



COLLEGE OF

VISUAL &
PERFORMING
ARTS





THE

BEING

CHANGE

Create Your Path at JMU ARTS!

Welcome to James Madison University's College of Visual and Performing Arts (CVPA), a beacon of artistic and design excellence and innovation in the vibrant city of Harrisonburg, Virginia. Prepare to be inspired, challenged, and empowered as you embark on your creative journey. We invite you to explore the boundless opportunities within our esteemed **School of Art, Design and Art History, School of Music, and School of Theatre and Dance.**

At CVPA, **we stand at the forefront of artistic and design education**, blending high-level training with entrepreneurial acumen **to shape the next generation of visionary artists, designers, and leaders.** Our curriculum integrates practical experience with a comprehensive liberal arts education, equipping you with the skills and knowledge needed to **excel in today's dynamic creative landscape.**

Within our lively community, you'll discover various cutting-edge resources and opportunities. From the creative initiatives of the **Office of Creative Propulsion** to the rich cultural art and objects housed within the **Madison Art Collection**, CVPA provides an unparalleled environment for artistic exploration and discovery.



Our students are not simply performers, designers, artists, or musicians - they are **trailblazers, collaborators, and innovators**. Renowned for their exceptional talent and professionalism, CVPA students consistently deliver awe-inspiring performances and exhibitions that **captivate audiences and garner national acclaim**, constantly pushing the boundaries of artistic expression. Our graduates attend top-rated programs and acquire successful post-graduate jobs with a **95.6% undergraduate employment rate** and a **98.1% advanced degree employment rate**.

Our students are **empowered to creatively solve problems and profoundly impact their communities and beyond**. At CVPA, we prepare you to thrive professionally, whether pursuing established career paths or forging your own entrepreneurial ventures.

Join us at James Madison University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, where passion meets purpose, and you'll find the support and inspiration you need to succeed. Discover your voice, unleash your potential, and become part of a legacy of excellence that extends far beyond our campus borders. **With CVPA, the spotlight is yours to command - We invite you to Create Your Path here at JMU!**

YOU

BELONG

HERE

The CVPA at JMU believes that equity, access and inclusion are moral imperatives and artistic obligations. Diversity—in the stories we represent, the students we serve, and the audiences we engage— is vital for the health and relevance of contemporary arts and design practice. We welcome diversity of perspective, race, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and ability. JMU offers a wealth of information with access to departments, resources, student organizations, and individuals here to support you.

For more information and available resources, visit www.jmu.edu/inclusion





“A very open and warm community which encourages thoughts and philosophies that are wholly unique to the individual.”

Hunter Shifflet
BFA Art, 2023

At the School of Art, Design, and Art History (SADAH), students embark on a journey that merges the richness of a liberal arts education with the intimacy of a smaller academic and artistic community.

Our distinguished faculty, comprised of active professionals in their respective fields, offers personalized attention in small class settings. Through mentorship and guidance, **students forge lasting relationships that propel them toward exciting internships, careers, and graduate studies opportunities.**

Rooted in a legacy dating back to 1908, SADAH continues evolving into a **vibrant interdisciplinary collaboration hub.** Here, we champion the transformation of materials into expressions and students into artists, designers, educators, and scholars.



As part of our close-knit community, students are encouraged to explore their **individual voices and perspectives**, discovering the profound impact of visual art in inspiring imagination and illuminating the human condition.

At the School of Art, Design, and Art History, **our vision is to radically transform ourselves and our community through creative and scholarly work to evolve the new, navigate the unknown, build capacities, and dare.**

ACCREDITATIONS

James Madison University has been accredited by the **National Association of Schools of Art and Design since 1981**. The Art Education Licensure program is accredited by **the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation**.

MAJORS

ART

The Art major encourages an experimental approach to art making that stresses the interplay of concept, material, and content in contemporary art practice. Students actively engage in exhibitions and presentations as part of the dynamic curriculum and on-campus galleries, including the ArtWorks Gallery.

BFA CONCENTRATIONS:

- Ceramics
- Fiber Arts and Weaving
- Metals and Jewelry
- Painting and Drawing
- Photography
- Printmaking
- Sculpture

ART EDUCATION

Professional PK-12 Licensure

Art Education is a licensure program available to all SADAH majors that creates both teachers and advocates of the visual arts. The Art Education Center is a multifunctional space to aid pre-service teachers in their studies.

STUDENTS IN ART EDUCATION COMPLETE:

- Art, Design, or Art History major
- Professional education coursework
- Three practicum placements
- Two eight-week blocks of student teaching



"I have always been challenged by the coursework and enjoy classes that force me to think critically."

Kathleen Curry
BA Art History, 2025

“All faculty wanted you to be the best versions of yourself and pushed you to be there. My major specifically did it in a way that was personal and made it feel catered to me.”

–Matthew Barden
BFA Architectural Design, 2021



ART HISTORY

The Art History major offers students the opportunity to study the history of the visual arts in cultural and social contexts. Students will learn to describe, analyze, and interpret the form and content of works of art. The Art History program's mission is to educate students with a global perspective.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Museum Studies Concentration
- On-campus for-credit internships
- Field trips, labs, and guest speakers
- Study Abroad opportunities, with special programs in London and Florence

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

The Architectural Design major prepares students for professional work and graduate study in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Engineering Architecture, and Interior Architecture. The curriculum instills purpose, craft, technological competence, and versatile thinking.

HIGHLIGHTS:

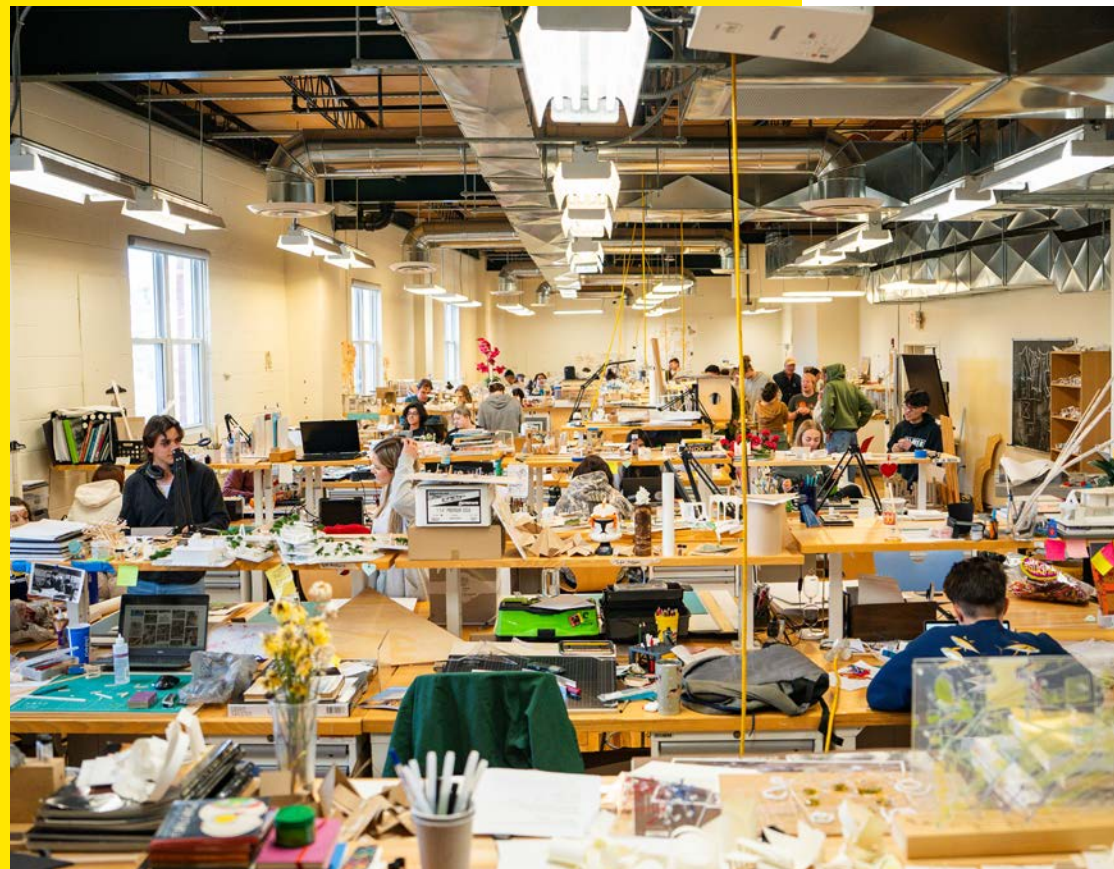
- Internship and study abroad opportunities
- Intensive education in the design process
- Inventive and professional practice

GRAPHIC DESIGN

The Graphic Design major provides a professional education that stresses problem-solving methods and explores theory, research, and conceptualization in graphic design.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Traditional and digital curriculum
- Cross-discipline collaboration
- Professional portfolio development
- Field trips to design-related events
- Studio visits
- Guest speakers
- Vetted internship opportunities



INDUSTRIAL DESIGN

The Industrial Design major is conducive to experimentation. The curriculum instills purpose, craft, technological competence, and versatile thinking. While at JMU, students embrace interdisciplinary partnerships across campus and in the community.

HIGHLIGHTS:

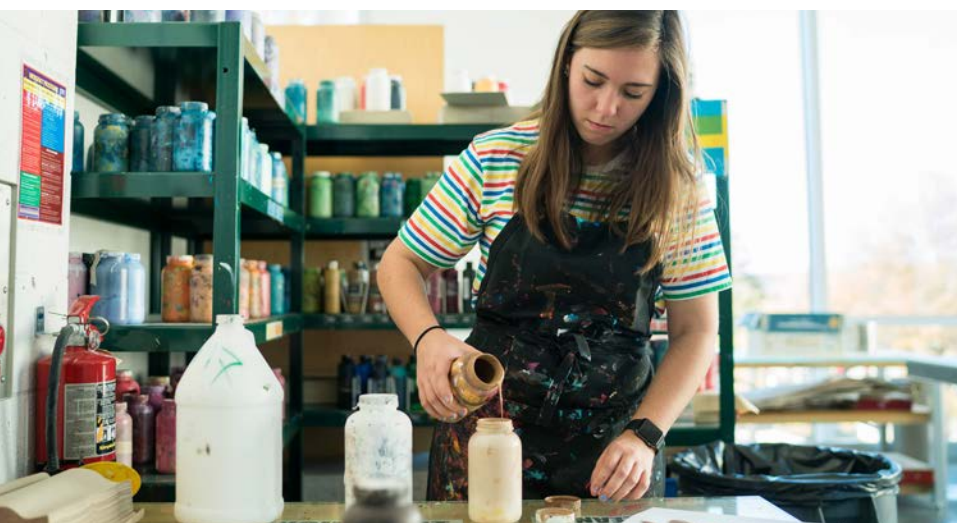
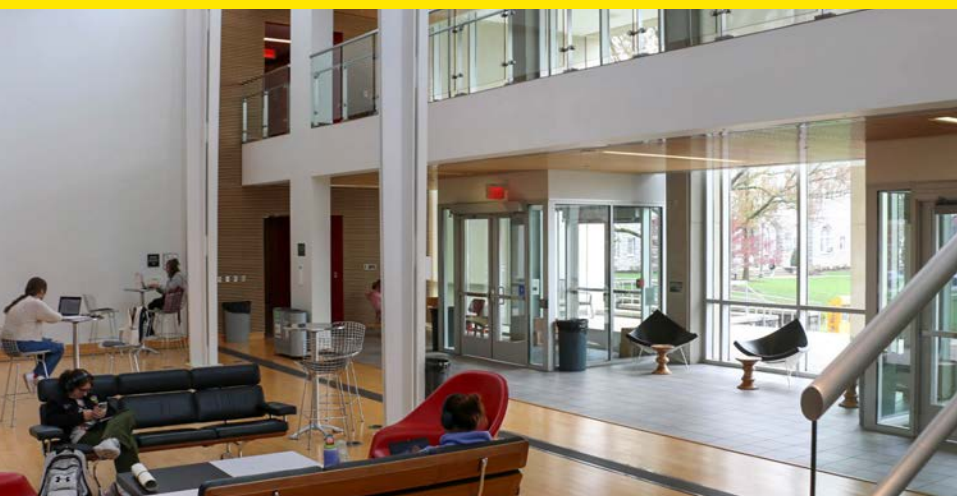
- Collaborate using the empathy-based design thinking approach to solve problems
- Invent new and innovative products
- Field trips, studio visits, and more

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

The School of Art, Design and Art History's state-of-the-art facilities include multiple buildings within walking distance of each other.

Duke Hall is a 115,000-square-foot facility with open well-lit studios, dedicated critique spaces, high-tech seminar rooms, classrooms, and state-of-the-art equipment in addition to the **Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art**, the Sawhill Memorial Gallery, and a wood shop.

The Studio Center is a 30,700-square-foot-space with spacious studios with workstations, bookmaking and letterpress equipment, concrete lab, wood shop, casting space, computer labs, laser cutters, and 3D printers.



Memorial Hall Arts Complex (MHAC) houses the Photography department with a traditional darkroom, digital and alternative process labs, and a light and sound studio.

131 West Grace Street houses two galleries including the student-run **ArtWorks Gallery** and the **New Image Gallery**.

Students also have the chance to live, learn and practice in our renovated bluestone building, **Wayland Hall**, off the JMU Quad, home to a thriving arts living-learning community for first-year students.

SCHOOL OF ART, DESIGN, AND ART HISTORY PROGRAMS

MAJORS & LICENSES

- Art Education Professional PK-12 Licensure
- Art History, BA
- Architectural Design, BFA
- Art, BA
- Art, BFA
- Art, BS
- Graphic Design, BFA
- Industrial Design, BS

MINORS

- Art
- Art History
- Book Arts
- Illustration





“JMU created a space for people to come together and work in a way most places don’t. My peers are always excited to collaborate and build each other up.”

Peyton Phaller
Master of Music, 2025

The JMU School of Music is a community dedicated to enriching lives through music by cultivating **creativity, artistry, and curiosity**. With two undergraduate degrees, seven concentrations, and a master’s and doctorate program, our institution offers paths designed to cultivate each student’s unique musical voice. Our faculty are renowned concert performers, researchers, pedagogues, composers, and conductors dedicated to nurturing the next generation of musical talent.

We actively engage with and contribute to the cultural tapestry of our community through lectures, performances, and workshops for all ages and skill levels. **Students benefit from working and performing with nationally and internationally known masterclass professionals** at the Shenandoah Valley’s leading performing arts center which boasts five state-of-the-art venues within the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts.

With James Madison University being accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music, our programs meet the highest excellence and quality standards. Join us at the School of Music, where talent is nurtured, creativity is celebrated, and the possibilities are limitless.



BACHELOR OF MUSIC

The Bachelor of Music is a professional degree in which at least 65% of its credits are in music. We offer the following concentrations in the Bachelor of Music degree:

- Composition
- Jazz Studies
- Music Education
- Music Industry
- Music Theatre
- Performance

Students audition as vocalists or instrumentalists to take lessons for 3-4 years of enrollment (depending on concentration), participate in 7-8 semesters of ensembles, and complete at least one recital in addition to focused coursework in music.

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC

The Bachelor of Arts in Music is a liberal arts degree in which approximately 45% of its credits are in music. We offer the following concentrations in the Bachelor of Arts in Music:

- Music Studies
- Music Industry

Admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Music requires students to complete an interview (Music Industry applicants additionally submit samples of relevant work). Students play in ensembles for four semesters and complete a capstone project guided by a faculty mentor. Students may choose to take vocal/instrumental lessons by auditioning during the application process.



CONCENTRATIONS

COMPOSITION

The Composition program stresses form, harmony, counterpoint, and orchestration, and developing a personal creative style. Our program offers a wealth of performance opportunities for students' music, study with members of the composition faculty, and masterclasses or group lessons with prominent guest composers such as Libby Larsen, Bright Sheng, Ingrid Stölzel, Roger Reynolds, and more. (B.M. degree)

JAZZ STUDIES

The Jazz program offers a comprehensive curriculum, with courses in improvisation, jazz theory and history, arranging and composition, and private lesson instruction. Students also have the option of advanced private jazz lessons and coursework through JMU's popular four-week Study Abroad program held each summer in Montreal, Quebec. (B.M. degree)

MUSIC EDUCATION

More music educators in Virginia studied at JMU than any other college. This concentration is the largest program in the JMU School of Music and is designed primarily for those seeking to teach instrumental, vocal, or general music in preK-12 schools. This program leads you through the state approved licensure process and includes primary, secondary, and broad-based instrumental and vocal training as well as a full semester of student teaching. (B.M. degree)



MUSIC INDUSTRY

The Music Industry program offers a broad course of study suiting the needs of a diverse profession. Program graduates land a wide variety of jobs in music businesses, including concert production companies, major and independent record labels, radio and television stations, music copyright firms, and more. (B.A. / B.M. degrees)

MUSIC STUDIES

The Music Studies concentration leverages the benefits of JMU's strong liberal arts foundation by combining rigorous core study in music with the opportunity to pursue outside interests, including double majors. Students build a musical foundation through ensemble participation, music history, music theory, and music electives, with the option to audition for applied lessons if they wish. At the end of the program students work one-on-one with a chosen faculty mentor to complete a capstone project that unites their passions. (B.A. degree)

MUSIC THEATRE

The Music Theatre program combines aspects of the vocal performance curriculum with courses in theatre and dance. This interdisciplinary program combines the strengths of the School of Music and the School of Theatre and Dance. The curriculum consists of the same core music courses as the other Bachelor of Music concentrations and the major courses are a combination of courses in music, dance, and theatre. (B.M. degree)





PERFORMANCE

Nationally recognized faculty, small class sizes, and state-of-the-art facilities give our performance majors the tools they need to be versatile and successful graduates. Performance majors take private lessons with professors in all disciplines and graduates complete their studies with necessary creative-thinking skills that will allow them to adapt in the changing world of music performance. (B.M. degree) Music majors participate in 30 ensembles including:

- Brass Band
- Chamber Orchestra
- Collegium Musicum
- Jazz Ensembles and Combos
- Madison Singers and Chorale
- Marching Royal Dukes
- Monticello Strings
- Opera Theater
- Percussion Ensemble
- Symphonic Band
- Symphony Orchestra
- Wind Symphony



The JMU School of Music is an All-Steinway School with over 140 Steinway pianos for performance and practice.

The Marching Royal Dukes (MRDs) are one of the largest collegiate marching bands in the country with over 500 members.

STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

Music students learn, practice and rehearse in the Music Building located on JMU's historic Quad and within the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts just a few short steps away.

The Music Building features practice rooms, studios, rehearsal halls, laboratories, a recording studio, music library/listening lab, administrative and faculty offices and the little Gallery Underground.

As the premier destination for the arts in the Shenandoah Valley, the **Forbes Center for the Performing Arts** houses first-class venues for curricular and educational purposes. Students have opportunities to work with nationally-recognized guest artists, and award-winning faculty, students and alumni. The Forbes Center encourages creative synergy between faculty and students.

- 175,000-square-foot facility in the heart of JMU's campus
- 250 student performances each school year
- 600-seat Concert Hall
- 198-seat Recital Hall
- 450-seat Mainstage Theatre
- 200-seat Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre
- 200-seat flexible, black box Studio Theatre

Students also have the chance to live, learn and practice in our renovated bluestone building, **Wayland Hall**, off the JMU Quad, home to a thriving arts living-learning community for first-year students.



SCHOOL OF MUSIC MAJORS

BACHELOR OF MUSIC WITH THE FOLLOWING CONCENTRATIONS:

- Composition
- Jazz Studies
- Music Education
- Music Industry
- Music Theatre
- Performance

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC WITH THE FOLLOWING CONCENTRATIONS:

- Music Studies
- Music Industry



“I was drawn to the JMU Dance Program because it offered the opportunity to pursue a challenging path in dance and explore other interests of mine. I came into the program thinking I was just a dancer and ended up leaving as a teacher, choreographer, leader, and professional dancer. I would not be the artist that I am today without the guidance I received from my professors at JMU.”

Isabel Robles, '22, Dance

The School of Theatre and Dance is a community for those who dare to dream differently. Our programs provide students with the training and resources to realize their unique vision for their life, education, and creative work.

Our liberal arts curriculum promotes critical thinking and a deep understanding of arts and culture. Graduates have an excellent track record of **securing jobs in professional theatres and dance companies, on Broadway and Off-Broadway**, in film and television, and as makers, creative entrepreneurs, and licensed teachers.

Our programs include student-initiated productions, community partnerships, and performances with award-winning faculty and guest artists. **We are dedicated to inclusivity in productions, guest artists, casting, and admissions.**

Embrace your passion, explore your potential, and **Create Your Path at the School of Theatre and Dance at JMU!** Your stage awaits.

ACCREDITATIONS

James Madison University is accredited by both the **National Association of Schools of Theatre** and the **National Association of Schools of Dance**.

STAD PROGRAMS

DANCE

Students in JMU's Bachelor of Arts with a major in Dance develop their abilities as performers, choreographers, movement instructors and community-engaged artists. Empowered by an intensive curriculum, students create, perform, produce, analyze, and teach the art of dance (PreK-12 licensure available). At the same time, the flexibility of the program encourages students to pursue many interests, including the ability to minor or double major in additional subjects.

THE COURSE OF STUDY INCLUDES:

- Contemporary, ballet, and jazz technique
- Improvisation and composition
- Dance production and management
- Dance and technology courses
- Anatomy and somatic studies
- Pedagogy and community engagement
- Working with internationally recognized choreographers and dance companies
- International performance and study opportunities abroad

STAD Dance graduates have gone on to work in places such as Jacob's Pillow, American Dance Festival, Monica Bill Barnes & Co., Broadway, Ballet Hispánico, DanceNow Miami, national/international tours, cruise lines, and regional theatres.



MUSICAL THEATRE

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Musical Theatre provides professional training in acting, dance, and music within the context of a broader university experience. The intensive, hands-on curriculum affords students the opportunity to develop into well-rounded, creative artists who are prepared to succeed in the professional arena.

THE COURSE OF STUDY INCLUDES:

- Acting, dance, and singing
- Musical theatre history and world theatre
- Music theory and keyboard skills
- Private voice tutorials and auditioning
- Musical theatre performance

STAD Musical Theatre graduates have gone on to work on Broadway, off-Broadway, cruise ships, and regional theaters.

THEATRE

The Bachelor of Arts with a major in Theatre provides professionally focused training within the context of a rigorous liberal arts education. Through classwork, mentorship, and creative opportunities, students engage in critical thinking, social engagement, imagination, and multi-dimensional artistry.

THEATRE CONCENTRATIONS:

- Design/technology
- Performance
- Theatre education (with or without PreK-12 licensure)

STAD Theatre graduates have gone on to create new theatre companies, work in film and on Broadway, and pursue successful careers in the arts, media, law, science, and more.

THE COURSE OF STUDY INCLUDES:

- Multiple levels of acting
- Scenic, lighting, costume, and sound design
- 3 levels of world theatre history
- Directing, devising, and playwriting
- Practicum opportunities in design, performance, and stage management

MUSICAL THEATRE AND THEATRE STUDENTS COLLABORATE ON:

- 5 mainstage musicals and plays per year
- 6-7 Studio Theatre productions per year
- Extensive student-developed projects (devised work, playwright's workshops, fully produced plays/musicals)

“At JMU, they aren’t just preparing you for life after college. You’re taken seriously as an artist from the moment you walk through the doors. The play I wrote for Advanced Playwrighting, entitled *In Bloom*, has now been produced halfway across the country. I owe a large portion of my success to the STAD faculty who helped me to recognize my talents and gave me the skillsets to become a successful, working artist.”

Gwyneth Strobe, '20, Theatre



STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES

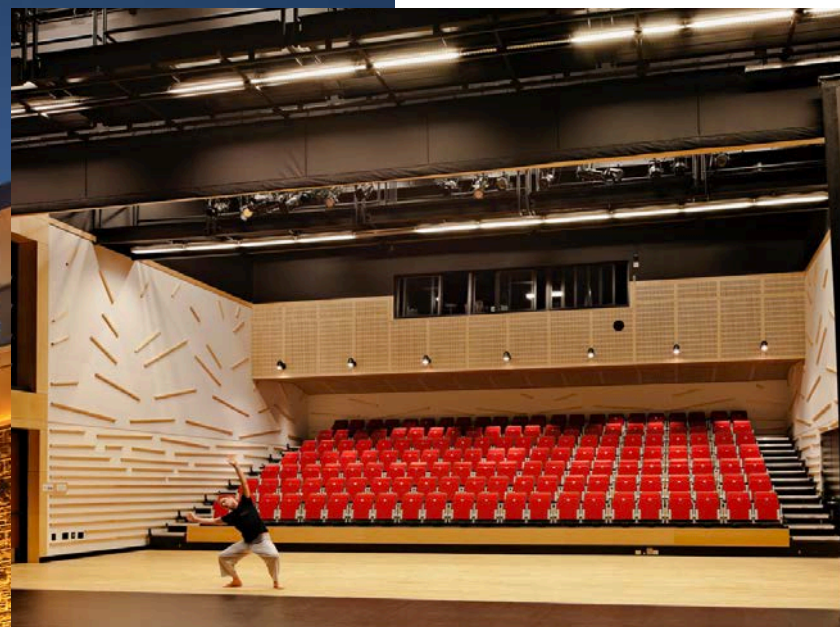
The School of Theatre and Dance (STAD) is housed in the **Forbes Center**, where it holds classes and rehearsals throughout the building's numerous studios and spaces. On any given day students can be seen at work in the hallways, classrooms, concert halls, and theatres. STAD also uses **Wayland Hall**, a renovated bluestone building located off the Quad, for classes and presentations. Wayland also serves as a residence for many CVPA majors and has practice rooms, a student gallery, an art studio, and a performance space.

Forbes Center for the Performing Arts houses first-class venues for curricular and educational purposes. Students have opportunities to work with nationally-recognized guest artists, and award-winning faculty, students and alumni. The Forbes Center encourages creative synergy between faculty and students.

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- 200-seat flexible, black box Studio Theatre

SCHOOL OF THEATRE AND DANCE MAJORS

- Bachelor of Arts with a major in Dance (PreK-12 licensure available)
- Bachelor of Arts with a major in Musical Theatre
- Bachelor of Arts with a major in Theatre
 - Design/Technology
 - Performance (Acting)
 - Theatre Education (with or without VA Licensure)



Student Scholarships

Scholarships are offered throughout the College thanks to generous donations, which give our students the freedom to “Create Your Path.” Various scholarships are available in each school for incoming students, including the Madison Award for Academic Excellence, Madison Recognition Award, Two Year Room Award, and more. Additional awards include merit scholarships from CVPA’s Schools and guaranteed admission to the Wayland Living-Learning Arts Community. Priority consideration for scholarships will be given to students who attend an in-person or video audition or portfolio review (for performing arts programs) or a portfolio feedback event (for visual arts programs).

**For more information, please visit
www.jmu.edu/arts/admissions**

Faculty

With our continued commitment to **JMU’s vision of being the national model for the engaged university**, CVPA faculty practice this day in and day out through our Mission: **empowering our communities to collaborate, envision, and achieve their creative and professional aspirations. We explore the arts and design as a vehicle for cultural advancement, transformation, and engagement.** Our classrooms and spaces are filled with award-winning faculty who are leaders in their field, paving the way for the next generation and preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives. Furthermore, our faculty are dedicated to supporting our students with personalized mentorship that fosters individual growth and achievement.



APPLY TO THE ARTS AT JMU

To be admitted artistically to the College of Visual and Performing Arts, you must:

Submit your academic application to JMU through the Office of Admissions.

<https://www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply/index.shtml>

Submit an additional application for your major of interest through SlideRoom. Art History does not require an additional application.

Please visit <https://www.jmu.edu/arts/admissions/index.shtml> for more information on submission requirements and deadlines.

Register for an on-campus or virtual audition for Dance, Music-BM, Musical Theatre, and Theatre programs.



Scan the QR code to access the admissions website.



VISIT THE ARTS AT JMU



The College of Visual & Performing Arts

offers many options to tour our spaces where you will work on your art at JMU. These include:

- Special Visitation Days for your potential major—some programs offer a chance to join a class or take a music lesson
- Music Major Preview Day
- Fall Academic Open Houses
- CHOICES Open Houses for admitted students

While you are here, be sure to take in a performance at our Forbes Center for the Performing Arts and visit our Madison Art Collection at the Lisanby Museum.



Scan the
QR code to watch a
virtual tour.

www.jmu.edu/arts



@jmuarts



@jmu_arts

OFFICIAL EMAIL ADDRESS

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MAILING ADDRESS

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