

Financial Aid & Scholarships



Types of financial aid and scholarships

- **Grants and Scholarships:** Often called “gift aid” — financial aid that does not have to be repaid unless, for example, you withdraw from school. Grants are often need-based while scholarships are usually merit-based.
- **Loans:** Borrowed money that must be repaid with interest.
- **Work Study:** A federal student aid program that provides part-time employment while you are enrolled in school to help pay some of your education expenses.

Applying for aid

All students interested in federal aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). JMU’s FAFSA priority filing date is March 1st, but as long as a student meets the general aid eligibility requirements, they may still submit a FAFSA after this date. Apply at fafsa.gov or get a paper application from your high school guidance counselor. If you wish to apply for financial aid via the FAFSA, you must include your Social Security Number on your Admissions application.

Financial Aid FAQs

Will an application for aid affect my admission decision?

No. JMU does not base its admission decisions on a student’s financial status.

What if I do not apply for aid by the March 1 priority date?

You have until June 30 to complete your FAFSA, however funds may be limited.

Will my financial aid be renewed each year?

No. You must reapply for financial aid every year by completing the FAFSA or the Renewal FAFSA. Make sure you apply by the priority filing date.

Are there any forms other than the FAFSA to complete when applying for aid or scholarships?

Completing the FAFSA applies for all forms of federal and state aid, as well as institutional grant aid. Additional applications may be needed for scholarships (see back).

Financial Aid FAQs continued

Are non-Virginia residents eligible for assistance?

All students who are U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens may apply for federally funded financial assistance. Only Virginia residents, however, are eligible to receive aid provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

How is my financial aid determined?

Your financial need is determined by comparing your Expected Family Contribution to the cost of attendance at JMU. For more information, visit jmu.edu/financialaid.

Scholarships

Dingledine-Bluestone Scholarship

Early Action freshman applicants are invited to apply for this merit-based award. An additional scholarship application is required and due by Nov. 1.

Madison Award for Academic Excellence

Madison Awards are merit-based scholarships that recognize a broad spectrum of accomplishment and potential. All students who apply for admission are considered for this award. No additional scholarship application is required.

Second Century Scholars Scholarship Program

Freshman students enrolling in designated Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics programs may apply to be recognized as Second Century Scholars. An additional scholarship application is required.

The Centennial Scholars Program

The Centennial Scholars Program provides financial assistance and a multi-level academic support network to retain eligible, underrepresented students. An additional scholarship application is required.

JMU Departmental and Foundation Scholarships

Some academic areas and departments offer scholarships to entering freshmen. No additional scholarship application is required.

Private Scholarships

You may want to explore opportunities from outside JMU to assist with your educational expenses. Private scholarships can originate from any non-JMU source.

For more scholarship information, visit:

jmu.edu/admissions/apply/scholarships.shtml

For more information, contact
The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
Student Success Center, 5th Floor
540-568-7820 ■ jmu.edu/financialaid