

# JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY®

## COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 2021



### WE'RE HITTING THE ROAD!

Our plan as of September 1st, 2021 is to travel both in-person and virtually this fall. We hope to be able to visit your school however you will host us.

Feel free to reach out to our travel coordinator, Jamie Didawick (via e-mail at [richarjf@jmu.edu](mailto:richarjf@jmu.edu)), to request participation in a school visit, panel, or college fair.

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## WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2021-2022 academic year! The JMU admissions team is eager to partner with you and your students as we begin a new admissions cycle.

I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself to you. I am the new Associate Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions at James Madison University. I joined the JMU community in July and am excited to be a part of a welcoming and supportive community. It is an honor to lead the best admissions team in Virginia! I look forward to working with you and providing support for the vital work you do.

The Counselor Education Program is starting its second year and is one of the many ways JMU admissions will provide important updates from campus. We value our relationship with you, and we want to be transparent and accessible to make this process easier for you and your students. To that end, we will send monthly e-newsletters and host one webinar each month on timely topics—we hope you will join us throughout the year.

I look forward to getting to know you, and please consider me a resource for all things JMU admissions. Best wishes for this new academic year!

Sincerely,

**Melinda J. Wood**

Associate Vice President for Access and Enrollment  
Management  
Director of Admissions



*Melinda Wood, Associate Vice President for Access and Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions, joined the JMU Office of Admissions this summer.*



## WAYS TO VISIT CAMPUS

### Campus Tours and Information Sessions:

We are pleased to be offering both in-person (guided and self-guided tours) and virtual campus visit options this year. At this time, we are offering in-person information sessions and guided campus tours Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday-Saturday. Please encourage your students to register online [here](#).

If *you* are planning to come to campus, don't register, but instead view our [schedule](#). Email us at [counselored@jmu.edu](mailto:counselored@jmu.edu) that you are coming with the date and time. We'd love to say hello and provide lunch for you on campus while you are here, but please let us know in advance!

### Fall Academic Open Houses:

We are very excited to be hosting three Academic Open Houses this fall. We have two in-person dates (September 25th and November 13th) and one virtual date (October 23rd).

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](#).



*A prospective student explores campus on a self-guided tour.*

# COMMON APPLICATION & JMU

## Honors and Distinctions

This is an area where students can list any of the things that they may have received recognitions for: Eagle Scout, 1st Team All-State, 1st place Oyster Queen Pageant, Perfect Attendance, National Honors Society, etc. This section will not be downloaded into our system (PeopleSoft) due to a problem with matching data fields. We are asking it separately in the JMU section of the Common App and will download that as we have normally.

## Activities

The Common App gives students a chance to list up to 10 activities in this section. To keep things fair with our other two applications, we are only downloading the first 6 responses. We encourage students to list the most important ones to them first rather than thinking of this in a chronological or alphabetical way.

## Additional Information

There is a section on the Common App where students can write anything (up to 250 words) about themselves that is not included elsewhere but that the admissions committee should know (think “letter of circumstance”). We are planning on downloading this section and it will be included in our review.

## COVID Section

Instead of having boxes to check like in our own application and the Coalition Application, the Common App has an open area where students can write about how COVID-19 has impacted them. Similar to the Additional Information, we will be downloading this section and it will be included in our review.

## Common App Essay

The Common App has its own prompt for an essay. JMU will not be downloading this information, but if students want to use that, they can cut and paste it into our Personal Statement section (\*there may be differences in word length).

## Letter of Recommendation

Our process for receiving letters of recommendation through the Common App will function very similarly to the process laid out in the Coalition App. We are still only accepting **one** letter of recommendation per student. If a student sends his/her letter of recommendation through the Common App via Naviance, we will receive it. If a student sends his/her letter of recommendation through Naviance via Parchment, the letter will not be uploaded in our system.

Have further questions? Please reach out to your [regional admissions counselor](#).

## APPLICATION FEE WAIVERS

Each of our three applications has questions built into them to determine fee waiver eligibility. Students should answer the series of questions honestly and accurately. Based on those responses, the application fee will be waived for those who qualify. If a student does not qualify based on one of the application questions but cannot afford the application fee, the next step depends on which application the student is completing:

- On the ApplyWeb application, students can provide an explanation for their fee waiver request. After review, those who qualify will have their fee manually waived.
- On the Coalition Application, students can reach out to their regional admissions counselor, who can provide them with a one-time waiver code.
- On the Common Application, students can check a box saying they will submit a statement explaining their request. This statement should be submitted to their regional admissions counselor as soon as possible, but it should not delay submitting their application.

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

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## APPLYING TO THE HONORS COLLEGE

There has been a change in the application process for the JMU Honors College. Students will now have two deadlines to choose from: applying through the Early Action process (deadline of November 8th) or applying through the Regular Decision process (deadline of February 2nd). Decisions will be released in MyMadison two weeks after the Office of Admissions releases decisions.

The application process remains straightforward. Students must complete the separate Honors College application, including responding to one of the four essay prompts (with no more than 250 words). Academic performance and the essay response will be the two main factors reviewed in the evaluation process.

Questions? Reach out to [honors@jmu.edu](mailto:honors@jmu.edu).



# UPCOMING WEBINAR: ADMISSIONS 101

Monday, September 20, 10-11 AM

[Register Here](#)

Join us for our Admissions 101 webinar with Chris Carlberg (he/him/his), an Assistant Director of Admissions at James Madison University. This session will provide specific details about our application and evaluation processes here at JMU. There will be time allocated to answer any questions you have as we embark on this new year. We will also be introducing our new Director of Admissions, Melinda Wood.

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## 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](mailto: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.