



JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY®

COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM FEBRUARY 2021



MID-YEAR GRADES

Mid-year grades submitted by counseling departments are permitted and may be requested to be reviewed with a student's application. Please continue with past practices and arrangements.

Please also note that your school's regional admissions counselor may reach out to you directly for individual student updates.

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CHOICES

CHOICES, our Admitted Student Open House, is the best way for students to explore JMU and begin their Madison Experience.

Our main events occur virtually on **February 13** or **March 27** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (EST). You and your students are encouraged to [register here](#) to attend.

The main event includes the following live virtual programs:

- CHOICES Welcome (hear from JMU's President, Harrisonburg's Mayor, and more)
- Academic Sessions (each academic college will be presenting)
- Campus Look (livestreamed tour + inside look at special campus locations)
- JMU Life Panels (separate student and parent options)

Over the next two months, we will offer other live events, along with on-demand videos and virtual tours. Learn more on our [CHOICES website](#).



HONORS COLLEGE DECISIONS

The Honors College released their admissions decisions earlier this month. Students may view their decision in their MyMadison account.

This year, the Honors College had one applicant pool. While this deadline has passed, the Honors College is still accepting late applications. Please have interested students visit [this link](#). They must have their late application in by May 1st, 2021 and decision notification will take place after May 15th.

It is also important to note that the Honors College has three different options for entry. Incoming freshmen apply via Track 1, but current JMU students and transfer students can enter on Track 2 or Track 3. Visit the [Honors College website](#) here to learn more about these different options.

DECISION MADE, DEPOSIT PAID

Is your student ready to commit to JMU? While they have until the deposit deadline of May 1st, students are encouraged to pay their deposit now. The sooner they deposit, the higher their priority is for residence hall selection.

If your students have financial need/are unable to pay the \$400 amount, have them reach out to their [regional counselor](#). We will work with students to secure a partial or full deposit waiver.

Students can make their admission deposit [here](#).



FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

Preliminary Financial Aid Package & Scholarship Award Notices

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships released preliminary financial aid and scholarship award notices to our admitted early action students on February 3rd. Students can view their preliminary award notice in their MyMadison account.

Scholarship Award Notices

Some scholarship offers were submitted by academic departments prior to the release of the preliminary award notice and are thus included in the package. However, many of our scholarships have yet to be distributed. Please strongly encourage your students to regularly check their email for scholarship offer notifications. Scholarships will continue to be awarded until the first week of April.

Many of our scholarships require student acceptance by a specified date. Please advise students to be mindful of these deadlines and to confirm their acceptance/denial on-time and in the requested manner.

Financial Information Updates

We realize that the information provided on a student's FAFSA application is from two years prior. If a student's financial situation has changed due to the impacts of the pandemic, please advise the student to reach out to the Office of Financial Aid directly at fin_aid@jmu.edu.

**We always recommend that students reach out to you
for help finding outside/third-party scholarship opportunities.
We appreciate the guidance you provide in this area!**

NEW ON CAMPUS

College of Business Expansion and Renovation:

The College of Business Learning Complex consists of two academic buildings - the recently built and named Hartman Hall and Zane-Showker Hall, which is presently under renovation. This new space includes new and refurbished classrooms with flexible configurations, space for our international award-winning Digital Marketing Program, cutting-edge technology for cybersecurity, collaborative space for students to engage, and an expanded Capital Markets Lab. With over 4,000 undergraduate students in JMU's College of Business, this expansion is a needed and welcomed new addition to campus!

[Learn more](#) about the new College of Business Learning Complex and the Hartmans.



Hartman Hall highlights include the expanded Gaglioti Capital Markets Lab and the Major Innovation, Collaboration, Creativity and Entrepreneurship Lab.

CENTENNIAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The [Centennial Scholars Program](#) (CSP) provides financial assistance and a multi-level academic support network (including mentoring, study hall, small and large group meetings, and one-on-one meetings) to retain eligible under-represented students.

Eligible students must meet all of the following criteria:

- **Be a Virginia resident** (eligible for in-state tuition and fees)
- Be Pell Grant eligible
- Be admitted to JMU*

***It is important to note that both Early Action and Regular Decision applicants are eligible to apply. Students do not need a final admissions decision before applying to the Centennial Scholars Program.**

If you advise students that you believe would qualify for this scholarship, encourage them to apply now!

The [application](#) is available to freshman and fall transfer students beginning **February 1, 2021 and will remain open through March 1, 2021.**

CSP Freshman Application Includes:

- Background Information
- JMU ID Number - nine-digit number given with application
- Admissions Information
- Three Essay Questions - limited to 1,000 characters each

The Office of Admissions and CSP will work together to confirm offers of admission to students. CSP will follow-up with students who meet the aforementioned criteria to schedule their required interview.

If your students have any questions about the Centennial Scholars Program, have them contact CSP directly at centscholars@jmu.edu.

SPRING TRAVEL UPDATE

JMU Admissions will not be conducting in-person travel this spring. However, like the fall, we are excited by the virtual possibilities available - private visits, admitted student visits, junior programs, panels, college fairs, and more!

Please send visit requests, panel requests, and virtual college fair invites to our travel coordinator, Jamie Didawick at richarjf@jmu.edu.

Have ideas on how we can virtually engage with your students? We want to hear from you!



East Campus on a Beautiful Spring Day: East Campus is home to many of our STEM academic programs as well as several residence halls, two dining facilities, and URec.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Check out our [counselor web page](#), stay tuned for next month's newsletter, and check out our [helpful resource guides](#).

Your students can stay connected with our office as well. They can check out our [virtual visit options](#), [join JMYou](#), [download our virtual tour](#), and watch the [Open House recordings](#). JMYou is our social media platform for prospective students to learn more about majors and campus life and is a place where they can connect with other prospective students and current JMU students.

We invite you and your students to follow us on Instagram [@JMUadmissions](#), too. If you have not already, please consider joining our counselor [mailing list](#) to stay up to date on all things JMU!



The life-sized statue of James Madison, also known as Little Jimmy, enjoying the recent snowy weather.

UPCOMING WEBINAR:

March 1, 10-11 AM Crafting Strong Class Schedules (rising 9th-11th):

[Register Here](#)

Join Jason Gochenour, current Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and a former Director of High School Counseling, as he shares information on creating a strong high school schedule that makes your students competitive for admission. He will provide recommendations on the courses students should take in each of the core areas for each year of high school. Please feel free to invite any of your colleagues who would benefit from this session, too!

RECORDED WEBINARS:

Miss one of our previous webinars?

[Check out all past webinars on our website.](#)

Get caught up on Understanding JMU Admissions Decisions, Financial Aid 101, Admissions 101, and more!

Please feel free to email the Counselor Education Program at counselored@jmu.edu or reach out to your [regional admissions counselor](#) with any questions or concerns.

HAVE WE MISSED ANYTHING?

Do you have ideas for new content, questions, or concerns?

Please let us know! We are always looking for ways to improve and to provide the most current and helpful information possible. Your opinions and ideas are valuable to us.