Important tips for move-in day

by The Office of Residence Life

Move-in day at JMU is quickly approaching. Make the most of what is a busy and emotional day with these helpful tips.

**Be certain of the correct move-in date.** Some freshmen will move in on Tuesday, Aug. 23; the rest will move in on the following day. Transfer students may move in on Friday, Aug. 26, and returning students may move in on Saturday, Aug. 27. The student’s room assignment notification also indicates what day their hall is open for arrivals.

**Forget what you know about how to get around at JMU.** Parents have often visited campus in the past for a tour, to participate in the Choices program or to move another student into their residence hall. However, to accommodate all the move-in day traffic, there is a specific arrival plan for each residence hall. These directions are provided on the online room assignment notifications and are also available at [www.jmu.edu/orl](http://www.jmu.edu/orl) (click on the Move-in, then Driving Directions links). It is essential that parents and students follow these directions to manage traffic flow and ease frustration.

**Encourage students to communicate with their roommate(s) before move-in day,** preferably by phone to help eliminate duplication of larger items like rugs and TVs.

- Consider bringing a handcart to more easily and efficiently move boxes.
- Pack items in sturdy containers and label with your name, hall name room/suite number and wing if applicable. Labeling will ensure your items are not mistakenly taken to the wrong location.
- Help students to unpack and get settled in, but leave a few things for them to do with their roommates. This helps the new roommates to make the space their own. Also, don’t linger too long in your student’s room on move-in day. Students have activities to attend, people to meet and a college life to get started!

The Residence Life staff is excited to welcome students and their parents to campus. A great deal of planning has been done to ensure a smooth move-in process. Parental cooperation in following the written directions and move-in signs will go a long way toward making the day a positive experience for each family. There will be many university staff members and volunteers (e.g. FROGS. and the Senior Vice President for Student Affairs and University Planning Dr. Mark Warner pictured above) available to help with directions and to answer questions. Many move-in questions can be answered by visiting the Residence Life Web site at [www.jmu.edu/orl](http://www.jmu.edu/orl). For any immediate questions about moving onto the JMU campus, please e-mail res-life@jmu.edu or call (540) 568–4663.
Family Weekend Highlights

Friday, Oct. 14
Whose Live Anyway?, 8 p.m.
Tickets are on sale now, to order tickets or for more information visit www.jmu.edu/JMUArts, call (540) 568-7000 or toll free (877) 201-7543.

Back-to-School for Parents!
Various times and locations, check the Family Weekend Web site Sept. 1, for a list of approved classes.
Join your student in his or her Friday class and get a taste of the university’s classroom experience.

Saturday, Oct. 15
Football: Dukes vs. Villanova Wildcats, 1:30 p.m.
Tickets available online at www.jmusports.com/Tickets or by phone at (540) 568-3853.

Godwin Field Festival
10 a.m. until 2 p.m.
Take a bit of JMU home by purchasing JMU sweaters, T-shirts, hats and other items from the JMU Bookstore. Also, visit the Parent Relations tent for free JMU goodies.

Pops Concert, 8:30 p.m.
An Evening of Musical Delights: There is no better way to complete the day than to attend the Family Weekend Pops Concert with a smorgasbord of musical delights. Tickets are available online at www.jmu.edu/JMUArts, or at will call window before start of event (only cash and checks accepted at window).

Sunday, Oct. 16
Great Deal Brunch
10 a.m. until 3 p.m.
If Sunday lunch time finds you on campus and hungry, visit the new East Campus Dining Hall or Gibbons Hall, for an all you can eat buffet for only $9.50 plus tax per person.

View the full list of events in the online brochure at www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml.

Family Weekend Information
Postcards were mailed, and brochures were e-mailed, on July 18. If you did not receive these communications, please contact the Office of Parent Relations to verify your e-mail and mailing address on file.
View the brochure online www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml.
For more information, please contact the Office of Parent Relations at (540) 568-3190 or (866) 399-8432 or email parent@jmu.edu.

Ticket Information
Tickets for all events sell quickly. Order early.
See the order forms in the brochure or order tickets online at www.jmu.edu/parents/Family_Weekend.shtml.

FAMILY WEEKEND
Join the Madison family fun Oct. 14-16

Entertainment, adventure, dining and camaraderie are the universal themes of Family Weekend at JMU. Highlights this year include entertainment by Ryan Stiles, Greg Proops, and Chip Esten and Jeff B. Davis in Whose Live Anyway, the Pops Concert, Contemporary Gospel Singers, Godwin Field Festival and Tailgate, Dine by the Skyline and the Dukes vs. Villanova Wildcats.

The weekend offers both action and academics with activities like canoeing, climbing and hiking as well as college and department receptions and presentations.

Dining options include Godwin Field Tailgate, Dine by the Skyline, Lunch with a View and a Great Deal Brunch.

Most importantly, the weekend allows plenty of opportunity for parents to spend time with their students.

Tickets are still available for the Family Weekend football game. For more information please contact the JMU Athletics Ticket office at (540) 568-3853 or visit www.jmusports.com/Tickets.

Parking
Plenty of parking spaces will be available at the Convocation Center (I-81 Exit 245), which is only a short walk to all activities. Additional parking information is available in the Family Weekend brochure on page 8.

Shuttle buses will run every half-hour from 8 a.m. until two hours after the football game on Saturday. Shuttles will run pick up/drop off at Warsaw Deck on campus and the following Harrisonburg hotels: Hampton Inn downtown, Jameson Inn, Courtyard by Marriott and Sleep Inn.

Special Parking is available for vehicles with DMV-issued handicapped license plates or permits. Please contact the JMU parking office at (540) 568-3300 for more information.

Accommodations
Don’t give up if you find area hotels and motels already filled. As Family Weekend draws nearer, renew your efforts to make reservations as, invariably, plans change and room reservations are cancelled. Access the accommodations listing at www.jmu.edu/parents/accommodations.shtml.

Tune in when you roll in
Tune your radio to AM 1610 for up-to-date parking information and any last-minute changes in the weekend’s itinerary.
FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE
Budgeting makes the difference

By Brad Barnett, Accredited Financial Counselor and senior associate director financial aid & scholarships

College offers students an opportunity to secure an education that can lead to great things. However, as we parents know, there is more to life than just learning career skills. An education in good financial choices provides the tools needed for success after graduation.

Sometimes our good intentions in trying to reduce our students’ stress about finances may be to their detriment. As a parent of two children, I understand it’s not an easy task to help your students become financially independent. But if you want them to be able to handle their finances when they enter the “real world,” then their education should start now, if it hasn’t already.

Through the Office for Financial Aid & Scholarships, we teach a three-credit-hour class called “Dollars and Sense” (IS 275) on Mondays in the fall and spring semesters. This practical course reviews the effect a personal philosophy on money, influence of societal expectations and management of personal finances has on all aspects of life when it comes to securing the “American Dream.” Students learn about eliminating debt, creating a budget, understanding investments and insurance, saving money, planning for retirement, shopping for a house and other real-life financial topics.

If you think this course would be beneficial to your student, have him/her register for it through ecampus. There are no additional fees for a full-time student because it is part of their regular tuition/fee charges and counts as a general elective. The class is open to students, but it fills up fast.

We developed this class after seeing the difficult situations students encounter:

- Students upset to learn they had to pay back college loans that they didn’t realize their parents had taken out for them.
- Students who didn’t learn to live within their means because their parents served as ATMs.
- Students who missed deadlines for submitting financial aid and scholarship applications because they relied on their parents to handle it for them.
- Our office sends this information to students throughout the year, not home to parents. In some cases, missing a date can cost a student thousands of dollars in assistance.
- Students who ended up with private educational loan debt or who are paying for college on credit cards instead of using more cost-effective federal student loans.
- Students who incurred multiple fines/fees and had their parents pay them off, eliminating the teachable moments of such situations.

To assist students, the Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship has developed these approaches:

- Almost all of the communications from our office go directly to students, relying on them to take the lead in these matters.
- Students accept their financial aid in their ecampus account, which is password-protected for the student only. It is to their advantage to understand what they are accepting before doing so, and having them do it instead of their parents helps with that educational piece.
- All students are required to pass an Entrance Loan Counseling test prior to taking their first federal student loan. This test educates them on their rights and responsibilities as a federal student loan holder.
- Numerous money management workshops are offered by our office to student groups during the year.
- The Financial Literacy section of our website (http://www.jmu.edu/finaid/finliteracy.shtml) includes a free online financial education program called CashCourse.

I’m confident that if we work together, we can help your students develop the necessary skills and behaviors to financially succeed in life after JMU.
**UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTER**

The University Health Center (UHC) partners with students to empower them to make informed choices. Providing a holistic approach to student health, education, wellness and outreach services, UHC offers a confidential, inclusive and respectful environment.

Our department encompasses the following three areas: Medical Services, Substance Abuse Prevention and Student Wellness and Outreach.

**Hours of Operation:**
Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Medical Services at the Health Center opens at 9 a.m. every Thursday)
Saturday: 8 a.m. to noon
Sunday: Closed
[www.jmu.edu/healthctr](http://www.jmu.edu/healthctr)

**Dates to remember:**

**August 23 & 24th**
University Health Center and Parent Relations Open House
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Location: University Health Center, located behind Carrier Library and next to Burruss Hall.
Parents and first-year students are invited to stop by and meet staff members, learn about center services and enjoy light snacks. Medical staff will be available to update Health Records. A complimentary gift will be available for students and parents. Hope you will come by!

**October 19**
JMU Flu Clinic
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Festival Highlands Room
Cost: $25 students, cash or credit
Clinic sponsored by the Intravene Travel Clinic, Lynchburg, VA.
[www.intravene.net/travel.htm](http://www.intravene.net/travel.htm).

**Endowments**

**Supporting faculty and students**

JMU endowment needs are scholarships and faculty support, according to Karen Ahrens Wheatley (’80), director of development for parent giving at JMU. “Throughout the university, there is a tremendous need for endowments for scholarships and faculty support,” says Wheatley. “JMU’s endowment value is well below its peer national and state institutions.

Endowed gifts are important because they “give” in perpetuity. The JMU Foundation invests the gift of principal with approximately four percent of the endowment’s market value being the anticipated amount for use each year. Any additional return on the endowment is invested to increase its value. The original principal always remains invested.

JMU alumni and parents donors can establish an endowment at levels beginning at $25,000. A donor’s gift can also be enhanced significantly with employee match programs where applicable.

Endowments that fund scholarships can be merit or need based. Merit-based scholarships enable the university to recruit and retain students of the highest academic caliber. Deserving students who might otherwise be unable to attend college due to financial constraints are helped through need-based scholarships. Scholarships ease the debt burden upon graduation.

If you are interested in establishing an endowment for scholarships or a professorship, please contact Karen Ahrens Wheatley (’80) to explore the possibilities: Call (540) 568–6605 or e-mail gunthaka@jmu.edu. 

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**Dates for Parents:**

**Fall Semester 2011**
- **Aug. 29** First day of classes
- **Sep. 2** Fall Tuition due
- **Sep. 16** Census date.
  - Last day to withdraw from university
- **Oct. 1-3** Homecoming
- **Oct. 14-16** Family Weekend
- **Oct. 31** Registration for 2012 spring semester
- **Nov. 19-28** Thanksgiving break
- **Dec. 9** Last day of classes
- **Dec. 12-16** Final examinations
- **Dec. 17** Commencement
- **Dec. 24-31** University holidays

**Spring Semester 2012**
- **Jan. 9** First day of classes
- **Jan. 16** Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)
- **Feb. 14** Student assessment/ faculty assistance
- **March 5-9** Spring break
- **March 16** James Madison Day
- **March 19** Advance registration for 2012 summer semester begins
- **April 3** Registration begins for 2012 fall semester
- **April 27** Last day of classes
- **April 30-May 4** Final examinations
- **May 5** Commencement

**Information Resources for Parents:**
- *(866) 399-8432*
- *(540) 568-3190*
- parent@jmu.edu
- www.jmu.edu/parents

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**University Health Center**
251 East Grace Street, MSC 7901
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
(540) 568-6178
[www.jmu.edu/healthctr](http://www.jmu.edu/healthctr)