JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY is a comprehensive university that is part of the statewide system of public higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is the only university in America named for James Madison. Established March 14, 1908, the university offers programs on the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral levels with its primary emphasis on the undergraduate student. JMU provides a total education to students — one that has a broad range of the liberal arts as its foundation and encompasses an extensive variety of professional and pre-professional programs, augmented by a multitude of learning experiences outside the classroom. The university has been a coeducational institution since 1966.

JMU is located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia along Interstate 81, approximately two hours from Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Va. The campus is easily accessible from I-81’s Exit 245. The nearest airport is Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD) in Weyers Cave, 20 minutes south of campus.

MISSION: We are a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.

MOTTO: Knowledge is liberty

SCHOOL COLORS: Purple and Gold

NICKNAME: Dukes

MASCOT: Duke Dog

ACADEMIC AFFILIATION: Colonial Academic Alliance

ATHLETIC AFFILIATION: NCAA Division I

APPLICANT DETAILS (Fall 2011)
First-Time Freshman Applicants 22,349
First-Time Freshmen Enrolled 4,029
Applicants Accepted 58%
Transfer Applicants 2,137
Transfer Enrolled 733
Transfer Applicants Accepted 45%

TOTAL APPLICANTS 24,486

PERCENT ENROLLMENT BY ETHNICITY (Fall 2011)
Black or African American 3.84%
American Indian/Alaska Native 0.18%
Asian 4.51%
Hispanic 3.39%
White 81.08%
Hawaiian/Pacific Islander 0.36%

NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS 302

DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED
Undergraduate 69
Master’s 31
Educational Specialist 2
Doctoral 7
TOTAL 109

DEGREES CONFERRED (2011–12)
Undergraduate 4,096
Graduate 812
TOTAL 4,908

ENROLLMENT (Fall 2011)
Undergraduate 17,900
Graduate 1,822
Full-Time 18,166
Part-Time 1,556
In-State 72.9%
Out-of-State 27.1%
Female 60%
Male 40%
TOTAL ENROLLMENT 19,722

FRESHMAN CLASS
Retention rate 91.3%
SAT mid-50 percent range (on a 1600-point scale) 1110–1270
ACT mid-50 percent range 24-28
Ranked in the top third of their high-school class 87%

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO (Fall 2011) 16:1

FACULTY AND STAFF (Fall 2011)
Full-Time Instructional Faculty 924
Full-Time Instructional Faculty with Tenure 52%
Full-Time Instructional Faculty with Terminal Degrees 79%
Part-Time Instructional Faculty 395
Full-Time Classified Staff 1,238
High graduation rates and low costs are among the factors landing JMU a place on Kiplinger’s Personal Finance’s top 100 “Best Values in Public Colleges” for 2012. JMU placed 28th on the list of four-year public schools that combine outstanding education with economic value.


JMU’s Alternative Break Program was the Break Away National Program of the Year for 2010. The award, which JMU also earned in 1999, recognizes the university’s commitment to active citizenship.

JMU’s commitment to becoming a model steward of the natural world was recognized with a Governor’s Environmental Excellence Award gold medal in April 2010 for the work of the university’s Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World.

JMU is included in the 2013 edition of The Fiske Guide to Colleges, which features more than 300 of the country’s best and most interesting colleges and universities.

JMU is named one of the country’s most environmentally responsible colleges in The Princeton Review’s “Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2012 Edition.” Factors considered in the rating system include green building certification programs, environmental literacy programs, formal sustainability committees, use of renewable energy resources and recycling and conservation programs. In 2012, JMU’s Wayland Hall became the first renovated residence hall in the country to receive the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design platinum award, the highest LEED certification status.

JMU’s College of Business remains in the top 5 percent of undergraduate business schools ranked annually by Bloomberg Businessweek magazine. The College of Business ranked 12th among public institutions and 32nd among all business schools.

JMU is the top master’s-level institution in the country in the number of students who participate in short-term study-abroad programs, according to the Institute of International Education’s Open Doors 2011 report, which measured study abroad in 2009-10. JMU ranked second in the nation in total number of students who studied abroad, with 1,037. In addition, JMU compared favorably with similar institutions in semester-long programs (17th) and programs lasting a full academic year or longer (7th).

JMU ranks No. 38 on The Forbes Top 100 Best Buy Colleges 2012 special report.

The U.S. News & World Report 2013 edition of its “Best Colleges” guidebook ranks the university No. 2 on the list of top public schools in the South and includes JMU among colleges and universities that were most often cited by college presidents, provosts and admissions deans who were asked to identify up to 10 schools in their U.S. News ranking category where the faculty has a strong commitment to teaching. JMU is included in the magazine’s listing of schools where students are involved in undergraduate research and creative projects that result in original scholarly papers that can be formally presented on or off campus.

JMU earned a place on the 2012 President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction for commitment to service and civic engagement on campus and in the nation. JMU has been on the honor roll, which is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, since the list was established in 2006.