FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are Women for Madison?
We are a diverse network of alumni, parents, students, faculty and friends of James Madison University who engage and inform women about the opportunities and needs of the university. Our primary goal is to enhance the collective involvement and financial impact of women giving to the university.

Building on JMU's history as a women's institution and recognizing today's 6-to-4 female-to-male student enrollment, the organization seeks new ways to engage women of varied interests and accomplishments in the life of the university. Women for Madison encourages women to connect with one another, with university leaders, and directly with JMU’s exceptional professors and students as they invest their time, talents and resources. Any woman who makes an annual gift in any amount, individually or jointly, to James Madison University is considered a Woman for Madison.

Who are the Women for Madison Executive Advisory Council?
Founded in 2013, the Women for Madison Executive Advisory Council (EAC) assists JMU in creating a broader network of support. The council is affiliated with University Advancement and specifically with the Development Office. The EAC helps to guide the mission and strategic goals for Women for Madison. Executive Advisory Council members are nominated and selected by the Advancement staff. They are required to make an annual gift commitment minimum amount to any area of the university of their choosing to meet the requirements of the council.

There are many things to be a part of within the JMU community - Duke Club, Alumni Chapter, etc. How do these feed into each other? How are we going to distinguish ourselves and not have others feel overwhelmed by choices, options, or selecting to be part of one of the other options?
There are no other groups associated with JMU that focus on donor education, philanthropy and women. If a woman donates to the Duke Club or meets the President’s Council giving threshold, she is also a Woman for Madison. Alumni Chapters can serve as gateways for interested and engaged alumni to begin to consider an investment in JMU and become a Woman for Madison.

What are Women for Madison Circle Events?
Circles bring JMU women together with one another and with university leaders to gain an intimate perspective of the university and to learn about priorities for private support. Built on the concept of Dolley Madison’s popular White House social gatherings, Women for Madison circles also provide opportunities for socializing, networking and discussing issues important to the women of JMU. Circles are sponsored or hosted by Women for Madison Advisory Council members. They will take place by invitation in private homes or clubs around the country where there is strong interest.

What kind of gift is expected for membership?
Every woman who makes an annual gift to James Madison University in an area of their choice is a “Woman for Madison.” (Future expectations may change and will be determined by the Development Committee of the Women for Madison Executive Advisory Council.)

How does Women for Madison fit into the comprehensive campaign?
The Women for Madison network will provide a platform to help educate donors and prospective donors about the strategic vision of JMU and communicate fundraising priorities.

Can non-alums be members?
Yes. Alumni, parents, students, faculty and friends of James Madison University who make an annual gift to the university are considered Women for Madison.

Do we pay dues?
There are no “dues.” Every woman making an annual gift to the university is a Woman for Madison.

Is membership by invitation only?
No invitation is necessary to be a part of Women for Madison. However, Executive Advisory Council members are nominated and vetted by the Advancement staff. They are expected to meet an annual gift commitment minimum to any area of the university to meet the requirements of the council.

How do I join?
You may participate with Women for Madison by supporting the university with an annual gift, visiting our website, completing our survey, helping us to share the good news about JMU with other women and extending an invitation to become a part of the Women for Madison community.

Are there other organizations on campus or in the various communities that we should be working with or that would automatically fold under this organization?
We will endeavor to work with any JMU entity that has a focus on women’s interests in order to engage our constituency and bring opportunities for involvement and investment to more women.