

JMU named the “2019 Best College for Getting a Job” among all Virginia universities

HARRISONBURG, VA — Based on College Scorecard data maintained by the U.S. Department of Education, James Madison University is the “2019 Best College for Getting a Job” in Virginia. Employers have a particularly strong appetite for JMU graduates because they possess not just professional and technical mastery, but because they also communicate well, think critically, understand context, work exceptionally well on teams and reason ethically. Research published

by The Association of American Colleges & Universities surveying C-suite-level executives and hiring managers confirms that these skills, which cut across majors, are the most highly prized by employers.

Interviewed about the ranking by local ABC-TV affiliate WHSV, JMU spokesperson Andy Perrine remarked, “It’s because we’re a hybrid. We have strong technical and scientific programs like U.Va. and Virginia Tech. But we also have an award-winning core curriculum. This gives our students those other kinds of skills that employers are looking for.”



Brian Riley ('03), head of hiring for Amazon headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, talks with President Jonathan R. Alger during JMU's Homecoming football game.

Preparing Virginia for Amazon HQ2

Long before Amazon announced plans to build a second headquarters in Virginia, JMU answered the commonwealth's call to increase the number of degrees conferred in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

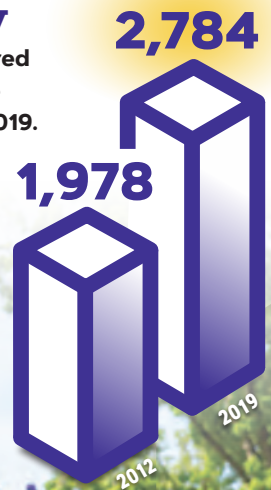
Brian Riley ('03), head of hiring for Amazon HQ2 and a JMU alumnus, was back on campus for Homecoming 2019 and toured the College of Integrated Science and Engineering, JMU X-Labs and other areas. Riley said in an inter-

view with campus media about his tour, “It was amazing. I think the thing that I was most taken with is the applicability of what they are doing. They are solving problems that we’re trying to solve at Amazon.”

About hiring 25,000 new Amazon employees, Riley said, “I think the work they’re doing here from an innovation perspective, and from a customer obsession perspective, is exceptional. And it’s certainly something that would serve the students here well in a workplace like Amazon’s.”

The number of STEM degrees conferred annually

JMU has fostered a 35% increase from 2012 to 2019.



JMU named “Most Innovative” school in the South by U.S. News & World Report



In its 2020 Best Colleges rankings, *U.S. News & World Report* placed James Madison University at the top because of its innovative curriculum, technology and facilities. “Really, we’ve been working intentionally toward this distinction for years,” said President Jonathan R. Alger. “In 2014 we set out to consolidate our unique position in the higher education marketplace by possessing the best elements of big research universities and small liberal arts colleges. Few other schools can make this claim. The experience such a

hybrid university affords to students is vastly superior because it delivers the technical, professional and scientific skills they need, along with the broad knowledge and disposition that a liberal arts education and close relationships with top professors provide. We call it ‘The Madison Difference.’”

JMU’s national leadership in this approach was acknowledged in the spring of 2019 when Alger was named co-chair of The Fusion of STEM & Liberal Arts Disciplines Task Force at the Council on Competitiveness. “The CEOs and other cor-

porate leaders on the council recognize how critical it is to balance focused career preparation with a core curriculum that gives students a broader perspective on the world because they make better employees,” Alger said.

Of course, such an approach is profoundly more important than for just getting a good job. According to a study conducted by Gallup in 2016, compared to their peers who graduated from the top 100 schools in the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking, JMU alumni are living lives of greater purpose and meaning.



Why Madison?

There is now proof: JMU alumni live purposeful and meaningful lives at a significantly higher rate than their peers who graduated from the top 100 colleges and universities ranked by *U.S. News & World Report*. This is according to conclusive Gallup research. It’s because our faculty and staff care about students as people more so than at most schools. Gallup research affirms that this is the No. 1 factor leading to alumni leading purposeful lives. And people living purposeful lives lead society toward a more promising future.



Merck plans \$1.2 billion expansion

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership announced in May a multimillion-dollar grant over five years to fund new faculty and curriculum development in the areas of manufacturing, science, technology and engineering at JMU and Blue Ridge Community College. The move supports Merck’s \$1.2 billion expansion of its pharmaceutical manufactur-

ing facility in Elkton, Virginia, near the JMU campus. Because of the grant, BRCC students who earn an Associate of Applied Science degree in Advanced Manufacturing Technology with a specialization in biotechnology can transition seamlessly into JMU’s biology major.



NATIONAL RECOGNITIONS

JMU is the “Most Innovative” school in the South, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.



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America’s favorite university

■ In *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education’s* 2019 US College Rankings, JMU was No. 1 on the list of most-recommended universities in the United States. Other schools in the rankings include Stanford University (No. 2), Virginia Tech (No. 3) and Duke University (No. 14).



■ More students at JMU reported they “made the right choice” when selecting a college than at any other school in the country, according to *The Wall Street Journal* and *Times Higher Education*.

■ Gallup research finds that JMU alumni live lives of greater meaning and purpose than their peers graduating from the top 100 schools on the *U.S. News & World Report* rankings.



JMU alumni report a 97% satisfaction rate.



■ In addition to recent NCAA national championships in women’s lacrosse and football, James Madison Athletics continued a four-year run of significant success across multiple sports during the 2018-19 season, highlighted by five Colonial Athletic Association championships and eight programs achieving NCAA Championship competition. Go Dukes!

Return on investment

■ JMU continues to hold a place in *The Princeton Review’s* annual recommendations of the nation’s best colleges for academics, affordability and career prospects. The university is also included in “Colleges That Pay You Back: The 200 Schools That Give You the Best Bang for Your Tuition Buck,” which is an expansion of *The Princeton Review’s* list. JMU has been listed in the books since 2009.



■ *MONEY* magazine has identified JMU as a great investment based on educational quality, affordability and high-earning alumni in its “Best Colleges for Your Money” list. JMU ranks No. 25 in the Best Public College in the Nation category and No. 9 in the Best Public College in the South category, out of 727 colleges included in the list.

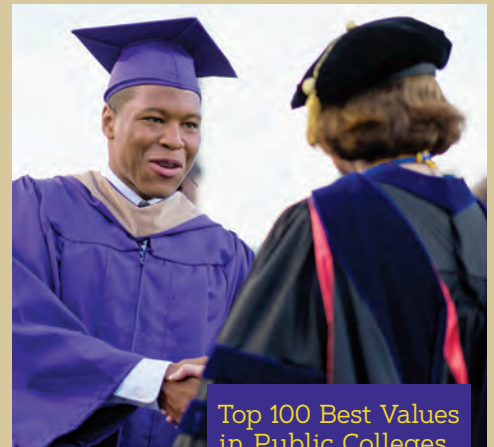
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■ JMU is the “Best College in Virginia for Getting a Job,” according to U.S. Department of Education statistics compiled by Zippia. JMU alumni have the highest post-graduate employment levels of all Virginia colleges and universities.

■ JMU’s College of Business is consistently ranked among the top 40 business programs by *Bloomberg Businessweek*.



■ High graduation rates and low costs are among the factors landing JMU on *Kiplinger’s Personal Finance’s* top 100 “Best Values in Public Colleges” list for 2019. JMU placed 31st on the list of four-year public schools that combine outstanding education with economic value.



Top 100 Best Values in Public Colleges





JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY is a comprehensive university that is part of the statewide system of public higher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia and is named for James Madison, father of the U.S. constitution and fourth president. Established March 14, 1908, the university offers programs on the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels with its primary emphasis on the undergraduate student. JMU provides a total education to students—one that has a broad range of the liberal arts as its foundation and encompasses an extensive variety of professional and pre-professional programs, augmented by a multitude of learning experiences outside the classroom. The university has been a coeducational institution since 1966.

JMU is located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia along Interstate 81, approximately two hours from Washington, D.C., and Richmond, Virginia. The campus is easily accessible from I-81's Exit 245. The nearest airport is Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (SHD) in Weyers Cave, 20 minutes south of campus.

MISSION: We are a community committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened citizens who lead productive and meaningful lives.

SCHOOL COLORS: Purple and Gold

NICKNAME: Dukes

MASCOT: Duke Dog

ATHLETIC AFFILIATION: NCAA Division I, Colonial Athletic Association

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Factsheet

APPLICANT DETAILS (Fall 2019)

Freshman Applicants	23,579
Freshmen Enrolled	4,456
Transfer Applicants (All 2019)	1,886
Transfer Enrolled (All 2019)	1,020
TOTAL APPLICANTS	25,465

ENROLLMENT (Fall 2019)

Undergraduate	19,895
Graduate	1,925
In-State	77%
Out-of-State	23%
Female	59%
Male	41%
TOTAL ENROLLMENT	21,820

DEGREE PROGRAMS OFFERED

Undergraduate	82
Master's	46
Educational Specialist	2
Doctoral	8
Certificates	10
TOTAL	148

DEGREES CONFERRED (2018-19)

Undergraduate	4,495
Graduate	763
TOTAL	5,258

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO (Fall 2019) 16:1

FACULTY AND STAFF (Fall 2019)

Full-Time Instructional Faculty	1,070
Part-Time Instructional Faculty	429
Full-Time Classified Staff	1,440
Full-Time Administrative and Professional Faculty	600

CAMPUS/BUILDINGS (785 acres)

Academic	34
Administrative	22
Athletic	21
Residence Halls	34

TUITION AND FEES (2019-20)

UNDERGRADUATE (per year):	
In-State Tuition	\$7,250
Out-of-State Tuition	\$24,150
Comprehensive Fee	\$4,956
Room and Board	\$10,500
GRADUATE (per credit hour):	
In-State Tuition	\$499
Out-of-State Tuition	\$1,231

BUDGET (2019-20)

Total Operating Budget	\$619m
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Alumnae among Fortune's 50 Most Powerful Women in Business

Two College of Business alumnae made *Fortune's* 50 Most Powerful Women in Business list for 2018.

Kathy Warden ('92),

who is president and chief executive officer of defense contractor Northrop



Grumman, was No. 22 on the magazine's list. **Jennifer Morgan ('93),** co-CEO of SAP, a market leader in enterprise software, was No. 43.

The list is compiled annually by *Fortune's* editors, who consider four criteria: the size and importance of the woman's business in the global economy, the health and direction of the business, the arc of the woman's career, and social and cultural influence.

