

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH

Academic Performance of Two-Year  
Transfers at JMU  
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## Background

James Madison University annually enrolls more than 300 new transfers from Virginia's public two-year public institutions. This is almost 10 percent of all new students. All transfers (from two-year and four-year institutions) account for approximately 16 percent of new students annually. Annually transfers from the two-year institutions account for one in fifteen degree-seeking undergraduates. Transfers from the two-year institutions bring a variety of experiences to JMU and are provided the opportunity to complete their bachelor's degree.

One of the major objectives of JMU's Six-Year Plan for the Commonwealth is to enroll transfers with the Associate's degree from Virginia's public two-year institutions. For many years JMU has enrolled a significant number of these transfers, and it is appropriate to periodically review their academic performance. The results of these reviews can be used by the Admissions Office, the Division of Academic Affairs and others to make decisions about how to work best with transfers. Below is one way in which JMU assists the closest community college, Blue Ridge Community College.

On November 17, 2000 Presidents Linwood Rose of JMU and James Perkins of Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC) signed a "Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA)" for transfers from BRCC to JMU. The two institutions agreed that:

"If the GAA student completes an associate of arts and sciences degree from BRCC and meets JMU's admissions requirements for transfers, then:

- JMU will waive the transfer application fee.
- All courses accepted by JMU will be applied toward a bachelor's degree from JMU.
- Completion of an associate of arts and science degree at BRCC will satisfy all general education requirements at JMU. The associate degree must be earned with a cumulative grade-point average of 2.75 (4.0 scale); and a minimum grade of C must be obtained in each course the student transfers to JMU, unless otherwise indicated.
- JMU will guarantee acceptance of all transferable credits from BRCC and grant the GAA student junior standing at JMU." ([JMU Media Relations](#))

Since 2000 the number of institutions with whom JMU has signed a GAA has increased to 14, including all colleges in the region and the major feeder institutions (like Northern Virginia Community College). A major purpose for offering the GAA is to attract transfers who have already proven themselves by earning the Associate's degree. Also, transfers with the Associate's degree enroll with junior status and are not required to completed JMU's General Education (GenEd) program.

Because two-year college transfers are an important group of new students and the Commonwealth views the two-year institutions as an important means to educate an increasing number of undergraduate students, it is important to review the academic performance of these students. Therefore, the following research questions have been developed.

### **Research Questions**

- How many students from the Virginia two-year institutions have transferred to JMU since 2000-01? From which colleges did they transfer? How many previously applied to JMU for admission as a first-time freshman? What were their gender and racial profiles?
- How many transfers had at least 60 credit hours accepted by JMU?
- Into which JMU majors did the transfers enroll? How many transfers were enrolled in JMU's Teacher Education program? What was the average GPA of transfers in each major? Is there a relationship between the number of credits transferred and overall GPA?
- How does the academic performance of transfers compare with students who entered JMU as freshmen?
- What were the graduation rates of the transfers? Are transfers with 60 or more credits at enrollment more likely to graduate than transfers with fewer credits?

### **Methodology**

In 1988 the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) mandated that the Virginia community colleges annually study the academic performance of their transfers at the Virginia senior institutions. SCHEV guidelines require senior institutions to annually share information on transfer students with Virginia's state-supported two-year colleges. The two-year institutions consider JMU to be among the most helpful of the four-year institutions in providing data. The author of this report has conducted more than 12 transfer studies for Blue Ridge Community College.

This study focused on the outcomes of transfer students since 2000-01 and used the data shared by OIR with the two-year institutions for the primary analyses. Also, the data provided by OIR to SCHEV were used to compare the outcomes of the transfers with students who entered JMU as first-time freshmen.

### **Results**

The results are presented in a format that relates the findings to the guiding research questions. Each question presented in the introduction is stated again and is followed by tables and explanations that relate to it.

- How many students from the Virginia two-year institutions have transferred to JMU since 2000-01? From which colleges did they transfer?

How many previously applied to JMU for admission as a first-time freshman? What were their gender and racial profiles?

Table 1 displays the number of new transfers from each two-year institution since 2000-01. Four institutions, Blue Ridge Community College (529), Northern Virginia Community College (387), Lord Fairfax Community College (225) and Piedmont Virginia Community College (133), account for 73 percent of all transfers. This is not surprising because BRCC, LFCC, and PVCC are located within 50 miles of Harrisonburg, and JMU is a very popular destination for students from the Northern Virginia area.

Table 2 displays the number of transfers from the two-year institutions that previously applied to JMU for admission as first-time freshmen. Eighteen percent had applied with 24 percent of these being accepted, but not enrolling at that time.

Unlike first-time freshmen where only 36 percent of new freshmen are male, 54 percent of the two-year college transfers were male. Eleven percent of the transfers were non-Caucasian. This racial distribution is similar to all undergraduates.

Table 1  
New Two-Year Institution Transfers by College and Year

Previous College	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Blue Ridge (BRCC)	82	102	114	100	131	529
Central Virginia (CVCC)	7	5	7	11	8	38
Dabney Lancaster (DLCC)	8	7	6	3	3	27
Danville (DCC)	4	5	3	5	2	19
Eastern Shore (ESCC)	1	2		2	1	6
Germanna (GCC)	14	14	20	15	12	75
J Sargeant Reynolds (JSRCC)	3	2	7	5	7	24
John Tyler (JTCC)	7	5	6	6	5	29
Lord Fairfax (LFCC)	43	47	44	53	38	225
Mountain Empire (MECC)			1			1
New River (NRCC)		1	2	3	1	7
Northern Virginia (NVCC)	81	75	83	83	65	387
Patrick Henry (PHCC)	5	5	2	1	2	15
Paul D Camp (PDCCC)			1	1	1	3
Piedmont Virginia (PVCC)	27	24	25	25	32	133
Rappahannock Glens (RCC)	1			2	2	5
Richard Bland College (RBC)	10	7	4	2	1	24
Southside Virginia (SSVCC)	2	1	1	1		5
Southwest Virginia (SWVCC)					1	1
Thomas Nelson (TNCC)	7	4	8	5	5	29
Tidewater (TCC)	11	19	11	33	10	84

Previous College	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Virginia Highlands (VHCC)		1			3	4
Virginia Western (VWCC)	10	12	8	21	15	66
Wytheville Com Col (WCC)		1	1	2		4
Total	323	339	354	379	345	1,740

Table 2  
Two-Year College Transfers Who Previously Applied to JMU  
for First-Time Freshmen and Their Acceptance Rates  
2000-2004 Transfers

Previous College	Applied	Accepted	Percent Accepted
Blue Ridge	100	20	20%
Central Virginia	5	1	20%
Dabney Lancaster	6	1	17%
Danville	5	1	20%
Eastern Shore	1	0	0%
Germanna	12	1	8%
J Sargeant Reynolds	3	1	33%
John Tyler	2	1	50%
Lord Fairfax	25	8	32%
New River	1	0	0%
Northern Virginia	81	21	26%
Patrick Henry	4	1	25%
Piedmont Virginia	28	9	32%
Richard Bland College	3	1	33%
Thomas Nelson	5	0	0%
Tidewater	14	4	29%
Virginia Western	10	2	20%
Total	305	72	24%

- How many transfers had at least 60 credit hours accepted by JMU?

In recent years JMU's leadership directed the Admissions Office to focus on admitting transfer students with the Associate's degree. Transfers with less than an Associate's degree often find it difficult to transfer all credits earned at the previous institution into JMU's GenEd program. Between 2003-04 and 2005-06 the percentage of new transfers at junior or senior status increased from 26 to 40 percent. Table 3 shows the number of transfers that had at least 60 hours to transfer upon enrollment. Most of these transfers had an Associate's degree from the two-year institution. The institution with the highest percentage of transfers with at least 60 hours was Blue Ridge Community College, the closest institution to JMU and the first institution with whom JMU signed a Guaranteed Admissions Agreement. The percentage of transfers from all two-year institutions with at least 60 transfer hours increased from 37 percent in 2000-01 to 50 percent in 2004-05. The percentage of transfers eligible for the GAA from BRCC increased from 16 percent in 1992-93 to 80 percent in 2003-04. The percentage of NVCC transfers

with 60 or more credits increased from 14 percent in 2000-01 to 38 percent in 2004-05. The NOVA percentage is likely to increase with the recently signed GAA.

Table 3  
Number and Percent of Transfers with 60 or More Credit Hours  
Accepted by JMU

Previous College	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total	Percent >=60
Blue Ridge	46	62	74	63	89	334	63%
Central Virginia	2		3	1	1	7	18%
Dabney Lancaster	4	2	4	3	1	14	52%
Danville	2	1	2	1	1	7	37%
Eastern Shore		1				1	17%
Germanna	6	2	8	4	4	24	32%
J Sargeant Reynolds			1	3	4	8	33%
John Tyler	2		2	1	1	6	21%
Lord Fairfax	22	23	27	29	19	120	53%
New River		1	1	1		3	43%
Northern Virginia	11	27	23	21	25	107	28%
Patrick Henry	1	2		1	2	6	40%
Paul D Camp			1			1	33%
Piedmont Virginia	10	6	8	10	12	46	35%
Richard Bland College	3	2	3		1	9	38%
Southside Virginia	1					1	20%
Southwest Virginia					1	1	100%
Thomas Nelson	2	2	3	3	1	11	38%
Tidewater	2	5	2	11	4	24	29%
Virginia Western	4	8	4	12	8	36	55%
Wytheville Com Col		1				1	25%
Total	118	145	166	164	174	767	44%
PCT >=60	37%	43%	47%	43%	50%	44%	

- Into which JMU majors did the transfers enroll? How many transfers were enrolled in JMU's teacher education program? What was the average GPA of transfers in each major? Is there a relationship between the number of credits transferred and overall GPA?

Table 4 displays the majors in which the transfers were last enrolled. Over the last four years the majors with 75 or more two-year institution transfers were Psychology, Management, Liberal Arts, Kinesiology, Finance, Information Sciences, and English.

Table 4  
Majors Selected by Transfers

Major	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Accounting	7	10	10	9	18	54
Anthropology	2	4	6	8	4	24
Art	15	16	14	10	6	61
Art History	1	1	2	2	1	7
Athletic Training				1	2	3
Biology	5	7	14	14	14	54
Biotechnology					1	1
Business Economics				3	2	5
Chemistry		4		4	5	13
Communications	15	10	11	14	12	62
Community Health Education	10	7				17
Computer and Information Science	11	12	12	9	11	55
Dietetics	1	2	7	4	5	19
Economics	5	3	7	6	5	26
English	4	13	15	25	18	75
Finance	14	15	15	12	22	78
Foreign Languages and Literatures	4	2	4	2	4	16
Geography	3	5	4	7	4	23
Geology	2	3	4	1	4	14
Health Sciences, BS	3	7	14	17	13	54
Health Services Administration			1	2		3
History	7	11	13	15	11	57
Hospitality and Tourism Management	6	4	7	3	9	29
Information Sciences and Systems	20	21	13	15	9	78
Integrated Science and Technology	6	8	8	5	4	31
International Affairs	3	1	3	3	2	12
International Business	4	2	4	8	6	24
Kinesiology/Health Care Admin	18	14	16	17	20	85
Liberal Arts and Sciences	20	22	24	20	15	101
Management	20	17	16	25	31	109
Marketing	15	14	11	21	9	70
Mathematics	4		6	4	2	16
Music Performance	3	2	1	2	4	12
Nursing (RN Training)	1	2	1	7	7	18
Philosophy and Religion	1	2	1	2	4	10
Physics	1	3	3	1	1	9
Political Science	9	13	8	2	6	38
Psychology	21	26	25	30	14	116
Public Administration	9	13	5	1	5	33
Quantitative Finance				2		2
Social Sciences	12	9	8	8	2	39
Social Work	6	3	11	5	5	30
Sociology	17	12	6	12	10	57
Speech Pathology	3	3	5	6	5	22

Major	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Technical and Scientific Comm.	2	4	5	1	5	17
Theatre	1	1	4	1	2	9
Undeclared	11	11	10	13	6	51
Vocational Education	1					1
Total	323	339	354	379	345	1,740

Majors are classified into major discipline clusters by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES). The table below shows the number of transfers in each discipline cluster. This allows one to determine the larger discipline areas that attract transfers. It appears that two-year transfers are most likely to major in business and the social sciences. The social sciences are a primary path to teacher certification.

Table 5  
Transfer Majors in Discipline Clusters

Discipline Cluster	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	5	7	14	14	15	55
Business, Management, Marketing, and Related Support Services	66	62	63	83	97	371
Communication, Journalism, and Related Programs	15	10	11	14	12	62
Computer and Information Sciences and Support Services	31	33	25	24	20	133
Education	1					1
English Language and Literature/Letters	6	17	20	26	23	92
Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences	1	2	7	4	5	19
Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics	4	2	4	2	4	16
Health Professions and Related Clinical Sciences	17	19	21	33	27	117
History	7	11	13	15	11	57
Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities	20	22	24	20	15	101
Mathematics and Statistics	4		6	4	2	16
Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	6	8	8	5	4	31
Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies	18	14	16	17	20	85
Philosophy and Religious Studies	1	2	1	2	4	10
Physical Sciences	3	10	7	6	10	36
Psychology	21	26	25	30	14	116
Public Administration and Social Service Professions	15	16	16	6	10	63
Social Sciences	51	47	42	46	33	219
Undeclared	11	11	10	13	6	51
Visual and Performing Arts	20	20	21	15	13	89
Total	323	339	354	379	345	1,740

Table 6 displays the number of transfers who enrolled in the Teacher Education program by type of endorsement sought. Ten percent of the two-year college transfers enrolled in teacher education as compared with six percent of all undergraduates in fall 2005.

Table 6  
Transfers Enrolled in JMU's Education Program

Endorsement Sought	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Elementary	12	8	14	13	1	48
Middle School	3	1	3	1	3	11
Secondary	5	12	11	13	8	49
Multi-Level	5	3	4	3	4	19
Unknown	15	2			2	19
Special Education	6	3	6	5	3	23
Total	46	31	39	35	21	169

Table 7 displays the average grade point average (GPA) for the transfers in each major at JMU. The majors with the highest GPAs (with total credits earned of 750 or more) include Art, Foods and Nutrition Studies, Technical and Scientific Communication, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Speech Pathology, and Community Health Education. Majors with the lowest GPAs (also with 750 or more credits) include Economics, Political Science, Biology, and Kinesiology.

Table 7  
Average GPA by Major at JMU

Major	Hours	JMU GPA
Accounting	2,304	2.790
Anthropology	1,242	2.656
Art	3,799	3.286
Art History	290	3.069
Athletic Training	82	2.449
Biology	2,227	2.468
Biotechnology	31	2.303
Business Economics	214	2.218
Dietetics	921	3.162
Chemistry	600	2.502
Community Health Education	1,044	3.014
Communications	3,430	2.956
Computer And Information Science	2,787	2.748
Economics	1408	2.318
English	3,676	2.715
Finance	4,219	2.867
Foreign Languages and Literatures	1,082	3.074
Geography	1,336	2.946
Geology	642	2.689

Major	Hours	JMU GPA
Health Sciences, BS	3,238	2.765
Health Services Administration	181	2.071
History	2,924	2.677
Hospitality and Tourism Management	1,484	2.800
Information Sciences and Systems	4,606	2.663
Integrated Science and Technology	1,937	2.778
International Affairs	772	2.782
International Business	1,203	2.611
Kinesiology/Health Care Admin	4,867	2.588
Liberal Arts and Sciences	5,424	2.943
Management	5,511	2.710
Marketing	4,013	2.824
Mathematics	724	2.505
Music Performance	582	2.944
Nursing (RN Training)	763	2.666
Philosophy and Religion	468	2.647
Physics	502	2.693
Political Science	1,796	2.397
Psychology	6,357	2.848
Public Administration	1,776	2.807
Quantitative Finance	106	3.562
Social Sciences	2,683	2.720
Social Work	1,520	2.954
Sociology	3,013	2.698
Speech Pathology	1,328	3.069
Technical and Scientific Communication	925	3.103
Theatre	653	2.875
Undeclared	1,105	1.659
Vocational Education	25	0.975
Total	91,820	2.773

Table 8 shows that the highest GPAs for the transfers (1,000 or more credits) were Home Economics, Education, Public Affairs, and Fine Arts. The lowest GPAs were in Mathematics, Biology, and the Physical Sciences.

Table 8  
Average GPA by Discipline Cluster

Discipline Cluster	Sections	Credits	GPA
Architecture	114	342	3.448
Biology	789	2696	2.290
Business	5782	17109	2.728
Communications	1345	3998	2.779
Information Science	1222	3646	2.777
Education	2910	7783	3.237
Fine Arts	2622	7192	3.185
Languages	801	2690	3.001
Health	2101	5707	3.054

Discipline Cluster	Sections	Credits	GPA
Home Economics	483	1409	3.507
Letters (including English)	2591	7770	2.855
Mathematics	1392	4425	2.008
Military Science	220	413	3.890
Physical Sciences	1804	4484	2.390
Psychology	1910	5853	2.919
Public Affairs	594	1871	3.191
Social Sciences	5452	17013	2.659
Liberal Arts	1211	3335	2.922

The number of hours that are accepted by JMU at initial enrollment is directly related to their cumulative GPA. Table 9 displays the number of hours transferred and the average GPA. A regression analysis that used credit hours transferred and total JMU credits earned explained 15 percent of the variance in GPA. In other words, the number of credits transferred explains in part the transfers' GPAs.

Annually since 1991 this author has conducted a transfer study for Blue Ridge Community College. The purpose of this study has been to determine how well the BRCC transfers have performed academically at other Virginia senior institutions. Since the majority of BRCC transfers enroll at JMU (334 between 2000-01 and 2004-05), the primary focus has been on JMU. Below are the major findings of these studies<sup>1</sup>.

1. The academic performance of transfers at the senior institutions is related to their GPA at BRCC.
2. BRCC transfers who met the JMU GAA requirements before it was signed or met it after 2002-03 appear to be successful at JMU. Eighty-one percent of the transfers graduated within six years, higher than the overall graduation rate of 75 percent for all the transfers.
3. Students ineligible for GAA transfer had a 70 percent graduation rate. Students eligible for GAA transfer that have higher GPAs at BRCC (>3.00) are more likely to have higher JMU GPAs. Transfers who did not meet the GAA requirements, but had a BRCC GPA greater than 3.000, continued to perform well at JMU.

The study concluded that "Students who will enroll at JMU under the GAA are more likely to be successful academically than those who did not meet the requirements."

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<sup>1</sup> Doherty, Frank. The Academic Performance of BRCC Transfers, 2003-04 Study

Table 9  
Relationship Between Hours Transferred and JMU GPA

Credit Hours Transferred to JMU	Total Credit Hours	GPA
60 or more	38,061	2.907
Between 31 and 59	44,584	2.689
Less than 31	9,175	2.628
Total	91,820	2.773

- How does the academic performance of transfers compare with students who entered JMU as freshmen?

Table 10 below shows the courses in which students who entered JMU as freshmen or transfers performed the highest as measured by the percentage of “A,” “B,” or “Pass” grades received out of all possible grades (A, B, C, etc.). These are the courses in which the total grades for first-time freshmen were at least 250 and for transfers were at least 100. The percentage shown in Table 10 is for 90 percent or higher “A,” “B”, or “Pass” grades. There is a large number of disciplines in which the highest percentages were fairly similar. However, in several disciplines (READ, IS, HRD and NRS) there were at least six percentage point differences.

Table 10  
Percentage of Courses with Grades of A, B, or Pass by Course Prefix  
Students Entering JMU as Either First-Time Freshmen or Transfer  
Percent  $\geq$  90

First-Time Freshmen			Transfers		
Course Prefix	Total Grades	Percent A, B, or PASS	Course Prefix	Total Grades	Percent A, B, or PASS
ECED	1,234	98%	ECED	181	97%
MSCI	608	97%	MSCI	124	96%
SPED	1,046	95%	SPED	146	90%
HON	261	95%			
MUAP	2,310	95%	MUAP	115	90%
EDUC	996	94%	EDUC	184	90%
READ	465	94%	READ	103	88%
SOWK	623	94%	SOWK	161	90%
IS	706	94%	IS	181	72%
HRD	651	94%	HRD	107	85%
WRIT	542	92%	WRIT	46	91%
INDE	370	92%	INDE	104	91%
NUTR	1,151	92%	NUTR	295	91%
NSG	1,442	90%	NSG	283	81%
DANC	788	90%	DANC	115	87%

Table 11 shows the same comparison as Table 10, but displays the courses in which student performance is lowest (Percentage “A,” “B,” or “Pass”  $\leq 60$ ). In general both the transfers and native students tend to have lower grades in these disciplines, but the grades of transfers in Mathematics, Chemistry, GenEd Science (GSCI), Accounting, Philosophy, and Economics were at least 8 percentage points below students who entered as first-time freshmen.

Table 11  
 Percentage of Courses with Grades of A, B, or Pass by Course Prefix  
 Students Entering JMU as Either First-Time Freshmen or Transfer  
 Percent  $\leq 60$

First-Time Freshmen			Transfer		
Course Prefix	Total Grades	Percent A, B, or PASS	Course Prefix	Total Grades	Percent A, B, or PASS
ACTG *	950	68%	ACTG	158	59%
PHIL *	775	69%	PHIL	165	58%
BIO*	3,333	62%	BIO	511	56%
GECON	1,707	44%	GECON	143	56%
GSCI *	5,463	70%	GSCI	598	55%
GPOSC	1,241	56%	GPOSC	174	55%
ECON	1,936	52%	ECON	370	41%
CHEM	3,090	53%	CHEM	451	41%
MATH	6,629	48%	MATH	806	40%

- What were the graduation rates of the transfers? Are transfers with 60 or more credits at enrollment more likely to graduate than transfers with fewer credits?

Table 12 displays the graduations rate by college. Using 2000-01 and 2001-02 transfers, approximately 71 percent graduated. A closer analysis reveals different graduation rates for transfers with 60 or more transfer credits. Approximately 77 percent of these transfers graduated from JMU. Conversely, less than 60 percent of transfers with 30 or fewer transfer credits graduated.

Table 12  
Graduation Rates of Transfers

Year Transferred	Previous College	Graduated	Not Graduated	Total	Pct Graduated	
2000-01	Blue Ridge	56	26	82	68%	
	Central Virginia	6	1	7	86%	
	Dabney Lancaster	5	3	8	63%	
	Danville	4		4	100%	
	Eastern Shore		1	1	0%	
	Germanna	11	3	14	79%	
	J Sargeant Reynolds	3		3	100%	
	John Tyler	4	3	7	57%	
	Lord Fairfax	30	13	43	70%	
	Northern Virginia	59	22	81	73%	
	Patrick Henry	4	1	5	80%	
	Piedmont Virginia	20	7	27	74%	
	Rappahannock Glenss	1		1	100%	
	Richard Bland College	4	6	10	40%	
	Southside Virginia	2		2	100%	
	Thomas Nelson	7		7	100%	
	Tidewater	8	3	11	73%	
	Virginia Western	8	2	10	80%	
	<b>2000-01 Total</b>		232	91	323	72%
	2001-02	Blue Ridge	73	29	102	72%
Central Virginia		4	1	5	80%	
Dabney Lancaster		3	4	7	43%	
Danville		4	1	5	80%	
Eastern Shore			2	2	0%	
Germanna		10	4	14	71%	
J Sargeant Reynolds		2		2	100%	
John Tyler		3	2	5	60%	
Lord Fairfax		33	14	47	70%	
New River			1	1	0%	
Northern Virginia		51	24	75	68%	
Patrick Henry		3	2	5	60%	
Piedmont Virginia		15	9	24	63%	
Richard Bland College		4	3	7	57%	
Southside Virginia			1	1	0%	
Thomas Nelson		4		4	100%	
Tidewater		15	4	19	79%	
Virginia Highlands		1		1	100%	
Virginia Western		10	2	12	83%	
Wytheville Com Col		1		1	100%	
<b>2001-02 Total</b>		236	103	339	70%	
<b>2002-03 Total</b>		176	178	354	50%	
<b>2003-04 Total</b>		59	321	380	16%	
<b>2004-05 Total</b>		2	343	345	1%	
<b>Grand Total</b>		705	1036	1741	40%	

## Discussion

The purpose of this study was to investigate the academic performance of students who transferred to JMU from Virginia's public two-year institutions. The study reviewed the number of students that applied, the number of credits transferred, majors in which they enrolled, GPAs within each major and overall GPAs, differences between their performance and students that enrolled at JMU as first-time freshmen, and graduation rates.

Below are the major findings.

- Eighteen percent of the transfers had applied to JMU between 2000 and 2001 for admission as a first-time freshman, and 24 percent of the applicants were accepted, but did not enroll at that time.
- Blue Ridge Community College (529), Northern Virginia Community College (387), Lord Fairfax Community College (225) and Piedmont Virginia Community College (133) account for 73 percent of all transfers.
- Unlike first-time freshmen where only 36 percent are male, 54 percent of the two-year college transfers were male. Eleven percent of the transfers were non-Caucasian. The racial distribution is similar to all undergraduates.
- The University has placed a priority on enrolling transfers with the Associate's degree. The percentage of transfers with at least 60 hours accepted has steadily increased since 2000-01. By 2004-05 this percentage had increased to 50. Between 1992 and 2003 the percentage of BRCC transfers eligible for the GAA increased from 16 percent to 80 percent. Since a GAA was signed recently with Northern Virginia Community College, the overall percentage is expected to increase.
- The most popular majors have been Psychology, Management, Liberal Arts, Kinesiology, Finance, Information Sciences, and English. Two-year transfers were more likely to major in business and the social sciences. They were also more likely to seek teacher certification than other students.
- The majors with the highest GPAs included Art, Dietetics, Technical and Scientific Communication, Foreign Languages and Literatures, Speech Pathology, and Community Health Education. Majors with the lowest GPAs included Economics, Political Science, Biology, and Kinesiology.
- The overall average GPA of transfers was 2.773. However, transfers with 60 or more credits at enrollment had much higher GPAs (2.907) than those with less than 30 credits (2.628).
- Approximately 71 percent of the transfers graduated. A closer analysis reveals different graduation rates for transfers with 60 or more transfer credits. Approximately 77 percent of these transfers graduated from JMU. Conversely, less than 60 percent of transfers with 30 or fewer transfer credits graduated.

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