

# Registrar News

Spring 2009 Issue

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Welcome to the twelfth edition of a newsletter from the Office of the Registrar. Its purpose is to keep you informed about dates and deadlines, policies and procedures pertaining to registration and student record.

## May Graduate Don't Forgets

**Don't forget** to pick up your name card at Registration Services on the third floor of Warren Hall. Cards will be available Monday, May 4 through Friday, May 8, from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. **This applies to undergraduates only. Graduate Students should contact the Graduate School for instructions.**

**Don't forget** to pay any financial holds you may have with Parking Services, University Business Office, or other offices on campus. Transcripts and diplomas will not be issued if you owe the university money.

**Don't forget** to complete your Exit Interview if you have a Perkin Loans. Contact the University Business Office for instructions. Transcripts and diplomas will not be issued until this has been completed.

**Don't forget** to log-on to e-campus and update your address. Your diploma will be mailed to the permanent address found here unless you fill out a "Change of Address to Mail Diploma" form.

**Graduate candidates - Don't forget** that the commencement ceremony is on Friday, May 8, in the Convocation Center. The ceremony begins at 7:00 p.m., but you need to be in the Processional Line by 6:30 p.m. **Get there early!**

**Undergraduate candidates - Don't forget** that the main commencement ceremony is on Saturday, May 9, in Bridgeforth Stadium. The ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m., but you need to be in the Processional Line by 8:00 a.m. **Get there early!**

**Don't forget** to bring your name card to commencement. The reader will announce your name from this card.

**Don't forget** to write your address on the back of your name card. Photos taken during the commencement ceremony will be mailed to this address.

**Don't forget** that the tassel is worn on the right and moved to the left during the ceremony.

**Don't forget** to forward webmail to your home e-mail address. See accompanying article in this newsletter for instructions.

**Don't forget** to change your password every 90 days for continued access to e-campus. You may need to reference your transcript and other student information for many months (or years) to come.

## Graduating with honors?

To even be considered eligible for honors, students must have:

- Attended JMU for four regular semesters
- At least 60 credit hours at JMU
- Cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher

If the above three criteria has been met, the Registrar's office will calculate a combined GPA of all coursework. All JMU grades **and** grades from courses that have transferred from other schools will be included in the calculation. Credits from other colleges will be converted to JMU's grading scale. If the combined GPA is 3.5 or higher, then honors will be awarded.

Below is a chart that shows the three levels of honors.

Latin Honors	GPA range	Level
Cum Laude	3.5-3.699	Lowest range
Magna Cum Laude	3.7-3.899	Middle range
Summa Cum Laude	3.9 and up	Highest range

Honors will be checked at least twice for those students meeting the first three criteria. Graduates walking in May commencement will be checked for honors at the end of Fall semester. Honors listed in the commencement program will be based on this initial check. After degree requirements have been met, honors will be checked again. Laude honors printed on transcripts and diplomas will be based on this final check. This means some students may be dropped from honor status and others may be added.

**Note:** Grade point averages are never rounded up; no matter how close the GPA is to the eligible standard.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

### **Friday, May 1**

- Last day of 2009 Spring courses
- Last day for faculty to submit to Registrar  
*Removal of "I" Grade* forms for 2008 Fall course work

### **Monday-Friday, May 4-8**

- Final Exams
- Name Card distribution for May/August graduates

### **Friday, May 8**

- Deadline for completion of course work for May graduates
- Graduate School Commencement
  - 6:30 p.m. Graduates in processional line
  - 7:00 p.m. Ceremony begins

### **Saturday, May 9**

#### Undergraduate Commencement

- 8:00 a.m. Graduates in processional line
- 8:30 a.m. Main ceremony begins
- 11:30 a.m. Satellite ceremonies begin

### **Monday, May 18**

#### First day of Class for Summer Sessions:

- Graduate Twelve-Week Term
- Graduate First Six-Week Term
- Graduate First Four-Week Term
- Undergraduate Ten-Week Term
- Undergraduate Eight-Week Term
- Undergraduate First Four-Week Term

### **Monday, May 25**

#### Memorial Day Holiday

### **Monday, June 1**

Degree Applications for December 2009 graduation due to First Major adviser

### **Monday-Friday, June 1-5**

#### Transfer Springboard Orientation

### **Monday, June 15**

- Degree Applications for December 2009 graduation due to into Registrar's Office
- First day of class for Summer Sessions:
  - Graduate Eight-Week Term
  - Graduate Second Four-Week Term
  - Undergraduate Six-Week Term
  - Undergraduate Second Four-Week Term

### **Monday, June 22**

#### First-Year Springboard Orientation begins

### **Monday, June 29**

#### First day of class for Summer Sessions:

- Graduate Second Six-Week Term

### **Friday, July 3**

#### Independence Day Holiday Observed

### **Wednesday, July 15**

#### First-Year Springboard Orientation ends

### **Friday, August 7**

- Last day of Summer Semester
- Confer date for students finishing degree requirements during Summer

## ***e-ID for the Departing Student***

**Will my e-ID remain active after I graduate?** You keep full e-ID access to e-campus and webmail for sixty days after your degree is awarded. However, you may keep your e-ID and access to e-campus forever as long as you keep your password current. Just like you do now, you will need to change your password every 90 days.

**Why should I want to retain access to e-campus?** The main reason is so you always have access to your transcript. Not only can you view your transcript and print unofficial copies, but you can also request official ones when potential employers or graduate schools request.

**So what do I really lose?** Access to Webmail and Blackboard will not be retained after the sixty day grace period, *but* you can forward e-mail received at your JMU address to your home account.

**How do I forward my JMU e-mail to my home e-mail?** Sixty days after your degree is awarded, you will lose access to webmail. Before the grace period ends, you should have your JMU e-mail forwarded to another e-mail address. To do this, you will need to go to <https://accounts.jmu.edu> and log-in. On the left, click on the *Directory/E-mail Forwarding* link. Skip the *Directory Information* at the top; scroll to the second half of the page where it says "*Forward your JMU e-mail to another e-mail address.*" Type the complete address to your new e-mail in the provided box and click on the Submit Changes button.



### ***Degree Spotlight: The Bachelor of Arts***

JMU offers eight different degrees. The Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science degrees encompass many majors and are traditional degrees for a liberal arts foundation. As such, both are awarded more often than the other more specialized degrees. This article is spotlighting the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.).

The Bachelor of Arts degree has a humanistic focus. Courses taken promote understanding of human culture and appreciation of art in its many forms. Courses encourage the examination of ideas. Students must complete at least one Philosophy course and exhibit proficiency in a second language. Students may select from 24 majors for which they can earn the B.A. degree.

All students must complete 120 credit hours to graduate. Approximately 41 of those credit hours complete the general education requirement. How the remaining credit hours are cast is determined by the major and/or degree. Students seeking a B.A. degree must complete a philosophy course requirement (3 credit hours), an intermediate level foreign language requirement (0-14 credit hours), major concentration requirements, and electives. The number of elective courses a student may take depends on how many of the remaining credit hours are taken to complete the major requirements.

If one of the following courses of study is your first major, you are enrolled in a B.A. degree program: *Art History*      *Earth Science*      *English*      *History*  
*International Affairs*      *Modern Foreign Language*      *Philosophy and Religion*  
*Political Science*      *Theatre and Dance*

If one of the following courses of study is your first major, you may choose the B.A. as your degree program: *Anthropology*      *Studio Art*      *Biology*  
*Communication Studies*      *Communication Sciences and Disorders*      *Geographic Science*  
*Individualized Study*      *Justice Studies*      *Media Arts and Design*      *Mathematics*  
*Physics*      *Psychology*      *Sociology*      *Technical and Scientific Communication*