

Student Engagement Mini-Grants 2021-2022

JMU's vision statement is "To be the national model for the engaged university: engaged with ideas and the world."

President Alger has entrusted funds to the Faculty Senate to further the university vision. As part of this effort, the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association partner to offer the opportunity for students to apply for mini-grants (up to \$5,000) to fund engagement projects.

At JMU, engagement takes three forms:

1. **Engaged Learning**—Developing deep, purposeful and reflective learning, while uniting campus and community in the pursuit, creation, application and dissemination of knowledge.
2. **Civic Engagement**—Advancing the legacy of James Madison, the Father of the Constitution, by preparing individuals to be active and responsible participants in a representative democracy dedicated to the common good.
3. **Community Engagement**—Fostering mutually beneficial and reciprocal partnerships, ranging from local to global, that connect learning to practice, address critical societal problems, and improve quality of life.

Mini-grant funds may be used to support an existing engagement project or for new engagement initiatives.

ELIGIBILITY

1. All JMU students are eligible to apply for a Student Engagement Mini-Grant. This includes full-time and part-time students, graduate and undergraduate.
2. To be selected, applicants must remain in good academic standing by maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0.

TIMELINE

- Applications open: **October 1, 2021**
- Applications due: **October 20, 2021 by midnight**
- Awardees announced: **December 2021**
- Projects implemented: **Jan. 1, 2022–April 24, 2022**
- Reflection and Project Closeout Report due: **April 30, 2022**

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application asks for the following:

1. A 500-word description of your engagement initiative and explanation of how it embodies James Madison University's vision statement.
2. A brief project timeline.
3. A short budget breakdown.

The steering committee reserves the right to request more information during the decision process.

JUDGMENT CRITERIA

The Vision Mini-Grant Steering Committee hopes to fund initiatives of all three kinds (engaged learning, community engagement and civic engagement). Engagement initiatives that address multiple areas of engagement are encouraged.

Mini-grant applications will be judged on the following criteria:

1. Extent to which the proposed initiative will promote **high-quality engagement** within one or more of the three engagement types.
2. **Clarity and feasibility** of the project's budget and timeline.

Please contact Jessani Collier at sga@jmu.edu for questions about the application process.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF GRANT WINNERS

UPON COMPLETION OF PROJECT

By accepting the grant, each recipient consents to:

- Close Out Report: Provide a close out report to the office of Strategic Planning and Engagement by April 30, 2022. Reports should give a brief overview of the project and its impact, including any changes/adaptations made to the original proposal, and a breakdown of how the grant funds were spent on the project.
- Service Learning Reflection: Each cohort of Student Engagement Mini-Grant winners will participate in a service-learning reflection guided by JMU's Community Service-Learning office.
- Promotional Media: Provide media about the engagement project and its impact to Strategic Planning and Engagement for use in promoting students' work. We welcome updates at any time and will share your progress and success with the JMU community via social media, news articles and other outlets.

Projects may be completed any time during the Spring academic semester.

FINANCIAL AID AND TAX IMPLICATIONS

Grants awarded will be paid to the student directly through Financial Aid and Scholarships (as a scholarship), which means that receiving these funds may have financial aid and/or tax implications. Students are encouraged to contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships to determine if receiving the Student Engagement Mini-Grant will negatively impact their Financial Aid package.

REFUND PROCESSES THROUGH THE BUSINESS OFFICE

Grants are paid in one installment through University Business Office (UBO). The UBO will credit the full amount of the grant to the student's account, then issue a refund after all other balances have been paid. The amount of the refund will depend on the amount of the student's unpaid balance when the mini-grant is credited to the student's account. If there is no unpaid balance when the award is posted, then the mini-grant will be refunded to the student in its entirety. (Note that the student is still responsible for fulfilling the obligations of the Student Engagement Mini-Grant, even if funds are re-directed by UBO to pay for existing balances.)

Please contact Cindy Chiarello at grovecg@jmu.edu for questions on eligibility and responsibilities of grant winners.