Fall 2015 Enrollment Summary

Intended as a quick snapshot, this research note focuses on the facts and figures documenting enrollment at James Madison University during the fall 2015 term. The information presented in this summary is derived from the official fall 2015 census and admissions data submitted to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), trends and historical information from archived records and surveys kept in the Office of Institutional Research. Unless otherwise noted, figures include both on and off-campus students.

More detailed census histories, enrollment tables, and other student data are published in the 2015-16 James Madison University Statistical Summary available online. For questions related to this research note, please contact: Jacob Loorimirim.

Overall Enrollment

Fall 2015 enrollment at JMU rose slightly from fall 2014.

- Total enrollment grew 1.8% (372 students) from 20,855 in 2014 to 21,227 in 2015.
- Full-time students grew by 2.2% (423 students) to 19,546.
- Part-time students decreased by 2.9% (51 students) over the last year, from 1,732 to 1,681.
- Out-of-state students grew 2.8% (156 students) over last year’s 5,489 in 2014 to 5,645 in 2015.
- In-state students went up by 1.4% (216) over 2014.
Undergraduate Enrollment

19,396 undergraduate (UG) students make up 91% of JMU’s total enrollment.

Other Undergraduate Enrollment Facts:

- 90.9% of JMU’s 2014 first-time freshmen returned this fall. This represents a 1.5% drop from the 2014 retention rate of 92.4%.
- Full-time degree-seeking undergraduates increased 1.9% (466) to 18,320.
- The number of full-time degree-seeking undergraduates returning to JMU this fall grew by 2.5% (326) for a total of 13,318.
- JMU’s part-time undergraduate population decreased by 11.4% (124) to 963 students this fall.

Graduate Enrollment

Degree-seeking and non-degree-seeking graduate student enrollment increased by 7.0% (120) from (1,711) fall 2014 to (1,831) fall 2015.

Other Graduate Enrollment Facts:

- Full-time enrollment increased by 4.4% from 1,066 in fall 2014 to 1,113 in fall 2015.
- Part-time graduate enrollment increased by 11.3% from 645 in fall 2014 to 718 in fall 2015.
- The number of degree-seeking graduate students increased by 5.4% (80) from (1,490) in 2014 to (1,570) in 2015.
- The proportion of graduate students to JMU’s total enrollment increased from 8.2% in 2014 to 8.6% in 2015.
Admissions

A total of 4,408 (28.3%) of accepted first-time, first-year students enrolled at JMU this fall.

Additional Admissions facts:

- Total applications for first-time freshmen decreased 4.9% or 1,111 from 22,550 in fall 2014 to 21,439 in fall 2015.
- JMU accepted 73% (15,559) of its freshman applicants.
- 34% of accepted in-state applicants chose to enroll this fall, which represent a 2% decrease from last year.
- A total of 20% of accepted, out-of-state applicants enrolled this fall which represents no change from fall 2014.

First-time Freshmen

JMU’s freshman class increased by 1% between fall 2014 (4,364) and fall 2015 (4,408).

Other interesting freshmen facts:

- First-time freshmen make up 21% of JMU’s total enrollment.
- The average age of first-time freshmen is 18.
- The number of males increased by 1.9% from 1,690 in 2014 to 1,722 in 2015.
- First-time freshmen females grew slightly by 0.4% (12) from last year’s 2,674 to 2,686 in 2015.
- Since fall 2005, the ratio of first-time freshmen men to women has changed from 36% men and 64% women to 39% men and 61% women in 2015.
- Of all 2015 first-time freshmen, only 4% applied to JMU alone.
- Of all 2015 first-time freshmen, 52% applied to one to four colleges other than JMU.
- Of all 2015 first-time freshmen, 45% applied to 5 or more other colleges other than JMU.
- More than 80% of the fall 2015 first-time freshmen indicated JMU was their first choice.
Transfer Enrollment
A total of 651 students transferred to JMU this fall. In calendar year 2015, 966 transfers enrolled.

Additional transfer student information:
- In 2015, 92% of transfers were from Virginia compared to 82% in the year 2000.
- In 2015, 48% of all transfers were male compared to 51% in the year 2000.
- The average age of an undergraduate transfer student is 22.

International Students
A total of 593 international students representing 74 countries attend JMU.

Additional international student data:
- JMU’s international student population grew 20% from 495 students in fall 2014 to 593 in fall 2015.
- A total of 65% of JMU’s international students are degree-seeking undergraduates; 8% are pursuing doctoral/graduate degrees; and 27% are enrolled as Continuing Education students.
- The number of women increased by 15% (36) between 2014 and 2015 while the number of men increased 25% (62).
- The gender distribution is 52% men and 48% women.
Student Body Race & Ethnicity:

For the third year in a row, Hispanic remains the largest reported race/ethnic minority group at JMU, comprising 30.7% of reported minorities and 5.6% of JMU's total fall enrollment.

Note: All race ethnicity data are self reported by students and may be changed by the student at any time. Calculations for this report exclude Non-Resident Aliens and Unknown/Unreported as part of JMU's minority groups.

Student Body Race/Ethnicity:

- Asian continues to be the second largest reported race/ethnic group at JMU, comprising 23% of reported minorities and 4.2% of JMU's total fall enrollment.
- Students reporting Hispanic as their race/ethnicity increased by 144 or 13.8% since fall 2014.
- Since the new Federal reporting guidelines began in fall 2010, students choosing Black or African American as their race/ethnicity increased 20.6% (156) between 2010 and 2015.
- Students reporting Two or More Races increased by 627 or 356% since fall 2010.

First-time Freshmen Race/Ethnicity:

- For the fourth year in a row the largest minority population of first-time freshmen is Hispanic with 276 students, an increase of 9.1% (23) from 253 in 2014.
- First-time Black or African-American freshmen comprise 5.0% of this fall's freshman class, a 16% (30) increase from fall 2014 and represents the second largest minority group.
- The number of first-time Asian students decreased by 11.2% between fall 2014 and 2015.
Interesting Facts about JMU’s Student Body:

**What’s your name?**

**Top 10 First Names by Gender**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matthew</td>
<td>Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael</td>
<td>Sarah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>Rachel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Lauren</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher</td>
<td>Jessica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan</td>
<td>Megan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>Hannah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph</td>
<td>Elizabeth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Samantha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James</td>
<td>Katherine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fall 2015**

**When is your birthday?**

- **Most Common Undergraduate Birthday**
  - March 1st - 76 Students
- **Least Common Undergraduate Birthday**
  - February 29th - 9 Students

**Fall 2015**

**How old are you?**

- **Youngest Degree-seeking Undergraduate**
  - 16 years old
- **Oldest Degree-seeking Undergraduate**
  - 70 years old

**JMU Students**

Top 5 States of Origin (outside of Virginia)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>1344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>828</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top 5 First-time Freshmen Majors 2014 and 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>311</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Sciences</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Undeclared represent the largest number of FYR