

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM OCTOBER 2021



EARLY ACTION DEADLINE REMINDER

The Early Action deadline is November 1st. Students who wish to be considered for early action must have their application submitted and documents requested no later than November 1st.

We are aware that Naviance does not display the correct deadlines. Please encourage your students to refer to our official [**dates and deadlines webpage**](#) for more information.

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ADMISSIONS INSIGHT

Recognizing Competitive Applicants:

Our primary considerations in our evaluation process both relate to academic performance.

- Taking a rigorous course curriculum (defined within the context of each school) such as:
 - College-level courses (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Cambridge International, Governor's Schools)
 - Honors, advanced, or college preparatory courses
- Earning As and Bs in core academic classes (English, foreign language, social studies, mathematics* and lab sciences).
 - *Mathematics requirement: One full year beyond Algebra II in a course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.

At a school that offers college-level and honors-level courses, competitive applicants will take advantage of these opportunities. We expect to see a nice sampling of both college-level and honors-level classes on an applicant's transcript, as that demonstrates to us that the applicant is prepared for the academic rigor of JMU.

At a school that does not offer college or honors-level curriculum, competitive applicants will challenge themselves with advanced core subjects or additional core classes than required for graduation. For example, students can take a fourth year of a foreign language or physics as their lab science.

Students who take both a rigorous course curriculum and earn strong grades will be competitive for admission.

Optional Application Components:

Students are not advantaged or disadvantaged by electing to send in optional components in the application, scholarship, or Honors College review processes.

The following items are optional:

- Extracurricular Activities
- Letter of Recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Standardized Tests

*Submission of optional materials is most beneficial to an applicant when it provides context and insight into a student's academic performance.

Read more about our application and evaluation processes [here](#).

FALL ACADEMIC OPEN HOUSES

October 23 Virtual Academic Open House

November 13th On-Campus Academic Open House

Our September Academic Open House was a success. We welcomed a little over one thousand students attending our in-person event. Open Houses are a great forum to learn more about the Madison Experience. Each academic college will be hosting information sessions, opportunities to meet with an admissions counselor will be available, a student services fair will be held, campus tours will be running, and much more.

We hope you and your students can join us for one of these days. Registration can be found [here](#).

NEW @ JMU

Starship Robots

If you find yourself on campus, you will see our new robot fleet hard at work. JMU Dining has partnered with Starship Technologies to deliver food, and most importantly coffee, to students and staff across campus.



FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

Madison Scholarship Hub

Each year we award more than 400 one- to four-year scholarships to incoming students. The primary criterion for merit-based scholarships is *exceptional* academic performance. Some of our scholarships take a more holistic review and look at a student's leadership experience, service to the community, extra-curricular involvement, and career goals.

The [Madison Scholarship Hub](#) is the one-stop-shop for most scholarship opportunities at JMU. After a student applies to JMU, they will access the hub in their MyMadison account. While we do automatically consider all students for some merit-based scholarships, there are additional opportunities that require supplemental information/an additional application to be considered.

Please encourage your student to utilize and continuously check the hub for scholarship information.

Financial Aid:

A student's college education is one of the most significant investments a student and their family will ever make. The [Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships](#) will help guide students and their families through the financial aid process by providing clear direction and helpful resources. To determine a student's eligibility for assistance, he/she will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To receive a financial aid package, our federal school code (003721) must be listed on the form. The priority filing deadline is March 1st, 2022.

Financial aid preliminary award notices will be uploaded into admitted students' MyMadison accounts approximately two weeks after admissions decisions are released.

Students can use our [Net Price Calculator](#) to help plan for future educational costs.

Please refer any additional questions on this front to your school's [regional admissions counselor](#).

ATHLETICS SPOTLIGHT

Softball Dukes in the Women's College World Series

Back in June, the James Madison softball team made history at its first-ever Women's College World Series, as the Dukes knocked off No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 5 Oklahoma State in consecutive nights to become the first-ever unseeded team to ever start 2-0 at the event and the first such squad to reach the WCWS Semifinals.

What an incredible season these student-athletes had—we hope you enjoyed watching them as much as we did!



UPCOMING WEBINAR: DOCUMENT SUBMISSION AND TRACKING YOUR STUDENTS

Wednesday, October 13th, 9-10 AM

[Register Here](#)

Join Jason Gochenour, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and a former Director of High School Counseling, as he shares information on submitting transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other documents to JMU. He will also demonstrate how to track your students via our Counselor Companion. Jason looks forward to answering all of your questions!

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Check out our newly updated [counselor website](#), including the [downloadable resources section](#). This is a great place to find additional information on various academic programs, our admissions process, and other topics of interest.

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!

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.