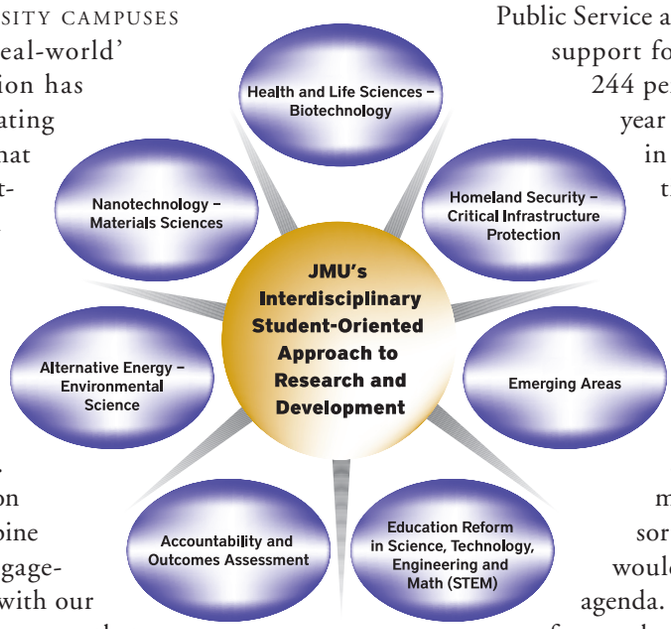
A new kind of research university

James Madison University creates an enterprisewide research agenda that places students at the intersection of cross-disciplinary faculty collaboration

An old cliché on university campuses that warned students the 'real-world' awaited them after graduation has lost its relevance. The accelerating velocity of change demands that students be adept at negotiating – and shaping – the real world upon graduating.

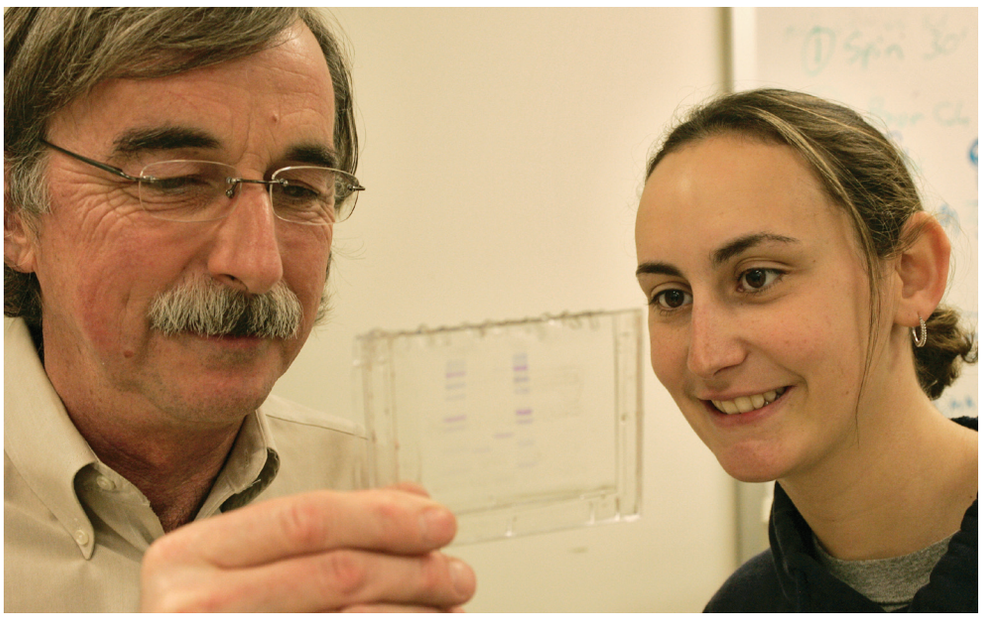
James Madison University professors engage undergraduate students in research activities in the way that most research institutions involve graduate students. Dr. Douglas Brown, James Madison University provost says, "Combine the intense undergraduate engagement in research at Madison with our niche masters and doctoral programs that rank nationally, and you've got a combination that is positioned to leapfrog traditional models for research institutions in the next century."

"This idea is very attractive to funding agencies," says Dr. John Noftsinger, associate vice president of Research and Public Service at Madison. "Growth in outside support for our faculty's research grew 244 percent in the last six years. Last year alone JMU moved up 35 places in the National Science Foundation's rankings for research and development expenditures."



To further cultivate this growth, James Madison University has created an enterprisewide research agenda that identifies seven broad categories of research (as shown in the diagram). Not many universities possess the sort of campus environment that would allow such a clearly defined agenda. That's why JMU is a new kind of research university.

To learn more about research and innovation at James Madison University, visit www.jmu.edu/research/. You can also read the latest JMU research news by visiting The Madison Scholar at www.jmu.edu/madisonscholar/.



In collaboration with EyeRx Research Inc. and Eastern Virginia Medical School, both in Hampton Roads, the JMU Integrated Science and Technology program is providing the bench work for cloning, expressing and purifying lacritin, a protein which will be used in a new remedy for dry-eye syndrome affecting 35 million Americans. **Dr. Robert McKown** and Integrated Science and Technology student **Kristin Bloom** examine purified lacritin in ISAT's biotechnology labs. This is just one of countless examples of cutting edge research involving undergraduates at JMU.