

Financial Aid and 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.

Madison Scholarship Hub

Madison Scholarships Hub is the application center for all scholarships awarded by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. To log in, go to [MyMadison](#) and under Student tab, or Applicant tab for incoming students, click on the logo for Madison Scholarships Hub.

Visit jmu.edu/financialaid for more information about Financial Aid and Scholarship opportunities.

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.

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.

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

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

First-year 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 first-year students. No additional scholarship application is required.

For more scholarship information, visit:

jmu.edu/admissions/apply/scholarships

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

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