



College of  
Visual and  
Performing Arts

Dr. Karin Tollefson-Hall | June-July 2025

# Session Overview

- Introductions and Concentric Circles activity
- About CVPA
- Creating your path
- Academics and Expectations
- Building a supportive house at JMU activity
- Resources and getting involved
- Questions?

# My JMU Journey

- 28<sup>th</sup> year teaching, 16<sup>th</sup> year at JMU
- Professor of Art Education and Book Arts
- Associate Dean of CVPA
- Faculty Advisor and First Year Advisor
- Love the Shen. Valley outdoor activities and arts downtown



# Intro Activity

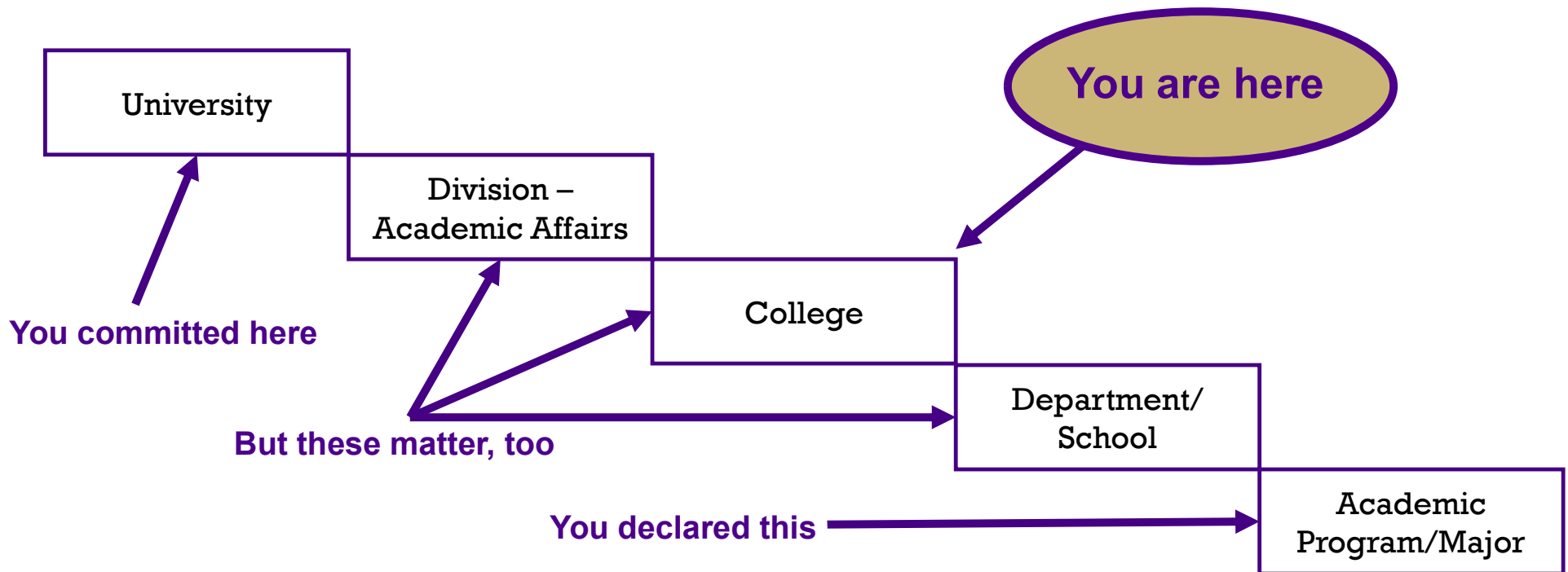
- Divide into two equal groups
- Group 1 form a circle and turn yourself facing out
- Group 2 make a circle around group 1 so that you are facing a partner
  - Introduce yourself (name, where from, major)
  - Talk about prompt for 1 minute
- Outside circle (group 2) move one person to your right
- Repeat introduction, follow new prompt...

# About CVPA

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Schools & Facilities

# Simplified Organizational Structure of JMU





School of Art,  
Design, and  
Art History



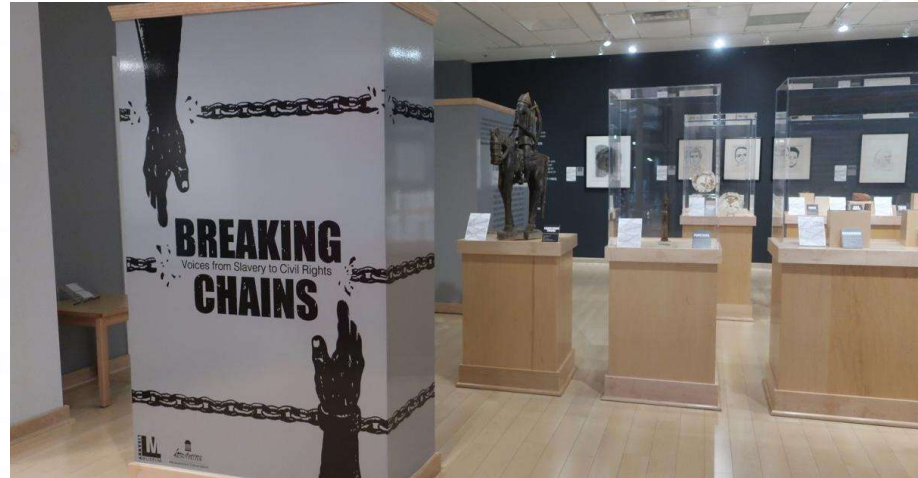
# Facilities

- Duke Hall
- Studio Design Center
- Memorial Hall Arts Complex



# Galleries

- Duke Hall Gallery of Fine Art
- Lisanby Museum
  - Madison Art Collection
- ArtWorks





School  
of Music



# Facilities

## Music Building



Shirley Hanson Roberts  
Center for Music  
Performance (Forbes Center)

# Performance Halls

- Concert Hall (600 seats)
- Recital Hall (198 seats)





School of  
Theatre  
and Dance



# Facilities

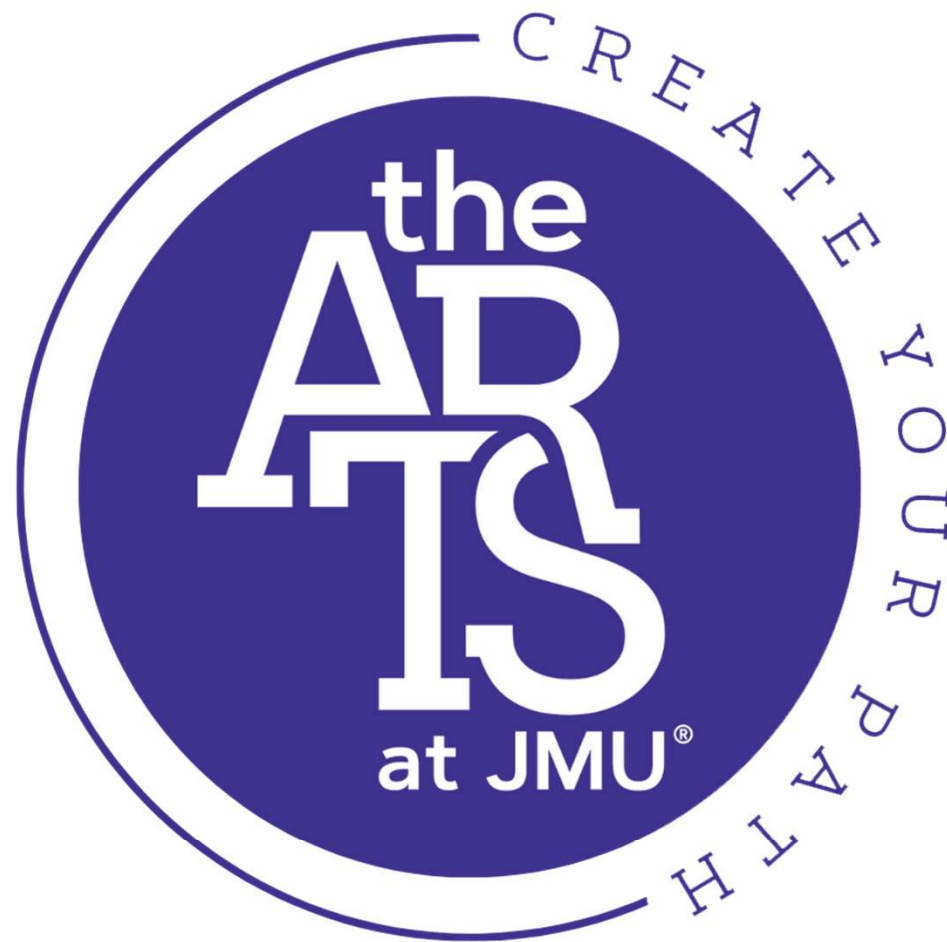


Dorothy Thomasson Estes Center for Theatre and Dance  
(Forbes Center)

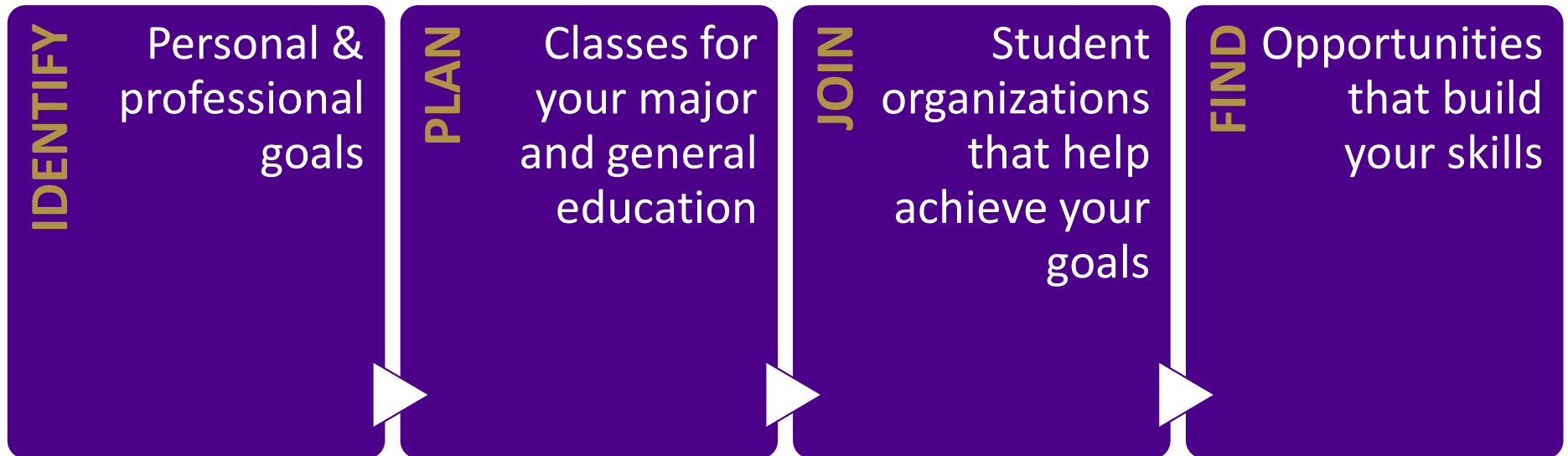
# Performance Halls

- Mainstage Theatre (450 seats)
- Studio Theatre (168 seats)
- Earlynn J. Miller Dance Theatre (200 seats)

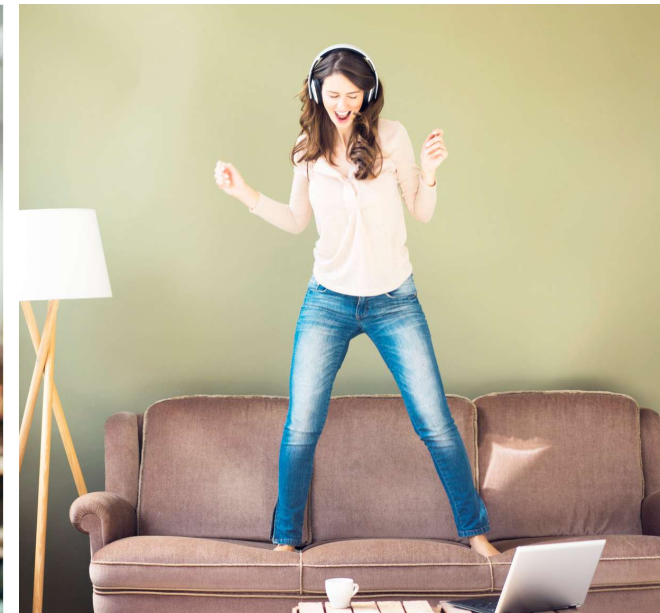
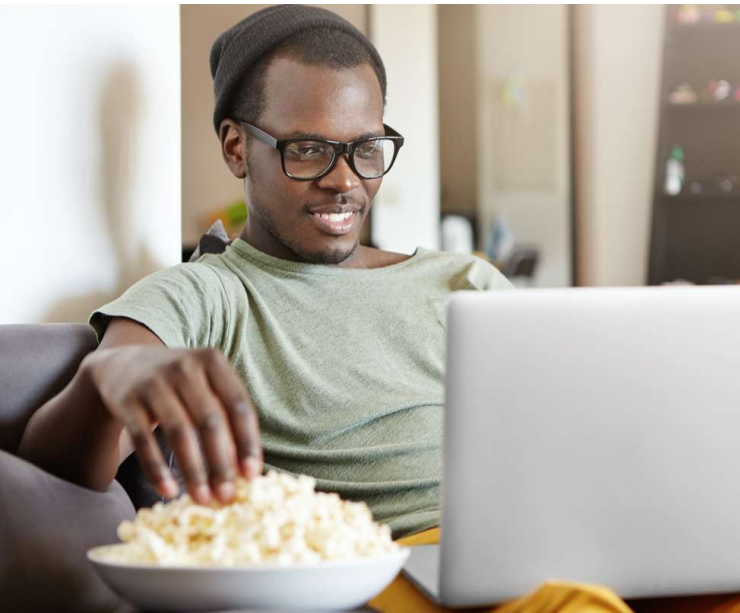




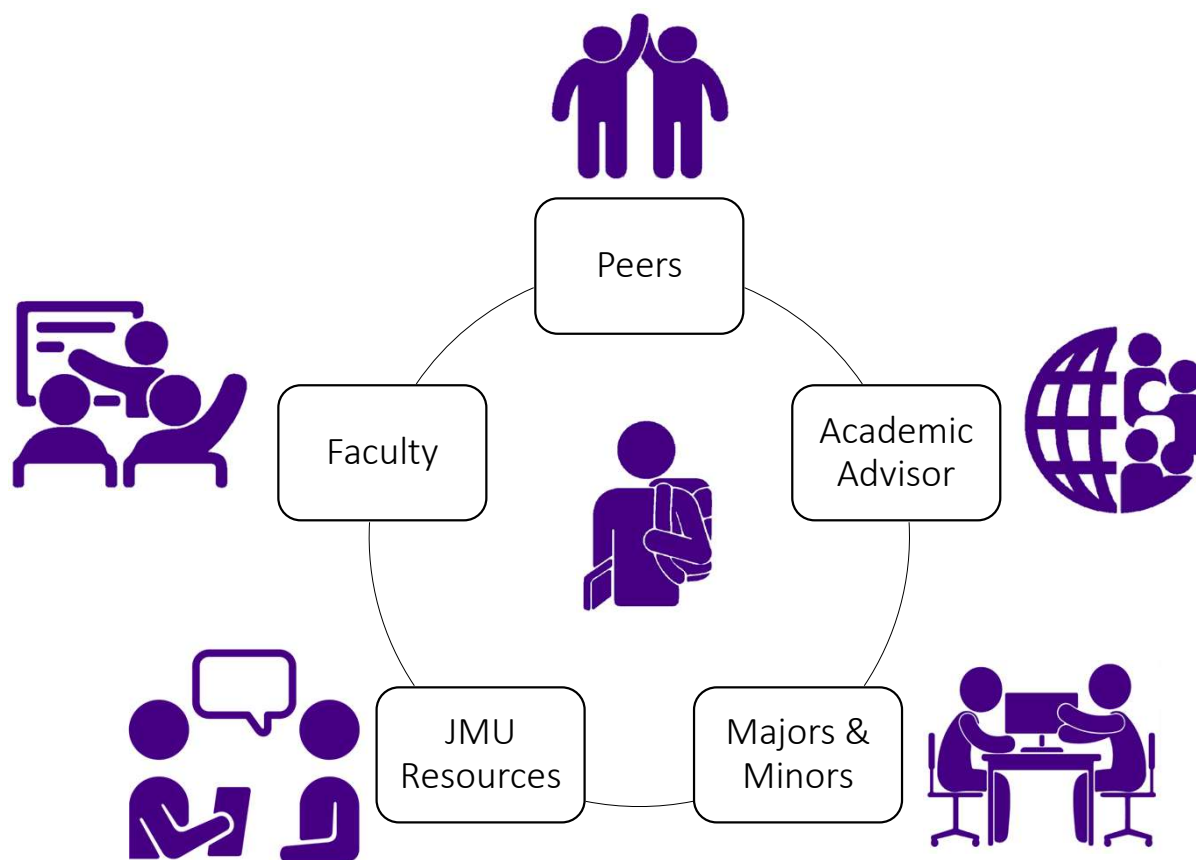
# How to plan your path



You!



# Your Success Network at JMU

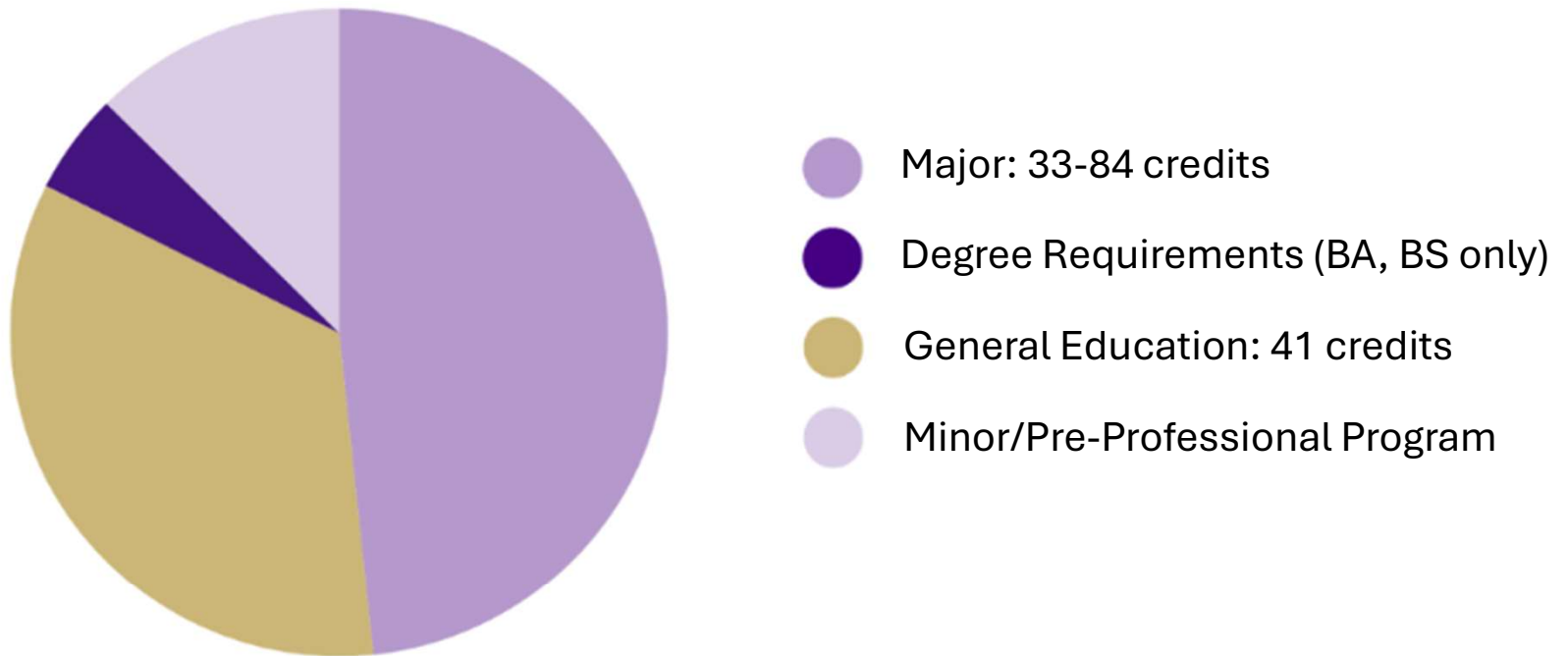


# Academics & Expectations

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Degree components  
Engaging with Faculty

# Graduation Requirements



# 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



# Liberal Arts Foundation



# 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

# Transition to College Coursework

The expectations regarding course work will be different from what you are used to in high school

- 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
- Learn about their teaching and research
- Consider their research and professional development 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
- 4-year plan
- Changing majors
- Adding/dropping a major or minor



## Contact Academic Unit Head

- Concerns with a faculty or staff member

# 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 your advisor as a resource
- Go to faculty office hours
- Participate in faculty research



## Find belonging by getting involved on campus

- Get to know your faculty and staff
- Attend events in your college and school
- Balance fun and learning
- Take advantage of the campus recreation center
- Look into student organizations/clubs

## Student Insight

"The goal of group discussions is not to agree, but to learn something new. This principle revolutionized how I related to my peers."

# Hannah

## Elementary Education

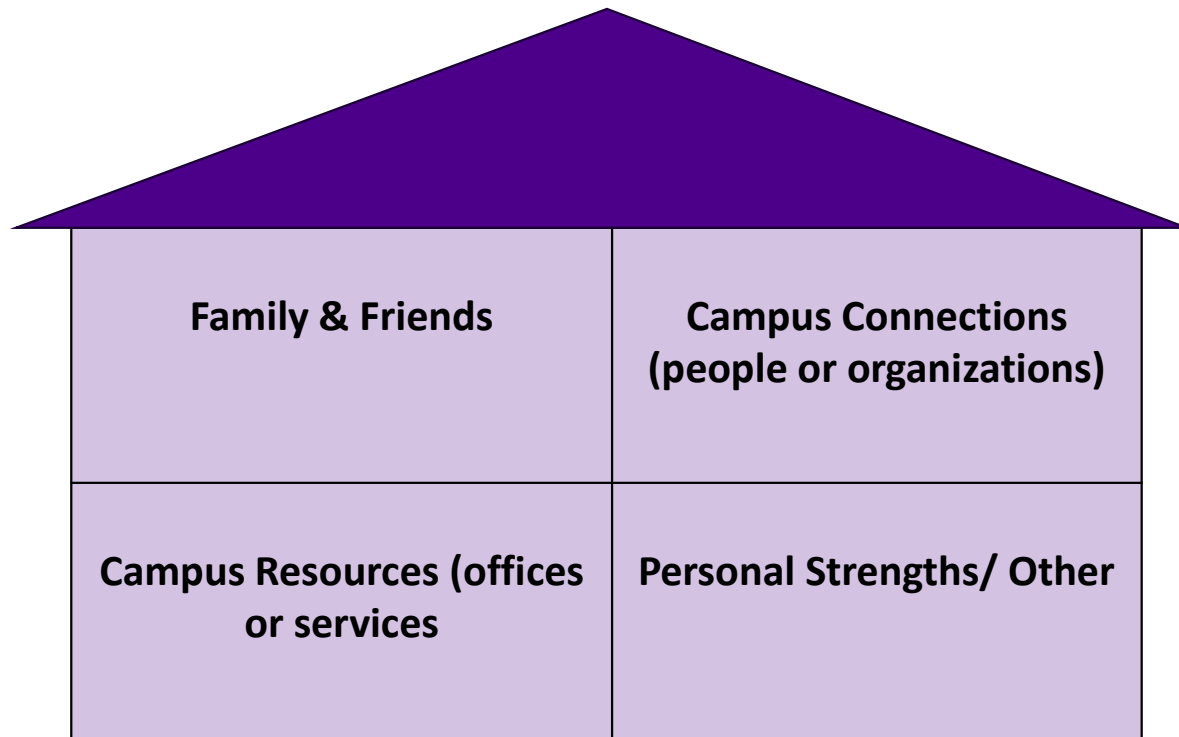
“Try new things and do not be afraid to explore on your own! You never know what you may learn or who you may meet from a new experience.”



JAMES MADISON  
UNIVERSITY.

# Building a Supportive House Activity

- List inside your house who/what will be your supports while at JMU for that category.



# Resources and Getting Involved

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JMU Support Resources  
CVPA Grants and Scholarships  
Student Organizations  
Study Abroad

# Where to find lists of Support Services

- Online listings of services
  - Advising and Support Center
  - Student Support Hub
  - JMU Student Gateway
- Locations with multiple services
  - Student Success Center
  - Rose Library
  - UREC

# CVPA Professional Growth Opportunities



Valley Business Keynote Entrepreneurship in the Arts and Design Scholarship



Undergraduate Development Awards



First Year Research Experience (FYRE)



CVPA Rising Star Scholarship

# CVPA Resources & Opportunities

- Career Liaison – University Career Center college specific events
- Office of Creative Propulsion – internships, fellowships, outreach events
- Arts Administration internships
- Music Library (SoM)
- Historic Costume Collection (STAD)

# Student Organizations in CVPA - SADAH

- Madison Chapter of the National Art Education Association
- Kappa Pi (national art honors fraternity)
- American Institute of Graphic Arts
- American Institute for Architecture Students
- National Organization of Minority Architects
- Industrial Design Society of America
- Madison Art History Student Association

# Student Organizations in CVPA - SoM

- American String Teachers Association
- Music Teachers National Association
- National Association of Teachers of Singing
- Collegiate Virginia Music Educators Association
- Brass Band Club
- Club Music Composition
- Double Reed Society
- Flute Club
- International Trumpet Guild
- Bass Club
- Club Orchestra
- International Tuba Euphonium Association
- Madison Saxophone Society
- Music Industry Association

# Student Organizations in CVPA - STAD

- Stratford Players
- APO (Alpha Psi Omega national theatre society)
- Dance Theatre
- National Honor Society for Dance Arts
- United States Institute for Theatre Technology

# CVPA – Study Abroad examples

- JMU offers long term programs that are usually not major specific.
- Faculty/ departments offer short term programs that include major courses.
  - Locations change frequently –may not be offered more than once
  - 3-9 credits total, can include gen ed
  - Don't require language proficiency



## Music- Arts and Culture of Montreal

## Dance, Art, & Music in Spain



## Graphic Design in Amsterdam



## Museum Studies in NYC



## Art History in Italy

# Advice From Current Students



BE RESPECTFUL  
AND RESPONSIBLE



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF  
OPPORTUNITIES



ASK FOR HELP WHEN  
YOU NEED IT



GET TO KNOW PEOPLE  
AND MAKE FRIENDS



TRY NEW THINGS



FIND WAYS TO  
STAY ORGANIZED



ENJOY YOUR TIME  
AND HAVE FUN



# Questions?

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