



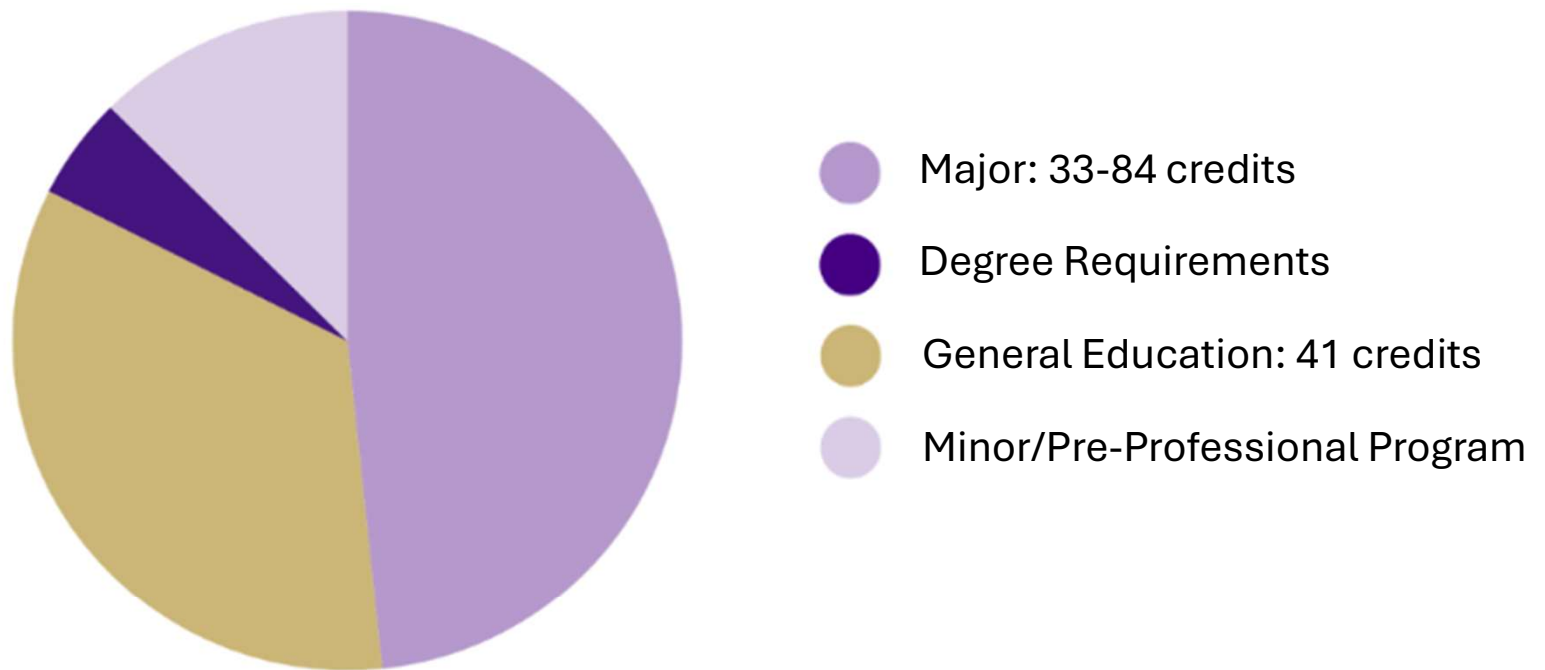
Academic Success & Advising

JMU Values a *Strong* Commitment to...

- A foundational **liberal arts** education
 - Broad knowledge of the wider world will prepare you to deal with complexity, diversity & change
- **Engagement** during your time here
 - Civic, community & learning
- Applying learning in the **real world**
 - E.g., internships, service learning, study abroad, student research



Graduation Requirements



Skills that Employers Value

National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) list of **most valued career-readiness skills** (in order of importance):

1. Problem solving skills
2. Ability to work in a team structure
3. Strong work ethic
4. Analytical/quantitative skills
5. Communication skills (written)
6. Leadership
7. Communication skills (verbal)
8. Initiative
9. Detail-oriented
10. Technical skills
11. Flexibility/adaptability
12. Interpersonal skills

Career Development and Experiential Learning

- On-campus Honors & Research
- In-Class & Off-Campus Experiential Learning
 - Conference attendance
 - Working industry events
 - Site visits
- Career, Internships & Practicum Advising
 - Career & Internship Fairs
 - Resume & cover letter reviews
 - Interview preparation
- Service Projects



Bachelor's and Advanced-Degree Recipients

Class of 2024 Career Outcomes Overview

95.2% of Bachelor's and Advanced-Degree Recipients have a Career Outcome

Career Outcome	Bachelor's	Advanced Degree	All Graduates
Working	72.8%	92.4%	75.0%
Continuing Education	22.2%	4.3%	20.2%
Total with a Career Outcome	95.0%	96.7%	95.2%
Still Seeking (employment or education)	4.6%	3.1%	4.4%
Not Seeking (due to life event, travel, etc.)	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%
Total without a Career Outcome	5.0%	3.3%	4.8%

The data reflects knowledge of 3,482 bachelor's-degree recipients and 422 advanced-degree recipients, for a knowledge rate of 73.7%.

Secret to Success at JMU



Cultivate the higher ed academic mindset

- Plan when to study (multiply classroom time by 2)
- Identify each professor's specific expectations
- Reflect midway through (midterm grades in October)
- Strategize about managing email
- Think ahead – ex: study abroad; career planning
- Engage both inside AND outside of class



Engage in class

- Attend regularly
- Be prepared for class
- Read materials prior to coming to class
- Develop good study habits
- Track all due dates (planner, calendar, etc.)

More Secrets to Success



Seek out relationships with faculty and staff

- Find a mentor(s)
- Use advisor as a resource
- Go to faculty office hours
- Participate in faculty research



Find belonging by getting involved on campus

- Get to know faculty and staff
- Engage both inside and outside of class
- Balance fun and learning
- Take advantage of the campus recreation center
- Look into discipline-specific student organizations/clubs

Transition to College Coursework

The expectations regarding course work will be different from high school or previous institution.

- Increased independence
- Fewer (to no) reminders of assignment deadlines
- Learning strategies will need to change
 - Less emphasis on memorization
 - Will need to retain information beyond the first test
- Requires time management to balance time and studying
- Get yourself organized
- Ask for assistance!
- Assume responsibility for your own education



Tips for Engaging with Faculty

- Ask questions during class for clarification
- Seek assistance before it's too late
- Demonstrate professional behavior, both in person and in emails
- Don't be shy
- Learning about their teaching and research
- Consider their research opportunities
- Maintain the relationship
- Seek face-to-face interactions

How to Handle Academic Issues that Arise



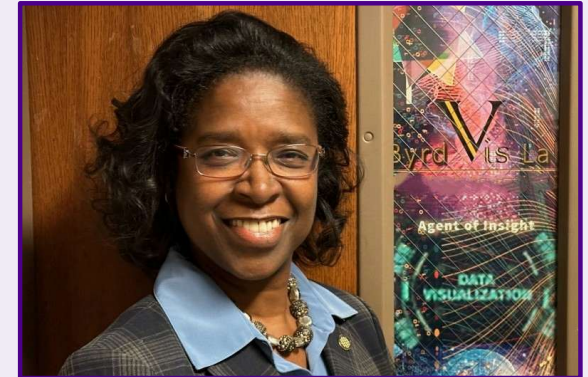
Contact Faculty member directly

- Questions about assignments
- Strategies for success in a class
- When having difficulty in a class



Contact Academic Advisor

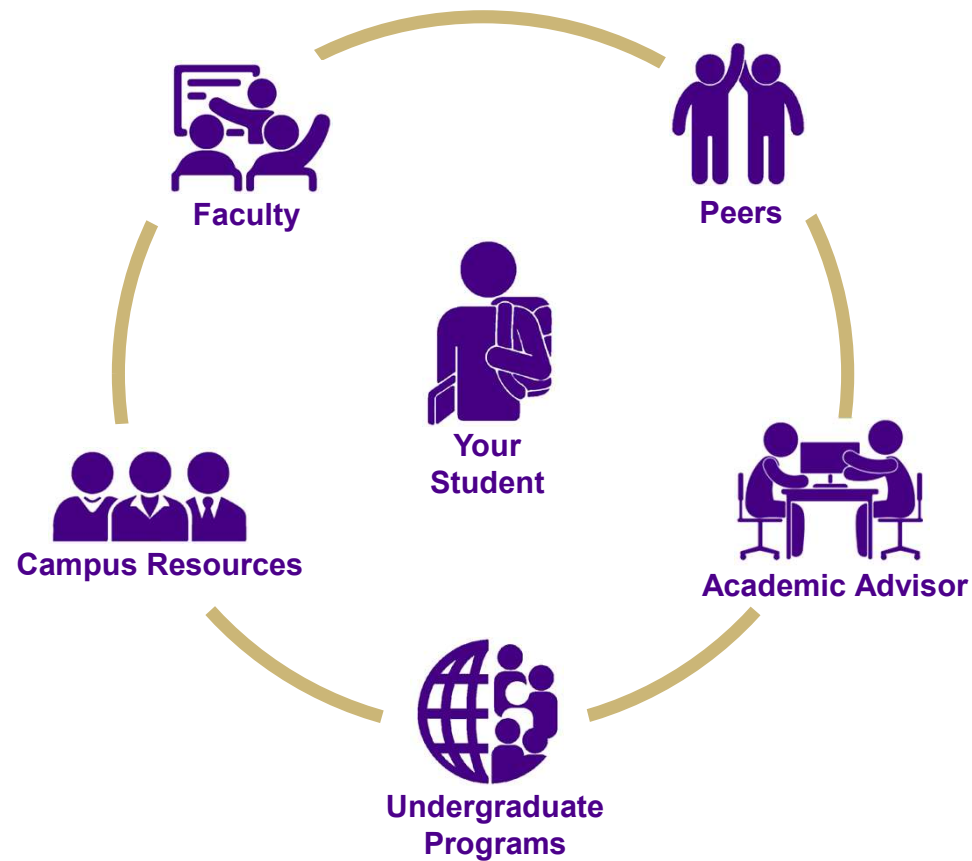
- Questions about your course schedule
- Changing majors
- Adding/dropping a major or minor



Contact Academic Unit Head

- Concerns with a faculty or staff member

Your Student's Success Network at JMU

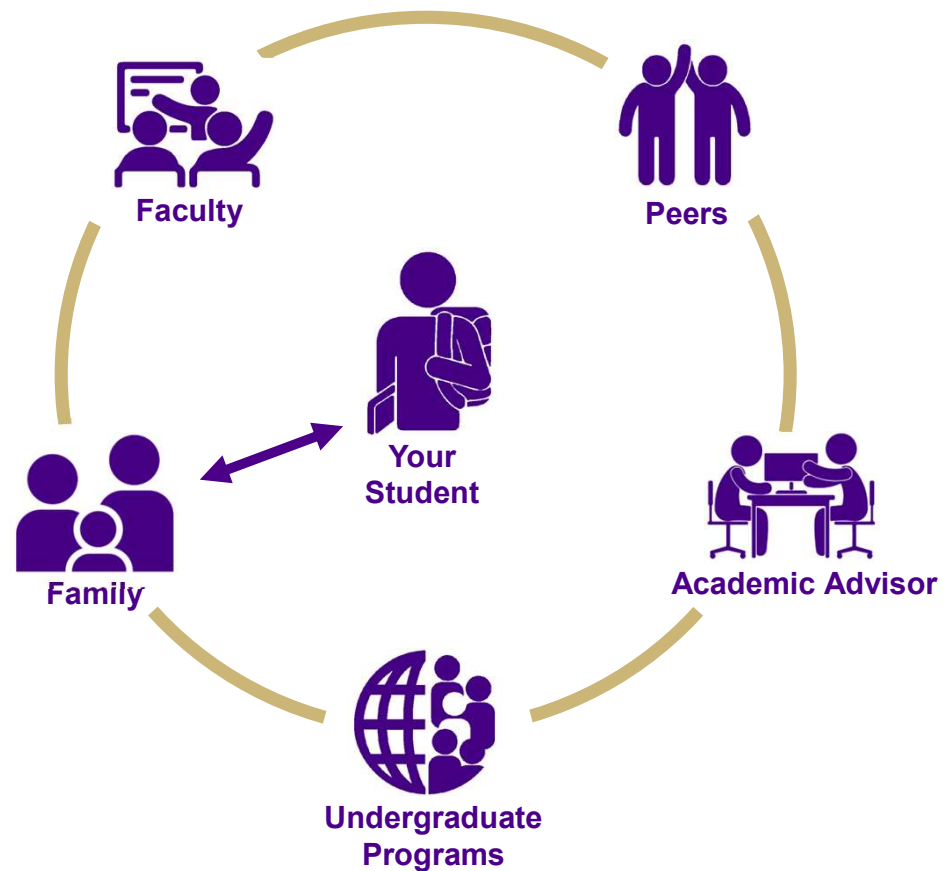




20th Century McGee

- Perceptions of Family Leaving
- Expectations
- No classes
- No next steps
- Hopes & Dreams about the future

Your Student's Success Network at JMU





Advising at JMU

First-Year Advisor

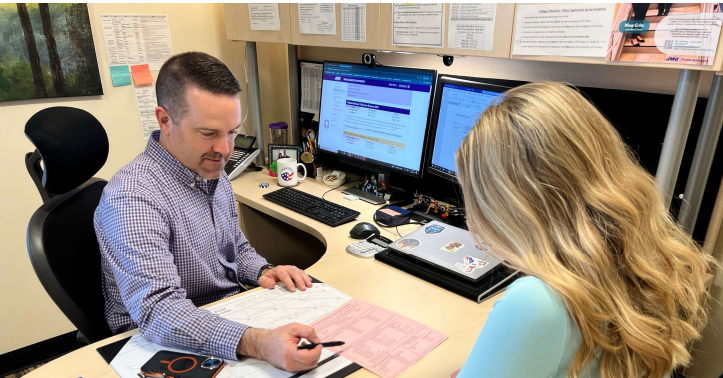


Major Advisor

Opportunities to Meet Advisors

- Virtual Group Advising Sessions (June 6-June 16)
- Weeks of Welcome Advising Sessions (August 18)
- First Few Weeks of Classes
- October/Early November
- January/February





Advising Partnership

Advisor Role:

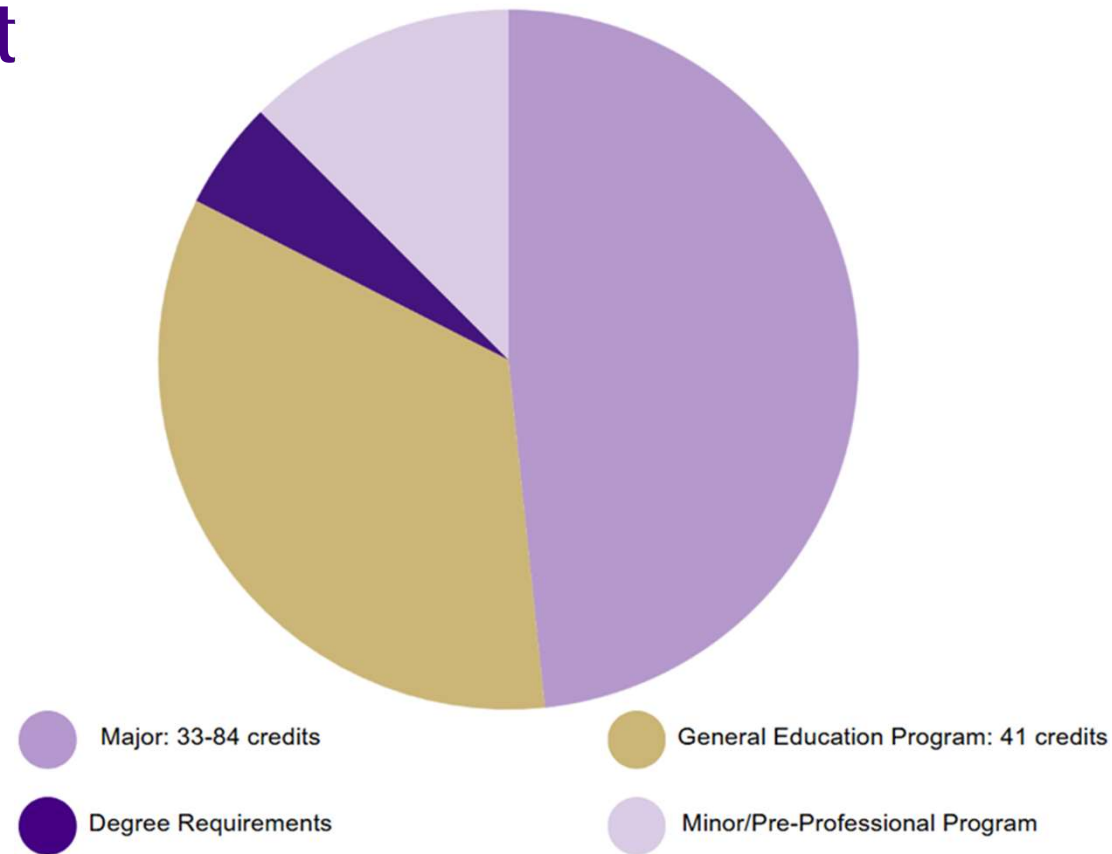
- Guides academic planning and requirements.
- Aligns decisions with graduation and career goals.
- Connects to campus resources.

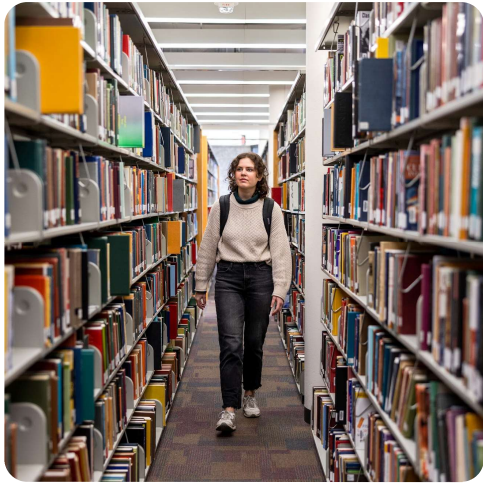
Student Role:

- Understands academic requirements and additional options.
- Chooses a major, explores careers, and knows advisor communication preferences.
- Prepares for meetings, seeks support, and asks questions.

Curriculum Overview: JMU Degree Nuts & Bolt

- Academic requirement areas
- Extracurricular activities
- Internship opportunities
- Service learning
- Student leadership
- Community engagement (local/abroad)





Navigating Gen Ed (General Education)

- 5 Areas
 - Madison Foundations
 - Arts & Humanities
 - The Natural World
 - American & Global Perspectives
 - Sociocultural and Wellness
- Central to the JMU experience
- Many unique courses

Tips for Family Members: Supporting Your Student's Academic Journey

Encourage Growth and Independence:

- Motivate your student to stay informed
- Seek support when needed
- Build resilience
- Take ownership of their academic journey

Support from the Sidelines:

- Be present without taking over
- Ask thoughtful questions
- Respect their choices
- Encourage them to work directly with their advisor



Quick Updates

- Enrollment for First Year Students occurs June 17-July 17 at 11:59pm
- Enrollment reopens for all JMU students on August 1 at 8am
- AP Credit guidance is on the enrollment worksheet but...
 - Students should only enroll in a class if it is major specific and required. Then, students can swap the class when credit is posted.
 - If the class is general education, student should pick a different area.
- Dual Enrollment Credit takes about 2 weeks to process.
- Second Major? Minor? Student can declare beginning August 20
- Madison Advising Peers (MAP) can help with enrollment, adjusting schedule, understanding enrollment errors, and more!

University Advising

jmu.edu/advising

@jmuadvising  

Student Success Center 4045

540-568-7350

firstyearadvising@jmu.edu