the special goals of each major, all programs in the college are committed to helping the students achieve the following common objectives:
- Improve foundational skills fostered by general education courses: writing, critical thinking, information access through technology and, where appropriate, foreign languages.
- Develop the ability to use writing to acquire knowledge and to communicate ideas effectively through writing-intensive courses required in the major.
- Enrich cultural perspectives essential to effective citizenship in the 21st century; global awareness and appreciation of American cultural diversity.
- Provide significant active-learning experiences through field courses, research projects, internships, studies abroad and simulations.

Majors and Minors
Students may select from a broad spectrum of major and minor programs in the seven departments and three schools. The departments and schools fully describe their programs in the "Academic Units" section.

Cross Disciplinary Activities
In addition to departmental majors and minors, the college offers a wide array of interdepartmental majors, minors, pre-professional programs, general education courses, annual events and supporting services, some of which reach out to the regional community. Information on cross-disciplinary programs offered by the College of Arts and Letters may be found in the "Cross Disciplinary Programs" section.

Pre-professional Programs

Pre-law
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Students who plan to apply to law school may select their major from a wide range of fields, depending upon their interests. The scope of the law is broad and offers room for individuals of varied educational and intellectual backgrounds.

Students should choose courses that provide them with broad informational and cultural preparation and develop their reasoning abilities. Especially valuable to a pre-law program are courses in:
- Communication, including composition, language and speech, which enable students to express themselves well.
- The humanities and social sciences, which help students to appreciate and perform effectively in their culture and society.
- Logic, mathematics and the natural sciences, which develop skills of fact discrimination, analysis and synthesis.
- Accounting and economics.

Also important to the pre-law program is Phi Alpha Delta, a student organization that organizes law-related activities.

Pre-theology
Dr. Iain S. Maclean, Coordinator
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Email: macleaix@jmu.edu

The pre-theology program prepares students to enter professional schools of religion (divinity schools, seminaries, theological schools). These professional schools prepare the student for a variety of careers, such as ministry, religious education and religious work with youth and others. The program at JMU will provide excellent preparation not only for acceptance at these schools but also for enriched professional training.

A student in this program may major in any field he/she chooses, although the American Association for Theological Schools recommends substantial pre-professional training in philosophy and religion. This professional accrediting agency also recommends a broad background in English language and literature; history (American and European); both the physical and the life sciences; the social sciences (particularly psychology, anthropology and sociology); biblical and classical (Greek and Latin) languages and, of course, religion, including the Bible, history of religious traditions and theology.

Resource and Service Centers

Archaeology Collection
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The archaeology collection contains artifacts dating from early in prehistory through the modern era that were excavated from numerous Virginia archaeological sites. It also includes an extensive library of site reports, field records, maps and artifact identification guides. Artifact study collections spanning the 12,000 year occupation of Virginia’s Ridge and Valley Province are being developed for teaching and research purposes. The collection is an important teaching and research asset of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
Center for Public Broadcasting/
WMRA-WEMC
Al Bartholet, Director
Phone: (540) 568-6221
Email: wmra@jmu.edu
Website: http://www.wmra.org
The Center for Public Broadcasting’s mission is to inform, connect
and engage communities through journalism, broadcasting and
outreach. It serves over 50,000 listeners in the Shenandoah Valley,
Charlottesville and Farmville areas.

The center comprises a network of non-commercial public radio
stations, serving Harrisonburg at 90.7 FM, Charlottesville at
103.5 FM, Lexington at 89.9 FM and Winchester at 94.5 FM, and
one standalone station, WEMC, serving Harrisonburg at 91.7
FM. The WMRA network stations are licensed to the James
Madison University Board of Visitors. WEMC is licensed to Eastern
Mennonite University, but is operated entirely by the center. Much
of WMRAs programming is rebroadcast by WMLU 91.3 FM, the
station owned by Longwood University in Farmville, Virginia.
WMRA and WEMC are members of National Public Radio, and
are affiliated with Public Radio International and American Public
Media. The stations broadcast 24 hours per day year-round,
offering extensive in-depth news coverage and classical, folk,
blues and jazz music. The center also operates Valley Voice
Radio Reading Service for the print-impaired. Listeners and
local businesses contribute nearly three-quarters of the center's
annual budget.

Annual Events
Conference on Global Issues
Dr. Giuliana Fazzion
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The Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures
organizes a yearly conference on global issues, held in the
spring. The conference brings together scholars and researchers
from a variety of disciplines to address and assess specific global
issues, issuing a call for papers in the fall on an announced
topic. Proposals for papers, panels and workshops should be
sent to the coordinator.

History Day
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Each spring JMU hosts the regional competition for National
History Day. The contest is open to students in grades six through
12, with categories including media presentations, performances
and historical papers. Judging and comments are provided by
professional historians. Winners at the state level participate
in the National History Day Competition at the University of
Maryland in June.

MadRush
The MadRush Undergraduate Research Conference features
outstanding work by undergraduate humanities and social
science majors. Held every spring, it attracts students from
across the eastern United States and has become one of the
largest humanities and social science undergraduate research
conferences in the region.

Madison Writing Awards
Madison Writing Awards (MWA) is a university-wide biennial
competition that celebrates writing across the curriculum in all
undergraduate academic programs. Students are recognized for
their achievements in an awards ceremony and through the online
publication of their work. These awards reflect the commitment of
the School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication and
the College of Arts and Letters to prepare students for educated
and enlightened global citizenship.

Visiting Scholars Program
Prof. Dietrich Maune
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The Visiting Scholars Committee organizes campus visits
during the year by 12-15 people who have made significant
contributions in their fields. The scholars, who represent a
wide variety of disciplines, expose students and faculty members
to different perspectives and encourage intellectual exploration.
During a visit, a scholar meets with at least one group of
students in a class or informal setting and gives a public
presentation and discussion of his/her work.