

WELCOME HOME EXPLORATORY STUDENTS

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Let's get to know each other!



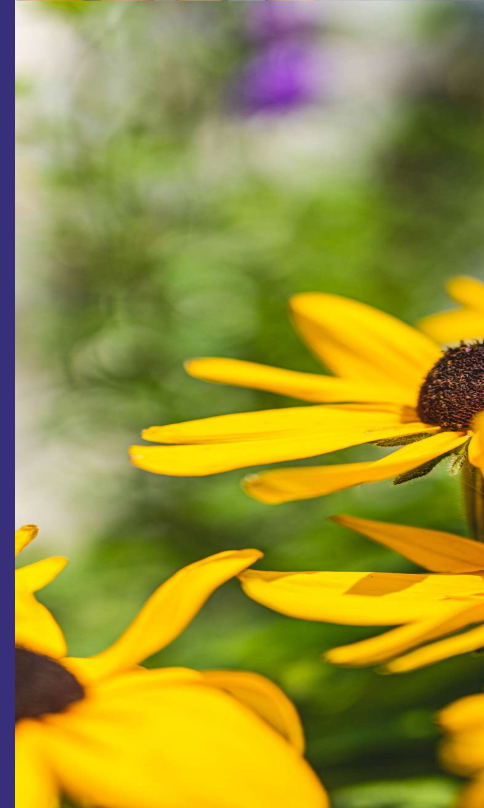
University Studies

- Same resources
 - Dean's office
 - Dedicated advisors
- Similar outcomes
 - Retention after 2 yrs.
 - Graduation rates
- Common to change majors
 - 25% enter undecided
 - 75% change at least 1X



Exploratory Students

- One of the **largest** single "majors"!
- You can declare your major anytime between **now & the 3rd Friday of sophomore year**
- **Dedicated & intentional time** to explore your interests, values, and skills with your academic advisor

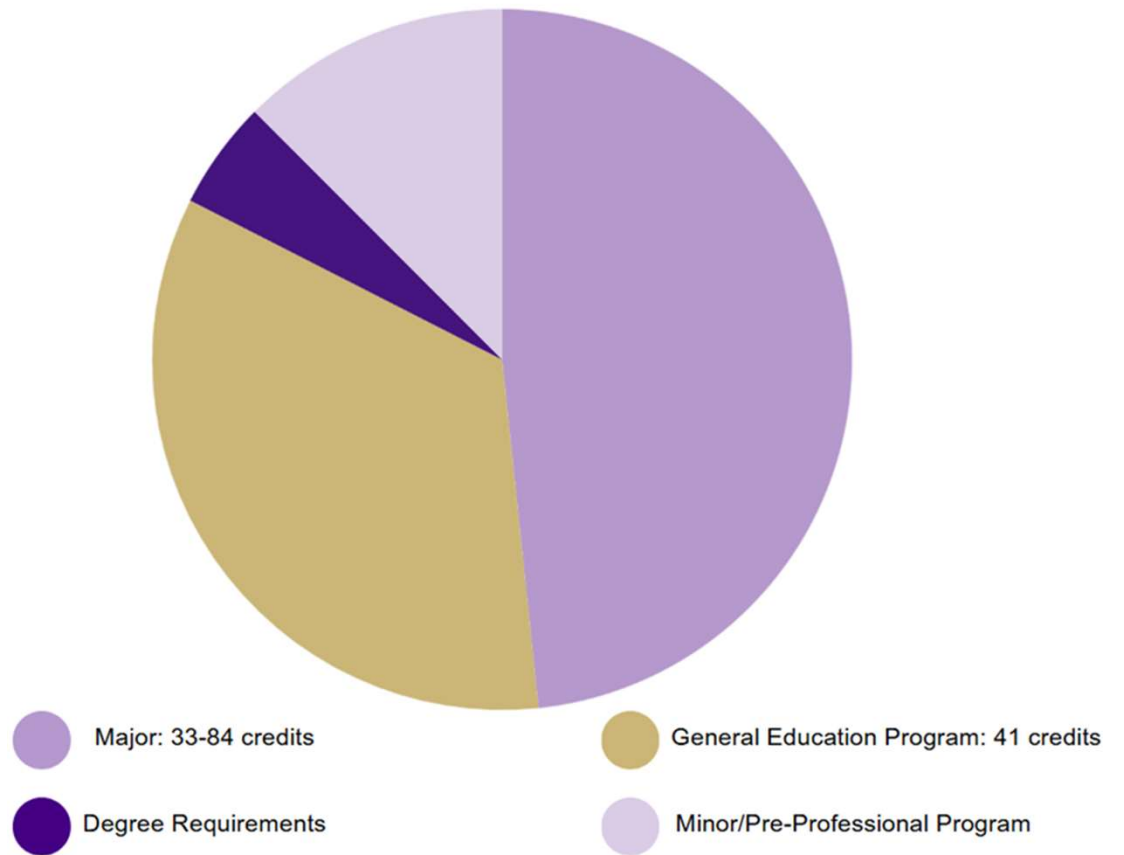


JMU Values a *Strong* Commitment to...

- 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: Exploratory Perspective



JMU Majors

- Accounting
- Anthropology
- Architectural Design
- Art
- Art History
- Biology
- Biophysical Chemistry
- Biotechnology
- Business Management
- Chemistry
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Communication Studies
- Computer Information Systems
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Dietetics
- Early Childhood Education
- Earth Science
- Economics
- Elementary Education
- Engineering
- English
- Exploratory
- Finance
- Geography
- Geology
- Global Religions and Culture
- Graphic Design
- Health Sciences
- Health Services Administration
- History
- Hospitality Management
- Inclusive Early Childhood Education

JMU Majors

- Independent Scholars
- Individualized Study
- Industrial Design
- Information Technology
- Integrated Science and Technology
- Intelligence Analysis
- International Affairs
- International Business
- Justice Studies
- Kinesiology
- Marketing
- Mathematics
- Media Arts and Design
- Middle Grades Education
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Musical Theatre
- Nursing
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Administration
- Quantitative Finance
- Secondary Education
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Special Education
- Sport and Recreation Management
- Statistics
- Theatre
- Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

<https://www.jmu.edu/academics>

Minors & Pre-professional Programs



- JMU offers 100+ minors—great way to broaden knowledge & add professional expertise.
- Pre-professional health programs (e.g., Pre-Med, Pre-PT & Pre-pharmacy) are also minors.
- Other pre-professional programs (e.g., pre-law) are not minors but provide support to students interested in this career path.



Admission to a Major

- Open Majors/Programs
 - "Black-out dates"
- Other requirements:
 - Audition/Portfolio required
 - Visual & Performing Arts (i.e. BFA majors, music & theatre, etc.)
 - Progression standards
 - Prerequisite courses
 - GPA requirements
 - Limited enrollment
 - Nursing, SMAD, etc.

In Summary...

Exploratory is the best option if you are unsure what you want to major in!

- 10-15% are EXPL
- Add'l 36% change majors
- ~50% same major after 2 yrs.

Know you are prepared & belong!

- Take time to learn about programs that are a good fit & excite you!
- Use Gen Ed coursework!
- Seek assistance from your advisor!



+





Advising & Resources for Exploratory Students

Meet your Academic Advisors!



Jess Kylo



Jessica Lewellen



Chris Campbell



Exploratory Areas of Interest

Our areas of interest will
help guide you to where
you need to be!

EXPLORATORY TRACKS

On a scale from 1-5, how much do you relate to these statements.

1 I am creative. I like to solve problems in creative ways. Aesthetics are important to me.



ARTS

2 I like to use data to make informed decisions. I enjoy numbers. I am achievement oriented.



BUSINESS

3 I enjoy breaking down complex information to others in a fun and engaging way.



EDUCATION

4 People's health is important to me. I desire to be a health advocate for others.



HEALTH, WELLNESS,
& MEDICINE

EXPLORATORY TRACKS

On a scale from 1-5, how much do you relate to these statements.

5

I am a critical thinker and want to broaden my worldview.



HUMANITIES

6

I like to figure out how things work. Research excites me. Facts are all that matter.



SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

7

I enjoy learning about society, people, culture and politics. I want to use the scientific method to explore human and animal behavior.



SOCIAL SCIENCE

8

Everything interests me. Nothing interests me. I am overwhelmed by my options. I'm not ready to narrow it down.



EXPLORATORY

Advising for Exploratory Students



Assigned to a full-time, professional academic advisor



Emphasis on helping you make effective decisions



The decision on what major to pursue is **YOURS**



Access to full range of resources and tools



Benefits of Starting as an Exploratory Student

- Explore *intentionally during your time as an Exploratory student*
 - Select your courses intentionally
 - Talking to faculty/staff
 - Ask your OPA, RA, and other students
 - Take note of your experiences on campus
- Talk with your academic advisor
 - Share your goals
 - What are you hoping to accomplish during your time here at JMU?



Make Exploring a *Priority...*

We have lots of resources to help!

- Visit the Advising Hub
- UNST 102
 - ½ semester course dedicated to help you explore
- Strong Interest Inventory, Work Values, Focus2 & many more!
- Events like Majors and Minors Fair (Sept. 30)
- Career Guide for JMU Majors
- Undergraduate Majors website



Guess the CEO's Major!



Economics



Political Science



Electrical
Engineering



Explore Majors

- Divide into teams of 3-4 individuals
- Select a major that each of you are curious about
 - Ex. Psychology, Engineering, Sport & Recreation Management, Media Arts & Design, etc.
- Open an AI tool (Copilot, ChatGPT, etc.)





Explore Majors

Type in a prompt such as:

- What types of classes will I take with a major in_____?
- Can I engage in research with a major in_____?
- What careers are available for _____ graduates?
- What is a typical salary for people with a major in _____?





**What did
YOU
discover?**

- Did anything surprise you?
- What is something that you learned?
- What next steps could help you learn more?



Questions?

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