Prospective Students

General Information

- The Adult Degree Program (ADP) is a non-traditional, Individualized Study Bachelor’s degree completion program.

- ADP Students are Individualized Study Majors and cannot exclusively follow any of the traditional majors offered at JMU. Individualized Study Majors select courses from two or more subject areas to create their focus of study or Concentration.

- The Bachelors of Individualized Study is a highly recognized and accepted bachelors degree. It is one of many conferred degrees from JMU.

- Prospective students must be 22 years of age and over.

- Prospective students must have a minimum of 30 transferable credits and a GPA of 2.0 or higher at previous colleges or universities attended. Transferable credits are any college credits accepted by JMU. Not all credits transfer into JMU.

- Accepted students can begin the program at any one of 5 start dates throughout the academic year:
  - Fall 1 (Begins late August)-application deadline is August 1
  - Fall 2 (Begins mid-October)-application deadline is September 15
  - Spring 1 (Begins January)-application deadline is December 1
  - Spring 2 (Begins mid-March)-application deadline is February 15
  - Summer (Begins mid-May) –application deadline is April 1

- Prospective students who applied to JMU within the previous year and were declined admission cannot apply to ADP until a full calendar year passes from the original application. It is JMU policy for all applicants to wait a full calendar year before reapplying. For example, a prospective student applies for admission for the fall 2014 semester and was not accepted. They are not eligible for application again until fall 2015.
Terminology:

Below is frequently used terminology for the JMU Adult Degree Program:

**Individualized Study Major**-Individualized Studies is an interdisciplinary major for ADP students who wish to create a program of study by combining selected courses from two or more departments. Students are required to identify a central organizing theme for their major and design it under the guidance and supervision of at least one faculty member and an Individualized Studies adviser.

**Prior Learning Assessment**-Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is the process of earning college credit for college-level learning acquired from other sources, such as work experience, professional training, military training, or open source learning from the web. - See more at: [http://www.cael.org/what-we-do/prior-learning-assessment#sthash.F5qAEKzf.dpuf](http://www.cael.org/what-we-do/prior-learning-assessment#sthash.F5qAEKzf.dpuf)

**Concentration**-A concentration is a structured plan of study within the Individualized Study Major consisting of focused areas of study for each student. The ADP Program Plan includes a Concentration that needs to be interdisciplinary (two or more areas of study). Examples of Concentrations are Computer Science & Communication, Technical Writing & Human Resource Development.

**Program Plan**-An ADP document that students use to map out their curriculum to meet university and program requirements to qualify to graduation. We use this document because the current JMU Student Administration system is set up to only track the traditional general education and major requirements within the Clusters. The system will not track requirement completion of ADP students as they follow a different Cluster unique to our program. For example, the “What If?” scenario available in MyMadison will not work for ADP students because it is looking for completion with traditional clusters.

**IS 200 Individualized Program Management Course**- An introductory course designed to prepare students for transition into higher education programs. Specific content includes Career Research activities including self-assessment inventories, career research and a short paper describing your findings. Development of individual Program Plans including your focus of studies to form a concentration, selecting additional courses to meet General Education requirements and locating an appropriate academic advisor for your main area of study. Practice professional communication in higher education by completing Discussion Board posts, reading materials with written reflections and contacting the Communication Center’s liaison for a meeting. A second paper that ties your career and educational goals together to confirm your Program Plan meets your needs.
**IS 498 Senior Research Project**- An in-depth study of an interdisciplinary topic directly related to the student’s areas of study that formulates their concentration. It is an Independent Research Project or Capstone Course that culminates their learning as a student of JMU. More information provided in that section of this handbook.

**Return to Madison (R2M)**- A state-funded grant program through Outreach & Engagement to reach out to and invite to return, low-income students from JMU who have stopped out and did not complete their degree. [http://www.jmu.edu/stories/2013/adult-degree-students-return-madison.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/stories/2013/adult-degree-students-return-madison.shtml)