

## **TRANSFER STUDENT SURVEY Fall 2022**

This report shares information with the university community about James Madison University (JMU) transfer students' attitudes, values, perceptions and experiences.

JMU requested incoming transfer students to complete the Transfer Student Survey online. The survey collects responses to questions about respondents' decision to attend college and, more specifically, James Madison University; their experiences at other institutions; and their attitudes, values and beliefs. Demographic data were also requested. The data was obtained via the 408 usable surveys from the incoming transfer students.

### **TRANSFER STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS**

Transfer students identify as the following genders: 49% female, 50% male, and 2% non-binary and/or gender non-confirming (Table 1). Seventy-five percent of this year's respondents indicated that their age was between 19-21 years old and 15% indicated they were 23 years or older (Table 2). Caucasian was the most reported race at 70%, this was followed by Latino/Hispanic at 10%, African-American/Black at 5%, Asian/Pacific Islander at 6%, and Multiracial at 5% (Table 3). Ninety percent of respondents reported living in the state of Virginia, 9% from out of state, and 1% outside the United States (Table 4). Nineteen percent reported to be first generation (Table 6).

### **PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONS**

Fifty percent of this year's transfer students have already received an associate's degree before transferring to JMU; 31% reported attending a community college but did not receive an associate's degree (Table 7). Sixty-eight percent of respondents reported transferring from a 2-year public institution, and 20% from a 4-year public institution (Table 8). Eighty-six percent of respondents indicated that they had a GPA of 3.00 or higher from their previous institution (Table 9). Respondents were also asked if there was interaction with a JMU transfer advisor. Of the 40% who reported consulting with a transfer advisor coordinator; 97% reported that the information received was helpful with their transition to JMU (Table 10 and 11).

### **IDENTIFY AS JMU STUDENT VS TRANSFER STUDENT**

Respondents were asked when they felt they would identify as a JMU student and not as a transfer student. Thirty-one percent of respondents reported that they would identify as a JMU student on the first day of their first semester, 30% after the completion of their first semester, 16% reported midway through their first semester at JMU. A total of 20% of respondents indicated that they were not sure when they would identify as a JMU student or that they would always identify as a transfer student (Table 12).

### **ACCLIMATION TO JMU**

Ninety percent of respondents are enthusiastic about JMU and 87% said they were happy to be at JMU; 78% of respondents believe that JMU is one of the best schools in the nation. Seventy-three percent of transfer students see themselves as part of the JMU community and 71% feel a sense of belonging to JMU (Table 13).

## PHILOSOPHIES OF EDUCATION

Incoming transfer students were asked to indicate their own philosophies concerning the emphasis of higher education. Forty-six percent of this year’s respondents said they hold a vocational philosophy of education, which is viewed as preparation for an occupation. Twenty-five percent of respondents hold a social philosophy, where emphasis is placed on social life and loyalty to college and 18% percent hold an intellectual philosophy, where emphasis is placed on scholarly pursuit of knowledge (Table 14). Similar to last year, fifty percent of respondents plan to pursue a degree beyond the baccalaureate (Table 5).

Listed in the following tables are summaries of data collected in 2022 (2021, 2020, and 2019 figures, when available, are in parentheses).

For more information about this survey, please contact the Office of Institutional Research via phone: 540.568.7208, or email: [ask-oir@jmu.edu](mailto:ask-oir@jmu.edu).

<b>Table 1</b>	<b>Gender of the Respondents</b>			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
Males	50%	( 48%	45%	45%)
Females	49%	( 51%	54%	54%)
Non-binary/Non-conforming	2%	( 1%	1%	1%)
Transgender	0%	( 0%	0%	0%)

<b>Table 2</b>	<b>Age of the Respondents</b>			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
18 years or younger	1%	( 3%	3%	2%)
19 years old	22%	( 34%	29%	25%)
20 years old	33%	( 36%	39%	33%)
21 years old	20%	( 15%	13%	19%)
22 years old	9%	( 4%	6%	8%)
23 years or older	15%	( 8%	11%	13%)

<b>Table 3</b>	<b>Race of the Respondents</b>			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
Caucasian-American\White	70%	( 77%	75%	75%)
Hispanic	10%	( 7%	7%	8%)
Asian\Pacific Islander	6%	( 5%	6%	4%)
African-American\Black	5%	( 6%	6%	6%)
Multiracial	5%	( 5%	5%	6%)
Non-Resident Alien	0%	( 0%	0%	0%)
Other	0%	( 2%/	2%/	2%)

<b>Table 4</b>	<b>Region of Current Family Residence</b>			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
Northern Virginia	32%	( 36%	34%	38%)
Shenandoah Valley	29%	( 18%	25%	27%)
Piedmont Area	16%	( 17%	18%	17%)
Tidewater Area	10%	( 12%	10%	9%)
Outside Virginia	9%	( 11%	8%	6%)
Southwest Virginia	5%	( 6%	5%	4%)
Outside the United States	1%	( 0%	0%	0%)

<b>Table 5</b>	<b>Highest Academic Degree Respondents Intend to Obtain</b>			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
Baccalaureate degree	50%	( 51%	44%	42%)
Masters degree	35%	( 35%	40%	44%)
Specialist degree e.g., Ed.S.	0%	( 1%	0%	0%)
Doctoral degree e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., D.B.A.	9%	( 8%	9%	9%)
Professional degree e.g., medicine, law, theology	5%	( 6%	6%	6%)
Not a degree seeking student	1%	( 0%	1%	0%)

<b>Table 6</b>	<b>First Generation Status</b>			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
No	69%	( 81%	71%	---
Yes	19%	( 15%	20%	---
Unknown/Unreported	12%	( 4%	8%	---

Table 7	Associates Degree Completion			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
Received Associates degree	50%	( 47%	50%	55%)
Attended community college, but have not received an Associate's degree	31%	( 30%	28%	29%)
Did not attend a community college	19%	( 23%	22%	16%)

Table 8	Institution Transferring From			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
2-year public	68%	( 66%	70%	76%)
2-year private	1%	( 1%	1%	0%)
4-year public	20%	( 22%	19%	15%)
4-year private	8%	( 8%	7%	7%)
Other	3%	( 3%	3%	3%)

Table 9	GPA from Previous Institution			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
3.50 – 4.00	39%	( 49%	44%	43%)
3.00 – 3.49	47%	( 43%	46%	47%)
2.50 – 2.99	13%	( 7%	10%	10%)
2.00 – 2.49	1%	( 1%	1%	1%)
Less than 2.00	1%	( 0%	0%	0%)

Table 10	Consult with JMU Transfer Advisor			
	2022(2021/ 2020/2019)			
No	60%	( 63%	52%	51%)
Yes	40%	( 37%	48%	49%)

Table 11	Information received from Transfer Advisor helpful			
	2022(2021/ 2020/2019)			
Yes	97%	( 99%	98%	97%)
No	3%	( 1%	3%	1%)
N\A	0%	( 0%	0%	2%)

Table 12	Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
First day of my first semester at JMU	31%	( 37%	40%	37%)
After the completion of first semester at JMU	30%	( 25%	23%	24%)

Midway through my first semester at JMU	16%	( 17%	18%	18%)
Not sure	10%	( 10%	9%	9%)
Always identify as a transfer student	10%	( 6%	5%	9%)
After the completion of two semesters at JMU	3%	( 6%	5%	3%)

Table 13	Sense of Belonging to JMU (Percentage of Respondents Who Agree to Some Extent on the Following)			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
Enthusiastic about JMU	90%	( 93%	95%	90%)
Happy to be at JMU	87%	( 92%	93%	88%)
Believe JMU is one of the best schools in the nation	78%	( 80%	82%	71%)
See myself as a member of the JMU community	73%	( 73%	80%	70%)
Sense of belonging	71%	( 76%	77%	63%)
Feel a part of the JMU community	67%	( 79%	75%	60%)

Table 14	Philosophy of Education			
	2022(2021/ 2020/2019)			
Vocational philosophy education viewed as preparation for an occupation	46%	( 45%	47%	53%)
Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized	25%	( 30%	25%	17%)
Intellectual philosophy emphasis on scholarly pursuit of knowledge	18%	( 18%	20%	23%)
Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality	11%	( 7%	8%	7%)

Table 15	Positive Work Ethics Most Like Me			
	2022(2021/ 2020/ 2019)			
I am a hard worker	71%	( 66%	62%	63%)
I have achieved a goal that took years of work	55%	( 54%	51%	47%)
I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge	54%	( 51%	49%	41%)
I am diligent	49%	( 49%	50%	47%)
I finish whatever I begin	38%	( 34%	36%	34%)
Setbacks don't discourage me	20%	( 18%	18%	13%)

**Table 16****Negative Work Ethics Most Like Me**

	2022(2021/ 2020/2019)			
I become interested in new pursuits every few months	18%	( 18%	16%	14%)
New ideas and projects sometimes distract me from previous ones	12%	( 11%	9%	9%)
My interests change from year to year	8%	( 10%	5%	6%)
I have been obsessed with a certain idea or project for a short time but later lost interest	8%	( 8%	6%	6%)
I have difficulty maintaining my focus on projects that take more than a few months to complete	6%	( 7%	6%	4%)
I often set a goal but later choose to pursue a different one	4%	( 5%	4%	2%)