
Undergraduate Admission

[Office of Admissions](#)

Phone: (540) 568-5681

Email: admissions@jmu.edu

Website: <http://www.jmu.edu/admissions>

Fax: (540) 568-3332

Location: Sonner Hall, MSC 0101



[Print Version of Catalog](#)

Admissions

The enrollment for the university is authorized by the State Council of Higher Education in Virginia. The number of students admitted each year is limited by the resources available to the university.

Visiting the University

We encourage prospective students to attend a group information session and a walking tour of campus. To check our visitation schedule and make a reservation, visit our website.

First Year Student Admission

JMU's admission process is competitive. We receive more qualified applications than we can accommodate. For the 2015 admissions process, approximately 60 percent of applicants were admitted with 88 percent of the applicants being competitive. There is not a prescribed formula for gaining admission. The admissions committee works to select the strongest candidates from a high quality pool. We consider the following factors in evaluating applicants: program of study, academic achievement, standardized test scores, Secondary School Report Form and recommendation, extracurricular activities, and an optional personal statement. Each applicant is rated in the following four areas, listed in order of importance:

Academic Program

Competitive applicants should minimally have the following:

- four years of math with at least one full year beyond algebra II (i.e. pre-calculus, trigonometry, discrete, statistics, analysis, etc.). Computer and consumer math do not count and will not be evaluated as a full year beyond algebra II.

- three years of laboratory science (preferably biology, chemistry and physics or an AP, IB or DE science; general science or earth science does not count as a lab science);
- three to four years of the same foreign language or two years of two different foreign languages;
- four years of English; and
- four years of social studies.

Students who challenge themselves with the upper-level courses offered in their high school (i.e. Honors-level courses, Advanced Placement classes, International Baccalaureate, dual enrollment) increase their competitiveness. Although schools provide different opportunities, applicants should pursue the most demanding college preparatory programs available. Because strong students come from different types of schools, we evaluate applicants within the context of their high schools.

Academic Achievement

To evaluate achievement in high school, we evaluate grades in the core subject areas: mathematics, English, foreign language, social studies and lab sciences. A competitive candidate is an “A/B” student in core courses. We look at performance throughout the entire high school career.

Standardized Tests

Performance on the SAT I or ACT helps discern past academic achievements and potential for future academic success. SAT IIs are not required for or considered in the admissions process.

Extracurricular Activities

We are looking for quality rather than quantity. For instance, we like to see what applicants have done in clubs, organizations and athletics beyond just being members. We also consider community service and part-time jobs. We look at the variety and depth of your involvement. Applicants must be academically competitive before extracurricular activities are reviewed.

Application Deadlines

Early Action Admission

Early Action is more competitive than the Regular Decision process. To be admitted through Early Action, a student needs to be superior in curriculum, grades, test scores and extracurricular activities.

The university will offer non-binding early notification admission to qualified first year student applicants. The deadline for early notification is November 1. Successful candidates will be notified in mid-January and must submit a tuition deposit by May 1 to enroll at the university. Most students who are not selected for early notification are considered under the university’s regular admission process.

For the last two years, 45 to 50 percent of students deferred from Early Action to Regular Decision were eventually admitted. Students who apply Early Action do not have an advantage over students who apply Regular Decision.

Regular Decision Admission

Because Early Action is more competitive than Regular Decision, students who apply through Regular Decision are not at a disadvantage. Applications must be submitted by January 15 to be considered for regular decision admission. All applicants will receive notification of their admission status the first week of April. Admitted students must submit a tuition deposit by May 1 to enroll at the university.

Application Procedure for First Year Student Admission

To access the application, apply online by filling out the application and submitting it electronically with an electronic payment. Students applying to James Madison University must:

- Carefully complete and submit the application, along with the nonrefundable application fee.
- Request that a counselor send a copy of their transcript and a letter of recommendation to:

[Office of Admissions](#)

MSC 0101
James Madison University
481 Bluestone Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22807

- Submit their [Scholastic Aptitude Test](#) or [American College Testing Assessment](#) scores. Applicants should request SAT or ACT scores be forwarded to James Madison University directly from the College Board or American College Testing, respectively.

Information furnished on applications and all other university documents and records must be accurate and complete without evasion or misrepresentation. Submitting inaccurate or incomplete documents is cause for rejection or dismissal from the university.

Transfer Student Admission

To transfer to JMU, a student must:

- Have completed or be in the process of completing at least 24 credits at the college or university level, after graduating from high school or earning a GED, at the time of application.
- Successfully complete college course work in the following areas: English, math, lab science and social science in order to be competitive. The more college level

course work a student completes, the less emphasis the admission committee places on the high school transcript.

- Be in good standing and eligible to continue or graduate from their previous institution(s). It is the student's responsibility to provide the JMU Office of Admissions with official transcripts of work completed from all colleges attended. Concealment of previous attendance at a college or university is cause for cancellation of admission and registration. (Students with holds on their academic records will not be considered for admission until holds are released).
- The university recommends students have a "B" cumulative grade point average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale) to be competitive for admission.

Application Procedure for Transfer Admission

To apply for transfer admission to the university, applicants must:

- Submit the online application for undergraduate admission along with the electronic application fee. This fee is not refundable or transferable and will not be credited to the student's account.
- Request official transcripts be sent from all colleges attended prior to the application deadline.
- Submit an official high school transcript or a copy of a GED in addition to college transcripts, regardless of the number of college credits completed or the number of years out of high school.
- Complete a one-page personal statement (optional) for review by the Admissions Committee.
- Indicate a major.

All materials are due by October 1 for spring admission, February 1 for summer admission and March 1 for fall admission.

Evaluation of Transfer Credits

Credit will be awarded for those courses equivalent to courses offered at JMU in which the student has earned a grade of "C" or better.

After the student has been approved for admission, the Office of the Registrar will evaluate the transcript(s) of each transfer student to show the credits accepted by the university. The academic unit head of the program in which the student is majoring will determine the credits required for graduation.

With the exception of some community college degrees in General Studies, JMU [General Education](#) requirements will be waived for those students who have completed either the Associate of Arts, Associate of Science, or the Associate of Arts and Sciences degree at a Virginia community college. For the complete listing of degrees associated with a Virginia Community College that waive all General Education requirements, go to the Transfer Advising. Students who complete one of these associate degrees and are offered admission will receive junior-level status; however, due to varying major and degree requirements, junior-level status does not guarantee graduation in two years. For more details, consult the Office of Admissions or the JMU Virginia Community College Transfer Guide.

Advanced Placement

Applicants for admission who have completed advanced work in secondary school may use AP test scores to apply for course credit at JMU. Information about AP exams is available at <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/takingtheexam/about-exams>. For a full list of available AP credit opportunities at JMU, refer to the Advanced Placement table.

Advanced Placement Chart

The score necessary to earn college credit at JMU, the corresponding course title at JMU and the credit hours which can be earned appear below. The grading scale is from one to five with five being the highest score. Credit hour equivalencies are reviewed annually by academic units.

Note: This information is subject to change at the discretion of James Madison University. For the 2016-17 academic year, the scores displayed in the online catalog supersede the scores in the printed undergraduate catalog.

**2016-2017
Academic Year
Advanced
Placement
Courses**

Placement Course	Minimum Required Score	JMU Equivalent	Credit Hours Earned
Art History	4	ARTH 206	3
Art Studio: Drawing	4	Art elective	3
Art Studio: General	4	Art elective	3
Art Studio: 2D Design	4	Art elective	3
Biology	4	BIO 140 & BIO 150 or ISAT 113 , ISCI 104 & BIO 0001	8 total (4+4) 8 total (3+1+4)
Calculus AB	4	MATH 235	4
Calculus AB Subscore	4	MATH 235	4
Calculus BC	4	MATH 235 & MATH 236	8 total (4+4)
Chemistry	4	Majors:	6
	4	CHEM 131 & CHEM 132	8
		Nonmajors: CHEM 131 & CHEM 131L	

		CHEM 132 & CHEM 132L	
		or	
		CHEM 120 & CHEM 0004	
Chinese Language and culture	4	CHIN 231	3
Comparative Government	4	POSC 240	3
Computer Science (A or AB)	4	CS 139	4
Economics (Micro)	4	ECON 201	3
Economics (Macro)	4	ECON 200	3
English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition	4	WRTC 103	3
Environmental Science	4	ISAT major	8 total
	4	ISAT 112 & ISAT 0002	(4+4)
	3	Non majors	4 total
		GEOL 115 , ISCI 104	(3+1) 4
		& ISAT 000 ²	
		ISCI 000 ³	
French Language or French Literature	4	FR 231	3
Geography, Human	4	GEOG 280	3
German Language	4	GER 231	3
Government: U.S.	4	POSC 225	4
History: European	5	HIST 201 & HIST 202	6
	4	HIST 201	3
History: U.S.	5	HIST 225	4
History: World	5	HIST 101 & HIST 102	6 total (3+3)
Italian Language and Culture	4	ITAL 231	3
Latin Vergil	4	LAT 231	3
Music Theory – Nonaural Subscore	5	MUS 143	1
Physics B	4	PHYS 140 , PHYS 140L , PHYS 150 & PHYS 150L	8
	3	ISCI 101 & ISCI 104	4 total

			(3+1)
Physics C: Mechanics	4	PHYS 240 & PHYS 240L	4
Physics 1	4	PHYS 140 & PHYS 140L	4
Physics 2	4	PHYS 150 & PHYS 150L	4
Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	4	PHYS 250 & PHYS 150L	4
Psychology	4	PSYC 101	3
Spanish Language or Spanish or Literature	4	SPAN 231	3
Statistics	4	MATH 220 or ISAT 251	3

1 BIO 000 does not count toward major or minor requirements in biology or toward general education requirements but is elective credit toward a degree.

2 ISAT 000 does not count toward major or minor requirements in integrated science and technology or toward general education requirements but is elective credit toward a degree.

3 ISCI 000 does not count toward major or minor requirements or toward general education requirements but is elective credit toward a degree.

4 CHEM 000 does not count toward major or minor requirements in chemistry or toward general education requirements but is elective credit toward a degree.

International Admission

The Office of Admissions is responsible for the admission and enrollment of undergraduate international students. It also evaluates "A" Level examinations for academic credit.

Credit will be awarded for those courses equivalent to courses offered at JMU in which the student has earned a grade of "C" or better.

All non-U.S. citizens and nonpermanent residents of the U.S. must complete the international student application. This application and an international student information guidebook are available in the Office of Admissions, located in Sonner Hall.

In addition to regular first year student and transfer admission requirements, international students must present evidence of English proficiency and documentation of sufficient financial resources.

The university welcomes international applications and is authorized by federal law to enroll non-immigrant alien students. Requests for information concerning the admission of undergraduate international students should be directed to:

Office of International Admissions, MSC 0101
James Madison University 481 Bluestone Drive
Harrisonburg, VA 22807
Phone: (540) 568-7865

International Examinations Credit

JMU will follow the recommendations of the National Council on the Evaluation of Foreign Educational Credentials when awarding academic credit based on international examinations. Questions regarding the evaluation of international examinations should be directed to the Office of Admissions.

Cambridge International Examinations

Students who participated in the [Cambridge International Examination](#) program may be awarded general education or other credit. Evaluation of credit will be directed by University Programs in coordination with the appropriate departmental undergraduate office.

For a full listing of available [Cambridge International Examination](#) courses and credit opportunities, refer to the table below.

2016-2017 Cambridge International Examination Courses

The grade necessary to earn college credit at JMU, the corresponding course title at JMU and the credit hours that may be earned appear in the [Cambridge International Examination](#) table. The acceptable grading scale is A, B, or C; although the acceptable grade for credit may vary between courses and the level of the exam taken. Credit hour equivalencies are reviewed annually by academic units.

This information is subject to change at the discretion of James Madison University.

For the 2016-2017 academic year, the scores displayed in the online catalog (<http://www.jmu.edu/catalog/16>) supersede the scores in the printed undergraduate catalog.

A-

Level

Exams

Accepted Grades

International

Exam

For Credit

Afrikaans

–

Language

Arabic

–

Language

Biology

Biology

Chemistry

Chemistry

Chemistry

Chemistry

JMU

Equivalent

Course

FL 000

–

–

[ARAB 231](#)

–

–

[BIO 103](#), [ISCI 104](#),

BIO 000

[BIO 103](#), [ISCI 104](#)

[CHEM](#)

[131](#), [131L](#), [132](#), [132L](#)

[CHEM 131](#), [CHEM 131L](#)

[ISCI 101](#), [ISCI 104L](#)

Credit Hours

Earned

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

Chinese	CHIN 231	3
—		
Language		
Computer	CS 149, CS 159	6
Science		
Diversity	REL 202	3
English	WRTC 103	3
Language		
English	ENG 221, ENG 222	6
(Literature		
in)		
Food	NUTR 340	3
Studies		
French	FR 231	3
—		
Language		
German	GER 231	3
—		
Language		
Hindi	FL 000	3
—		
Language		
Marathi	FL 000	3
—		
Language		
Marice	ISCI 003	4
Science		
Mathematics	MATH 235 , MATH 000	4+3
Mathematics	MATH 000	4
further		
Physical	KIN 000	3
Education		
Physical	ISCI 101, ISCI 104 , 001	8
Science		
Physical	ISCI 101, ISCI 104	4
Science		
Physics	PHYS	8
	140, 150, 140L, 150L	
Physics	ISCI 101, ISCI 104	4
Portuguese	PORT 231	3
—		
Language		
Psychology	PSYC 101 , PSYC 002	6
Sociology	SOCI 101	3
Spanish	SPAN 231	3
—		
Language		
Tamil	FL 000	3
—		
Language		

Arabic	FL 000	3
–		
Language		
Arabic	HM 000	3
and		
Tourism		
Arabic	FL 000	3
–		
Language		
Arabic	FL 000	3
–		
Pakistan		
Language		
AS- Level Exams		
Accepted Grades	JMU Equivalent	Credit Hours
International for Credit Exam	Course	Earned
Afrikaans	FL 000	3
–		
First		
Language		
Afrikaans	FL 000	3
–		
Language		
Arabic	ARAB 231	3
–		
Language		
Arabic	ARAB 231	3
–		
Language		
Biology	BIO 103 , ISCI 104	4
Chemistry	ISCI 101 , ISCI 104L	4
Chinese	CHIN 231	3
–		
Language		
English	ENG 222	3
(Literature in)		
French	FR 231	3
–		
Language		
German	GER 231	3
–		
Language		

– Language Hindi	FL 000	3
– Language Hinduism	REL 310	3
– Language Islamic Studies	HUM 252	3
– Language Japanese	JAPN 231	3
– Language Marathi	FL 000	3
– Language Marathi	ISCI 003	4
– Language Mathematics	MATH 000	3
– Language Physical Science	ISCI 101 , ISCI 104	
– Language Physics	ISCI 101 , ISCI 104	4
– Language Portuguese	PORT 231	3
– Language Psychology	PSYC 002	3
– Language Spanish	SPAN 231	3
– Language Spanish	SPAN 231	3
– Language Tamil	FL 000	3
– Language Telugu	FL 000	3
– Language Urdu	FL 000	3
– Language		

French Baccalaureate

Students with scores of 12/20 or higher on examinations in subjects studied at a coefficient of 4 or 5 may be awarded general education or other credit. Evaluation of credit will be directed by University Programs in coordination with the appropriate departmental undergraduate office. The “Total Score” of the French Baccalaureate is not used to determine credit eligibility.

German Abitur

Students who participated in the Thirteenth Class (Dreizehnte Klasse) German Abitur program may be awarded general education and other credit for examination scores of 10 or higher (15-point scale). Evaluation of credit will be directed by University Programs in coordination with the appropriate departmental undergraduate office.

International Baccalaureate

JMU recognizes the International Baccalaureate diploma and individual IB courses by awarding credit on IB higher-level examinations in essentially the same manner in which credit is allowed for Advanced Placement courses.

Typically, credit hours will be awarded for each higher-level examination on which a score of five, six or seven has been earned. Credit hour equivalencies are reviewed annually by academic unit.

Some standard-level examinations will also be considered for credit. The university encourages the completion of the IB diploma and will give special consideration for admission to students who have completed the IB program. The grading scale is from one to seven, with seven being the highest score.

For a full listing of available IB courses and credit opportunities, refer to the International Baccalaureate Courses table.

2016-2017 International Baccalaureate Courses

Higher-Level IB Courses¹

2016-2017 International Baccalaureate Courses International Baccalaureate Course

Anthropology (social and cultural)

Art/Design

Art/Visual

Biology

**Minimum
Equivalent
Sacred**
ANTH
195 & ANTH
ART
102 & ART el
ART
102
ART elective
ART
102
BIO+4
103 & ISCI
104 and
BIO
0002
BIO
0002
(elective)

Chemistry	Majors: CHEM 131 , 132
Computing Studies	Nonmajors: CS 131 , 131L , 139
Economics	ECON 201 , ECON 200
English A	WRTC 103
Foreign Languages	700
(Same course numbers in each language)	+ elective
Geography	31-232 , 331 , 402 , GEOG 200 , GEOG elective
History: All Regions	HIST elective
History: Africa	HIST elective
History: Americas	HIST 263 , HIST 263
History: West and South Asia	HIST 225 , HIST elective
History: East and Southeast Asia and Australia	HIST elective
History: Europe	HIST elective
Mathematics	MATH 202 , MATH 235
Physics	PHYS 140 & PHYS 150
Psychology	PSYC 101

Standard-Level IB Courses¹

International Baccalaureate Course	Minimum Required Score	JMU Equivalent	Credit Hours Earned
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Social Anthropology (social and cultural)	5	ANTH 195	3
Art/Design	7	ART elective	3
	6	ART elective	3
Chemistry	6	Majors: CHEM 131	3
	6	Nonmajors: CHEM 131-131L	4
Economics	6	ECON 201 with IB diploma	3
Foreign Languages	7	232	3
(Same course numbers in each language)	6	231	3
	5	102	4
Geography	5	GEOG elective	3
History	5	HIST elective	3
Physics	6	PHYS 140 and PHYS 150	6
Psychology	6	PSYC 101	3

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2 BIO 000 does not count toward major or minor requirements in biology or toward general education requirements, but is elective credit toward a degree.

United Kingdom “A” Level Examinations

Credit will be awarded to those students who receive a “C” or higher on an “A” level exam. Credit will be comparable to completing the two-course introductory sequence (six credit hours) in the subject.

Special Admission Requirements

In addition to regular first year student and transfer admission requirements, students who want to major in music, musical theatre or dance must also complete an on-campus audition. Incoming freshman intending to major in graphic design, industrial design, architectural design or studio art are highly encouraged to submit a portfolio and be interviewed.

Art

Phone: (540) 568-6216/6661

Email: art-arthistory@jmu.edu

Website: <http://www.jmu.edu/art>

Art History Majors

Students intending to major in art history are not required to submit a portfolio, but should follow the regular JMU admissions process. To be considered for departmental scholarships, students must submit a resume, writing sample and short essay to the department. To enroll in the museum studies concentration in art history, students must

have a 3.3 GPA in the major and a minimum of nine credits in Art History and General Education Art History courses.

Architectural Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design and Studio Art Majors

All prospective freshmen, transfer and change of major students intending to major in architectural design, graphic design, industrial design or studio art must meet JMU admission requirements as stated in the Undergraduate Catalog. In addition, all students are required to submit a portfolio to the school's SlideRoom account (<https://jmuart.slideroom.com>). There is a \$10 charge for this submission. Additionally, transfer and change of major students will need to upload unofficial transcripts and a statement of intent to the school's SlideRoom account that explains their educational and artistic goals, articulating the reasons for choosing this area of study. The submission of a portfolio is seen as evidence of a student's interest and potential for future success in art. Students must attend an on-campus Portfolio Review day or schedule a Skype interview to be considered for a scholarship. All scholarship awards are based on merit and vary in amount, up to the full cost of tuition.

[The School of Art, Design and Art History](#) offers students the opportunity for feedback on their portfolio, prior to the digital submission, through several on-campus and off-campus portfolio review days. This portfolio review event will provide an opportunity for feedback on actual artwork, as well as an opportunity to meet with faculty from the school. Tours of facilities and program info sessions will take place at on-campus events. All prospective freshmen, transfer and change of major students are strongly encouraged to attend a portfolio review day prior to submitting their portfolio. For these in-person feedback sessions, it is highly recommended that student show actual works of art; however, a portfolio that consists of printed images is acceptable. If time-based media examples (video and animation) are included, students will need to bring their own digital device for presentation purposes. Refer to the SADAH website for the dates of the upcoming portfolio review days and for additional portfolio requirements.

Students seeking official acceptance into the graphic design major must enroll in [GRPH 208](#) and submit a portfolio representing work completed in [GRPH 200](#). Design Methodology; [GRPH 202](#). Computer Graphics and [GRPH 206](#). Introduction to Typography. Students not admitted may reapply the following semester.

Students seeking official acceptance into the architectural design major must enroll in [ARCD 208](#) and submit a portfolio representing work completed in [ARCD 200](#). Architectural Design Studio I and [ARCD 202](#). Architectural Design Studio II. Students not admitted may reapply the following year.

Music

Phone: (540) 568-3851

Email: music_admit@jmu.edu

Website: <http://www.jmu.edu/music>

Auditions for music are given on three specific dates in January and February. It is important that students indicate their intention to participate in the audition process by January 15.

Nursing

Phone: (540) 568-6314

Website: <http://www.nursing.jmu.edu/>

In addition to the regular first year student and transfer admission requirements, students who intend to major in nursing must submit a BSN Admission Application. Applications, admission criteria and admission deadlines may be found on the School of Nursing website.

Special Expenses

A differential tuition of \$90 per credit hour is added to the standard charge for courses carrying the NSG prefix. This charge applies to all students, both in-state and out-of-state, at the undergraduate and graduate levels, with the exception of students enrolled in the R.N. to B.S.N. program.

Theatre and Dance

Phone: (540) 568-6342

Email: theatredance@jmu.edu

Website: <http://www.jmu.edu/theatredance/>

Admissions to the dance, musical theatre and theatre majors are by audition for performers or portfolio review for design/technical theatre, theatre studies (directing, dramaturgy, theatre scholarship, etc.) or theatre education students.

Theatre and musical theatre auditions/portfolio reviews are held in late fall, January and early February for first year student applicants. Auditions and portfolio reviews for transfer students are held in the late fall and mid-spring. Refer to the school website for more information on requirements for admission to the programs.

Dance major auditions take place in November and in February. Transfer students must audition at one of these audition dates. For the dates of the dance auditions and for information on what is required in order to audition, refer to the school website.

Credit for Military Service

JMU encourages veterans to apply for admission as full-time or part-time students. Information regarding VA Educational Benefits is available from the veterans' coordinator, 504 Warren Hall.

Veterans who have one or more years of active military duty will be granted six hours of health and kinesiology elective credit (providing they have no previous credit in this area). Students must submit a Report of Separation (DD-214) to receive this credit.

Additional credit may be given for successfully completing certain service schools. This credit will be determined based on recommendations in *A Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services*. The Office of the Registrar should be consulted.

Credit is allowed for courses taken at the Defense Language Institute. The amount of credit varies with the type of courses successfully completed. JMU must receive an official transcript. Credit allowed is based on the recommendation in *A Guide to the*

Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services. For those languages not offered at JMU, a maximum of 12 hours is accepted.