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 the fall 2008 session was 17,964. This total included 16,619 undergraduate students, 1,136 graduate students, 102 non-degree seeking graduate students and 107 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 101-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, Educational Specialist, Doctor of Audiology, Doctor of Musical Arts, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Psychology degrees.

Mission

It is the mission of The Graduate School to support, facilitate and promote excellence in lifelong education through graduate programs of distinction 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

University Administration

The general responsibility for the administration of the university has been assigned to the president, who is appointed by the JMU Board of Visitors. When the board is in recess, its executive committee may exercise the power of the board.

Assisting the president in the administration of the university are the provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, the senior vice president for administration and finance, the senior vice president for student affairs and university planning, the senior vice president for university advancement, and the executive assistant to the president.

Appointment to these positions and to the university’s instructional and administrative faculty is made by the JMU Board of Visitors upon the recommendation of the president.

JMU consists of The Graduate School and the following colleges:
- College of Arts and Letters
- College of Business
- College of Education
- College of Integrated Science and Technology
- College of Science and Mathematics
- College of Visual and Performing Arts

Graduate School Administration

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. 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 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.
James Madison University Administration

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Dean, College of Business
George E. Sparks, Ph.D.,
Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts
Phillip M. Wishon, Ph.D.,
Dean, College of Education

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 and doctoral degrees.

Additional Accreditation
ABET, Incorporated
Accreditation Commission for Programs in Hospitality Administration
AACSB International - The Association to Advance 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.
Commission for Collegiate 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 Education (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 College and University Attorneys
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
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
One of the JMU Libraries’ principal goals is to provide students with lifelong learning skills that will enable them to find, use and evaluate information in all formats. Students learn basic information literacy skills through “Go for the Gold,” a set of online self-instruction modules available on the library Web site. Information literacy skills in the major are addressed through 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 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: www.lib.jmu.edu/media

Media Resources in Carrier Library acquires commercial educational media in video, audio and computer software formats for instruction and study by faculty, staff and students. It also provides an online video collection for streaming to the JMU community. Faculty and staff can consult with media center staff to locate program items not available in the collections. The center can assist users with scheduling and recording satellite programming for academic needs. It also distributes selected campus-wide software such as Microsoft Office, SPSS, SAS, Mathematica and other applications in coordination with IT Computing Support. Media Resources technical staff coordinate the development, installation and maintenance of technology systems in classrooms and many special facilities on campus. Media Resources also offers portable equipment such as laptops, projectors, digital cameras, camcorders and audio recorders for loan, as well as audio/video editing workstations for student projects. Staff provide user support for 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://cit.jmu.edu/distance_learning/
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: www.jmu.edu/assessment

Center for Assessment and Research Studies Faculty
Dr. Robin D. Anderson, Associate Director
Dr. Christine DeMars, faculty
Dr. Sara Finney, faculty
Dr. Keston Fulcher, faculty
Dr. Joshua T. Goodman, faculty
Dr. J. Christine Harmes, Ph.D. Program Director
Dr. Chris Hulleman, 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 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
Policies 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; and 1209, Electronic Messaging.

Computer Purchases
The JMU Bookstore offers computer systems, software and peripherals at special contract pricing. Customized Dell and Apple computer systems are configured to meet JMU network and academic guidelines. Dell and Apple hardware warranty repair services are 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 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, bookstore, Top Dog Cafe and 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. An e-ID is automatically generated from the name submitted on a student's 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 Computing Web site.