



**JAMES MADISON**  
UNIVERSITY®

## COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM NOVEMBER 2020



### DEADLINE REMINDERS

**Early Action: November 15**

Decisions will be released no later than  
mid-January

**Dingledine-Bluestone: November 15**

Scholarship recipient notification  
in early February

**Honors College: November 29**

Decisions are typically released one to two  
weeks after admissions decisions

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## NEW ON CAMPUS

### Dukes Dining:

Dukes Dining, formerly known as PC Dukes and Top Dog, is the most recent dining addition to our campus. This dining hall offers a wide range of options, such as Blue Ridge Bowl, Oath Pizza, PC Wings, Panda Express, and The Den by Denny's. And, opening next semester, is Panera Bread.

Including Dukes Dining, there are 28 different places to eat on campus!

**Ranked #12 for Best Campus Food by The Princeton Review**



Featuring Dukes Dining options - Oath Pizza and Panda Express

## COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

At JMU, our visual and performing arts feature traditional training and so much more. Our graduates shine because they are trained as critical thinkers and problem-solvers. Students tell us that they are attracted to JMU because of our commitment to balancing a rigorous professional program of visual and performing arts study with a liberal-arts curriculum renowned for its academic excellence.

Visual and performing arts at JMU are all about expression, knowledge, creativity, and the unique fulfillment that comes with a well-rounded academic adventure.

### School of Art, Design, and Art History

- Art History\*
- Architectural Design
- Graphic Design
- Industrial Design
- Studio Art
  - BS/BA degree\*
  - BFA degree

### School of Music

- Concentrations:
  - Music Performance
  - Music Education
  - Music Industry
  - Jazz Studies
  - Composition

### School of Theatre and Dance

- Dance
  - Dance Education
- Musical Theatre
- Theatre, w. concentrations:
  - Performance
  - Design
  - Education
  - Theatre Studies

*\*Majors that do not require a separate application or portfolio review process.*

Most majors within the College of Visual and Performing Arts have additional application requirements. These include a portfolio review or audition, personal interview, and letters of recommendation. These are the only programs that students are directly admitted into in the JMU admissions process. Learn more about their admissions process, portfolio review dates, and virtual audition dates [here](#).

**We require students to apply to undergraduate admissions before applying to the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Students wishing to pursue these majors must be admitted to both the university and their desired program. It is possible that a student will be admitted to JMU but not into a visual or performing arts program.**

If your students have any questions about the application, audition, or portfolio review process, have them contact their [regional counselor](#) or [admissionscvpa@jmu.edu](mailto:admissionscvpa@jmu.edu).

## WAYS TO VISIT: UPDATES



### **Virtual Open House:**

Want to learn more about what JMU has to offer your students? While our month-long Virtual Open House has concluded, our website remains live and accessible. JMU's Virtual Open House consisted of online events throughout the month of October, and all of those sessions were recorded and placed on this [site](#). You will be able to hear academic presentations, learn more about the honors program, financial aid, study abroad, student life, and more! Please take advantage of this opportunity and encourage your students to as well.

### **On-Campus Visits:**

We are offering a limited number of on-campus information sessions and limited guided tours. These information sessions and tours will be offered until Friday, November 28th.

If the sessions and tours are full, we have self-guided tour materials and encourage independent campus visits. Our office is open M-F, 8am-5pm.

Registration is REQUIRED to attend. Please view our [on-campus visit calendar](#) for details.

### **Guidebook Virtual Tour:**

Do your students want to learn more about JMU and explore campus? They can — and so can you! [Download our virtual tour](#), offered through the Guidebook app, and explore virtually or in-person while visiting campus! No matter where you and your students are in the world, we're happy to bring campus to you. More tours and additional content will be added in the future, and the guide will update automatically, so remind your students to check back periodically to see what's new!

## FINANCIAL AID 101

For our most recent Chat with the Dean Brad Barnett joined Dean Michael Walsh for a discussion and Q&A on Financial Aid and Scholarships. Here are some highlights of what was covered. You can see the full video [here](#).

The 2021-2022 FAFSA went live on October 1st and is now available. We encourage your students to get that filled out and filed as soon as possible, regardless of financial situation. The FAFSA has retained their standard application process with very few changes outside of the U.S. government redesign of the FAFSA website (now studentaid.gov from fafsa.gov). Students are able to list multiple schools on their FAFSA, so please make sure they list JMU if they'd like us to receive that information. Many schools, JMU included, have hard priority filing deadlines since funds are limited in some programs. Our priority filing date is March 1st. The earlier a student submits their FAFSA, the better.

For public schools, we all receive an allocation of grant money from the state. There is not the same size pot of funds for every school. Every school awards those funds based on some basic state criteria and a few other rules that the institution can set. One of those institutional rules is a priority filing date. For public schools, it is very important that you file on time as an in-state student to be considered for all of the state aid you may be eligible for. While filing on time does not guarantee that more money will be awarded, it does get you a look at more money. We do not receive enough money to award everyone who financially qualifies, but if you file late, you are not even looked at since money runs out before we get to late applicants. State grant awards differ by institution as institutions can determine how much to award to each student. If you are an incoming freshman and looking at that state grant eligibility, you'll receive roughly \$6,000 depending on the year. It is important to note that the state grant program is unavailable to out-of-state students as the money comes from state taxpayers and can only be dispersed to state residents.

Once a student fills out the FAFSA, they will get a response back from the Department of Education. Some students may be selected for the verification process. If they are, look to us. We will tell them when and what to submit to help verify their information.

FAFSAs can be submitted now, but not all of the schools will receive them now. Here at JMU, we are still in the beginning stages of the current school year. In fact, we won't have the software package for next school year for another couple of months. This means that we won't see your students' FAFSAs immediately. Just before Christmas, our package will go live, and we will start receiving that information. It is important to note that the date the DOE receives the FAFSA is the application date that we use. It is possible that there may be a bit of a delay from when a student files, if selected for verification, and when the school receives the FAFSA.

Here at JMU, we are need-blind in our admissions process. In fact, we do not load FAFSAs for students until after the student has been admitted. This is a very common practice, especially at colleges and universities that receive thousands more applicants than students who are admitted.



## SCHOLARSHIPS 101

We only have one scholarship that is live at this point. Our Dingledine-Bluestone Scholarship (early action) is our most prestigious award, and it can be found on the MyMadison Scholarship Hub that is accessible to all applicants. The remaining scholarship opportunities will become available on January 1st, 2021, in the same Scholarship Hub.

Some scholarships require a separate application, while other scholarships students will be automatically considered for. For those awards that applicants are automatically considered for, admissions data is used to make those scholarship determinations. The data is used across campus for people to data-mine students applying to JMU and make scholarship offers.

Various departments across campus use some of the admissions data to look for who is interested in their department, determine if the student meets their criteria, and decide if that is someone the department wants to recruit. There is really nothing students can do to beef up the automatic consideration they receive outside of being thorough in their admissions application. Additionally, for those awards in the Madison Scholarships Hub, students should fill out a profile in that platform. If a department is not using admissions data, they will use information from that profile and use automatic matches from responses. Between the admissions application and the Madison Scholarships Hub profile, students are applying for just about every scholarship we have here.

Our goal is to award as many scholarships as we can. Ultimately, 3-5% of prospective freshmen receive a scholarship offer from JMU. It is our goal to get scholarship offers out beginning in February and running through April. Official scholarship offers will come from the campus department making the offer, and those will usually show on the preliminary award notice from the Office of Financial Aid. Ultimately, 4% of in-state enrollees and 12% of out-of-state enrollees have a scholarship.

**We always recommend that students reach out to you  
for help finding additional scholarship opportunities.  
We appreciate your help and guidance with this topic!**

# MYTHBUSTERS

## Admissions Quotas Per Region:

There are no quotas per school or region in our process. By evaluating within the context of each school, our goal is to admit the most competitive students within the region.

## Using Majors as an Admissions Criteria:

Intended major is NOT a factor in our evaluation process. We do not directly admit into programs in the freshman admissions process, except Visual and Performing Arts Majors.



The Forbes Center for Performing Arts, Photo by Richard Finkelstein.

## 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](#), and watch the recordings from the [October Open House](#). JMYou is our social media platform for prospective students to learn more about majors and campus life, in addition to being a place where they can connect with other prospective students as well as 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!



Enjoying the fall foliage of the campus.



## UPCOMING WEBINARS:

November 10, 2-3PM Chat with the Dean: Application Evaluation

[Register Here](#)

Join JMU's Dean of Admissions, Michael Walsh, as he shares insights into our application review process. He will share information on what a competitive applicant looks like and address any questions you may have.

## RECORDED WEBINARS:

Miss one of our previous webinars?

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

Get caught up on document submission and tracking your students, Financial Aid 101, Admissions 101, and more!

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.