

JMUUnique, Again

The unique character of James Madison University was described by the Office of Institutional Research (OIR) in a Research Note published in March 2006 ("JMUUnique," JMU Office of Institutional Research, *Research Notes* Vol. 19, No. 7, March 2006). The study examined the graduation rates and percent of full-time undergraduate enrollment at large institutions and at the top regional Master's institutions as determined by *U.S. News & World Report*. A number of institutions had either high graduation rates or a high percentage of full-time undergraduates. However, only two schools stood out from the rest with high rankings in both – JMU and Miami University-Oxford (Ohio). For these results and more, be sure to see this publication at <http://www.jmu.edu/instresrch/notes/Vol19no7.pdf>.

Graduation Rates

Recently, the OIR was asked to investigate JMU's standing by graduation rate from a different perspective. Again, the results revealed JMU's truly unique status.

Six-year graduation rate data on the 2002 cohort of first-time, full-time freshmen were extracted from information managed by the National Center for Education Statistics. The data were filtered by two criteria:

- four-year or greater degree seeking institutions; and
- greater than 12,000 degree seeking undergraduates in fall 2008.

JMU's Ranking

There were 193 institutions that met the degree level and enrollment criteria. The numbers of undergraduate degree seeking students ranged from 12,532 to 38,332. JMU's enrollment was 16,648. With a graduation rate of 82 percent, JMU ranked in the 11th position with three other institutions (94th percentile).

Then, the data were filtered for institutions with graduation rates greater than 76 percent. This resulted in only 29 institutions (15 percent of the 193 four-year institutions identified under the first criteria). These schools were examined by institution control (public vs. private) and Carnegie Classification 2005 Basic. Twenty-three of these schools were public and six private. By Carnegie Classification there were 24 with Very High Research, four with High Research and only one with Larger Master's (JMU).

Ranking Compared to Research Institutions

James Madison University enjoys a unique status within a group of nationally recognized research institutions. The 29 institutions with graduation rates greater than 76 percent include, at the top, the University of Virginia and Cornell University with 93 percent graduation rates. Georgia Tech and the University of Washington are found at 77 percent. Again, JMU is the only Master's institution in this distinguished company.

Please see the following table for the list of these 29 institutions, sorted by graduation rate and enrollment, with institution control and Carnegie Classification included. These institutions are four-year degree granting institutions with undergraduate degree-seeking enrollment greater than 12,000 in Fall 2008.

Please contact Chuck DeHart (dehartcg@jmu.edu), Assistant Director of Institutional Research, with questions about this research note.

Table 1
Comparison of Six Year Graduation Rates

Name	Enrolled Degree Seeking Undergraduates	Control	Carnegie Classification 2005 Basic	Grad Rate 2002 Cohort
University of Virginia	13,869	Public	Research, Very High	93
Cornell University	13,772	Private	Research, Very High	93
UCal-Berkeley	25,151	Public	Research, Very High	90
UCal-Los Angeles	26,536	Public	Research, Very High	89
UMich-Ann Arbor	25,865	Public	Research, Very High	88
University of Southern California	16,283	Private	Research, Very High	88
UNC-Chapel Hill	17,422	Public	Research, Very High	86
Penn State-Main Campus	37,171	Public	Research, Very High	85
UCal-San Diego	22,486	Public	Research, Very High	85
New York University	20,780	Private	Research, Very High	85
University of Florida	34,094	Public	Research, Very High	82
UIll. at Urbana-Champaign	30,813	Public	Research, Very High	82
UMd.-College Park	25,852	Public	Research, Very High	82
James Madison University	16,648	Public	Master's, Larger	82
UWisc-Madison	28,777	Public	Research, Very High	81
UCal-Davis	24,058	Public	Research, Very High	81
UCal-Irvine	22,122	Public	Research, Very High	81
UCal-Santa Barbara	18,888	Public	Research, Very High	81
Miami University-Oxford	14,699	Public	Research, High	81
Boston University	16,474	Private	Research, Very High	80
Syracuse University	13,105	Private	Research, High	80
Brigham Young University	30,912	Private	Research, High	79
University of Georgia	25,150	Public	Research, Very High	79
Clemson University	14,624	Public	Research, High	79
Texas A & M University	38,332	Public	Research, Very High	78