
Introduction

Founded in 1908 and located in the center of Virginia's famous Shenandoah Valley, James Madison University is a public, comprehensive university. The university offers programs at the bachelor's, master's, educational specialist and doctoral levels.

The total enrollment for fall 2007 session was 17,428. This total included 16,089 undergraduate students, 1,137 graduate students, 76 non-degree seeking graduate students and 126 non-degree seeking undergraduate students. JMU has 102 major campus buildings, including a 31-acre, off-campus farm. JMU offers students a full program of extracurricular and social programs, as well as a diversified program of intercollegiate and intramural athletics.

Location

JMU is located in Harrisonburg, Va., a progressive city of over 40,000. The area is flanked by the Blue Ridge Mountains on the east and the Allegheny Mountains on the west. The JMU campus is located just off Interstate 81 and is a two-hour drive from Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va., and one hour from Charlottesville, Va.

The Graduate School is located in the Grace Street House at 17 West Grace Street.

History

In its 100-year history, JMU has grown from a state normal and industrial school for women to today's coeducational comprehensive university. In 1914, the name of the university was changed to the State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg. The university became the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg in 1924 and continued under that name until 1938, when it was named Madison College in honor of the fourth president of the United States. In 1977, the name was changed to James Madison University.

The JMU Graduate School was established in 1954, when the State Board of Education authorized the university to offer programs leading to the Master of Science in Education degree. The Graduate School is authorized to offer graduate programs leading to master's degrees, Educational Specialist degrees, Doctor of Audiology degrees, Doctor of Philosophy degrees, Doctor of Psychology and Doctor of Musical Arts degrees.

Mission

It is the mission of The Graduate School to support, facilitate and promote excellence in lifelong education through graduate programs of distinction, innovative outreach programs and a diverse student body.

The mission of The Graduate School is in concert with the overall mission of the university, which states:

We are a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.

Administration of The Graduate School

The office of the dean of The Graduate School has academic responsibility for all issues of graduate education at JMU. Significant in the organization and administration of The Graduate School are the university's Graduate Council and the graduate faculty body.

The Graduate Council

The Graduate Council is the chief policy-forming and advisory body for The Graduate School. Its duties are to formulate, review, and approve or recommend for approval policies and other items concerning the conduct of graduate study at James Madison University and to provide leadership in advocating for graduate education and scholarship of the highest caliber. The Graduate Council actions are reported to the graduate faculty, to college deans and to appropriate administrators of the university.

The primary aim of including the Graduate Council in the organization of JMU is to facilitate graduate program faculty participation in the establishment of university policies and procedures.

Responsibilities of the Graduate Council

The Graduate Council is specifically charged with

- Communicating policy on issues affecting graduate education.
- Monitoring and advocating excellence in graduate education.
- Setting the broad framework for all graduate study.
- Making recommendations on all policies with regard to graduate degrees and any changes or additions to such policies.
- Making recommendations on procedures for student appeals for waivers of any graduate regulations, excluding grade and admission appeals, after appropriate appeals have been made according to the procedures of the respective graduate programs.
- Setting the requirements for membership to the Graduate Faculty and for the approval of faculty it deems to have met those requirements.

Graduate Faculty

The graduate faculty hold a position of honor at JMU. Through the Graduate Council, the graduate faculty members assist the dean in developing general policies and administrative procedures for graduate programs. The office of the dean of The Graduate School, assisted by the Graduate Council and the graduate faculty, has responsibility for final approval of graduate degrees to be awarded.

Accreditation

JMU is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097; Telephone Number 404-679-4501) to award the bachelor's, master's, Educational Specialist, Doctor of Audiology, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Psychology degrees.

Additional Accreditation

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology
Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration
American Assembly for Collegiate Schools of Business
American Chemical Society
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education
American Psychological Association
Association for Advancement of Health Education
Association for Information Technology Professionals
Association of University Health Programs in Health Administration
Accreditation Review Commission on Education for Physician Assistants, Inc.
Center for Credentialing Nursing Education
Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education, the accrediting agency for The American Dietetic Association
Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education
Council for Interior Design Accreditation
Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language and Hearing Association
Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs
Council on Social Work (baccalaureate level)
Education Commission on Accreditation on Social Work
Educational Standards Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
International Association of Counseling Services

National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Schools of Art and Design
National Association of Schools of Dance
National Association of Schools of Music
National Association of Schools of Theatre
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
National League of Nursing
Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant
Society for Public Health Education
Virginia Board of Nursing
Virginia State Board of Education

Membership

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of Virginia Colleges and Universities
College and University Personnel Association
Council of Graduate Schools in the United States
Council of Southern Graduate Schools
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Student Personnel Administrators
Southeastern Universities Research Association
Institutional and Educational Membership
Association of Computing Machinery

Corporate Membership

American Association of University Women

JMU Libraries

Carrier Library

Carrier Library Circulation Phone: (540) 568-6150
Carrier Library Reference Desk Phone: (540) 568-6267
Web site: <http://www.lib.jmu.edu>

Music Library

Phone: (540) 568-6041
Web site: <http://www.lib.jmu.edu/music>

East Campus Library

Phone: (540) 568-2731
Web site: <http://www.lib.jmu.edu/east/>

JMU Libraries, consisting of Carrier Library, the Music Library and East Campus Library, support research, study and instruction in the use of information resources at JMU. The Libraries house more than 700,000 volumes, including books, periodicals, and audiovisual materials, and over a million microform pieces. JMU Libraries is also an authorized U.S. Government Document Depository, with access to thousands of selected online and print documents through LEO, the library catalog. In addition to subscriptions to more than 12,800 journals, access to over 2,500 online journals is provided through JMU Libraries' membership in VIVA, the Virtual Library of Virginia. Items not available within the Libraries or through online resources can be retrieved through Interlibrary Loan with virtually any academic library in the country.

The library Web site, <http://www.lib.jmu.edu>, is an online gateway to the services and collections of the JMU Libraries. Through the Web site, users can search LEO, connect to around 400 electronic databases, and find research guides highlighting the most important print and electronic sources in numerous subject areas. Services such as e-mail reference and Interlibrary Loan request forms are also available via the library Web site. More than 100 personal computers are located in the Libraries' public areas. Almost all of the online resources on the library Web site can be accessed from any computer on campus, and those with current JMU electronic IDs can configure their browsers to access library resources from any remote location.

One of the Libraries' principal goals is to educate users, especially students, by providing them with lifelong learning skills that will enable them to find, use and evaluate information in all formats. Self-instruction modules, entitled "Go for the Gold," are available on the library Web site and complement instruction sessions offered in library classrooms. Reference librarians are available on a walk-up basis or by appointment to answer questions and assist students with research.

The liaison program links a librarian to each academic unit. Liaison librarians provide a variety of services, including library instruction for course-related activities, collection development and consultation with individual faculty members and students.

The Music Library serves the students and faculty members of the School of Music, as well as offering its specialized resources to the greater university community. The East Campus Library opens fall 2008. This state-of-the-art facility houses the science, technology and health sciences collections and provides study space for individuals and small groups, reading rooms, and open study areas

with casual seating. It also includes a 24-hour study area with a secure entrance, a computer lab and coffee bar.

Media Resources

Phone: (540) 568-6802
Web site: <http://www.lib.jmu.edu/media/>

Media Resources in Carrier Library acquires and houses commercial educational media in video, audio and computer software formats for instruction and study by faculty, staff and students. Faculty and staff can use the media center's reference and rental service to locate program items not already in the collections. The center facilitates scheduling and taping of satellite programming and distributes selected campus-wide software such as Microsoft Office, SPSS, SAS and other applications in coordination with IT Computing Support. Media Resources also provides teaching and learning support to faculty, staff and students through instructional technology available to users of classrooms and other learning facilities. Technical services staff coordinate the development, installation and maintenance of technology systems in general classrooms and many special facilities on campus. Media Resources provides portable equipment, such as laptops, projectors, digital cameras, camcorders and audio recorders, for loan and use in locations without technology. Staff offer training support for users of all installed and portable equipment, as well as repair services for non-computer media technology used on campus.

Center for Instructional Technology

Phone: (540) 568-7061
Web site: <http://cit.jmu.edu/cit/>

The Center for Instructional Technology (CIT) is a central resource for the development and exploration of instructional technologies. CIT staff and student associates are available to serve faculty and staff on a walk-in basis or by scheduling an appointment for focused assistance. CIT staff work with faculty on instructional planning, design of instructional materials, production of instructional materials and coordination of resources for project implementation. In the walk-in production facility, faculty, staff and students can check out digital cameras, master a CD-ROM, scan flat art and 35mm slides, and create color prints, transparencies, digital graphics, publications, classroom presentations and Web pages. In addition, a technology teaching station is available to practice professional and classroom presentations.

The center is also available for JMU students. Students assisting faculty members with the development of materials may use the center during open hours after the requesting faculty member has signed an authorization form. Students working on class projects may use the center during evening hours.

The center offers a variety of faculty development opportunities including hands-on workshops, in-depth technology concentrations, informal discussions and scheduled project support sessions. The center's instructional technology grants program, mGrants, encourages faculty to develop and implement creative methods of instruction. These grants provide faculty with consulting services, support services and funding to design and develop course materials, experiment with new teaching models and promote active learning.

Distributed and Distance Learning Services

Phone: (540) 568-7061

Web site: <http://ddls.jmu.edu>

Distributed and Distance Learning Services (DDLS) is a support facility for online learning activities at JMU. This support unit works with faculty and other stakeholders in the provision of distributed and distance learning courses, academic programs offerings and online certification opportunities. DDLS supports faculty members with a variety of services, including training, online resources and consulting. DDLS collaborates with other university divisions to provide a one-stop gateway to services for the university's distance learning students. DDLS hosts the university's online learning site, JMUOnline.

The Center for Assessment and Research Studies (CARS)

Dr. Donna L. Sundre, Executive Director

MSC 6806, JMU, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

Phone: (540) 568-6706

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

Center for Assessment and Research Studies Faculty

Dr. Robin D. Anderson, Associate Director

Dr. Christine DeMars, faculty

Dr. T. Dary Erwin, Associate Vice President

Dr. Sara Finney, faculty

Dr. Joshua T. Goodman, faculty

Dr. J. Christine Harmes, faculty

Dr. Dena Pastor, faculty

Dr. Donna L. Sundre, Executive Director

Mr. David Yang, Information Security Analyst

Mission

The mission of the Center for Assessment and Research Studies (CARS) at James Madison University is to provide quality assessment service to the university, to provide applied graduate training in both assessment and measurement, to increase the use of innovative technology in assessment practice, to increase the rigor of measurement and statistical techniques used in assessment practice, and to produce quality scholarship in assessment and measurement. The vision of the center is to be internationally recognized as a standard of excellence for practice, programs and scholarship in assessment and measurement.

Originating in 1986, The Center for Assessment and Research Studies (CARS) at James Madison University is one of the largest campus-based agencies devoted to outcome assessment in the United States. Ten faculty and three staff perform a variety of assessment activities in general education, the major and student affairs. In conjunction with JMU's Office of Information Technology, the Assessment Center operates a computer-based testing lab where a variety of computer-based tests are administered on an ongoing basis to students on the JMU campus and beyond. CARS also administers a Ph.D. program in assessment and measurement established in 1998 designed to meet the expanding accountability, quality assurance, and outcome assessment needs of education, government and industry.

Information Technology

Web site: www.jmu.edu/computing

Computing HelpDesk

Students have access to the Computing HelpDesk for answers to computing questions. Students may call the Computing HelpDesk at (540)568-3555, stop by the Frye Building (lower level) or visit online.

Computing Policies

Polices regarding computer use are available online. Refer to University Policies: 1201, Information Technology Resource Management; 1204, Information Security; 1205, University Data Stewardship; 1207, Appropriate Use of Information Technology Resources; 1208, Password Management; and 1209, Electronic Messaging.

Computer Purchases

The JMU Bookstore offers computer systems, software and peripherals at special contract pricing. Our customized Dell and Apple computer systems are configured to meet JMU network and academic guidelines. Dell and Apple hardware warranty repair service is also available to all students.

Computer Security

Students can learn how to operate their computer safely through the R.U.N.S.A.F.E. program.

Connecting to the JMU network

CampusNet is the on-campus student network in residence halls which has high-speed access.

Many off-campus apartment complexes provide Ethernet connections to the JMU network. Contact the Office for Off Campus Life to find out which apartment complexes provide this service.

Wireless is also available on campus. There are 160 access points in over 65 different locations including the libraries, the bookstore, Top Dog Cafe and the quad. Wireless is available in all academic buildings and in designated areas in the residence halls. For a complete listing of university-provided wireless locations, visit the Computing web site.

A Wireless Open House is offered in the fall for students to set up their wireless laptops and ask questions.

Electronic Identification

All JMU students receive an electronic identity (e-ID) free of charge as they enroll at the university. e-ID's are automatically generated from the name you submit on your admissions application. This electronic identity can be used to send and receive electronic mail and for access to a variety of other systems and services.

Student Computer Labs

More than 500 Windows and Macintosh computers are available in student labs throughout campus. The labs offer a variety of word processing, spreadsheet, graphics, presentation and statistical software. There are two labs open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To view the locations and hours of the labs, or to find specific software, visit the Web site.