

# James Madison University First Year Survey

## Survey Instrument 2024-2025

Note to viewer: Beneath each set of questions is the name of the dashboard series containing the data or information, if applicable. For more information, contact [pair@jmu.edu](mailto:pair@jmu.edu)

**On deciding to attend college, how important was each of the following reasons to you?**

- A) Not important
- B) Somewhat important
- C) Very important

[PAIR1_1]	To please my parents
[PAIR1_2]	To be on my own and make my own decisions
[PAIR1_3]	To be able to get a better job
[PAIR1_4]	To gain a general education and appreciation of ideas
[PAIR1_5]	To become a more cultured person
[PAIR1_6]	To be able to make more money in my future career
[PAIR1_7]	To learn more about things that interest me
[PAIR1_8]	To meet people from difference backgrounds
[PAIR1_9]	To prepare myself for graduate or professional school
[PAIR1_10]	To enhance my social life
[PAIR1_11]	To improve reading and study skills
[PAIR1_12]	To develop a global awareness
[PAIR1_13]	To meet my future spouse
[PAIR1_14]	To do what my friends are doing

**Dashboard Series: Students choosing JMU**

**Below are some of the reasons that might have influenced your decision to attend JMU. How important was each reason in your decision to come here?**

- A) Not important
- B) Neither important or unimportant
- C) Very important

[PAIR2_1]	My relatives wanted me to come here
[PAIR2_2]	JMU has a good academic reputation
[PAIR2_3]	I was offered financial assistance
[PAIR2_4]	Someone who had been here before advised me to attend
[PAIR2_5]	JMU offers a major of interest to me

[PAIR2_6]	JMU has low tuition
[PAIR2_7]	A friend suggested attending
[PAIR2_8]	A JMU representative recruited me
[PAIR2_9]	The appearance and setting of JMU
[PAIR2_10]	JMU's commitment to the environment
[PAIR2_11]	JMU has good extracurricular opportunities and social life
[PAIR2_12]	Supportive atmosphere of JMU
[PAIR2_13]	Reputation of JMU's graduates obtaining desirable positions
[PAIR2_14]	Reputation of JMU's graduates attending top graduate schools
[PAIR2_15]	Employer's suggestion
[PAIR2_16]	I wanted a change in scenery or location
[PAIR2_17]	Range and availability of student services
[PAIR2_18]	I am able to identify with fellow students
[PAIR2_19]	Size of JMU
[PAIR2_20]	My teacher advised me
[PAIR2_21]	I was not accepted anywhere else
[PAIR2_22]	My guidance counselor advised me
[PAIR2_23]	I wanted to live at home
[PAIR2_24]	Because I can live on campus
[PAIR2_25]	To help me retain my current employment

Dashboard Series: Students choosing JMU

**[PAIR3] JMU is your**

- A) First choice
- B) Second choice
- C) Third or lower choice

Dashboard Series: Students choosing JMU

**[PAIR4] What was the top source of information that influenced your decision to come to JMU?**

- A) Campus visits
- B) Friends
- C) JMU alumni
- D) JMU representative
- E) JMU Web Site
- F) Material I received in the mail
- G) People at my high school
- H) Relatives

Dashboard Series: Students choosing JMU

**How important were each of the following sources of information in influencing your decision to come to JMU?**

- A) Not important
- B) Somewhat important
- C) Very important

[PAIR5_1]	Campus visits
[PAIR5_2]	Relatives
[PAIR5_3]	Alumni
[PAIR5_4]	Friends
[PAIR5_5]	People at my high school
[PAIR5_6]	JMU web-site
[PAIR5_7]	JMU representative
[PAIR5_8]	Material I received in the mail

**Dashboard Series: Students choosing JMU**

**[PAIR6] Number of other colleges or universities you applied to:**

- A) None
- B) 1
- C) 2
- D) 3
- E) 4
- F) 5
- G) 6 or more

**Dashboard Series: Where else students applied/were accepted**

**Please check if you applied to the following schools (check all that apply):**

[PAIR7_1]	No other schools
[PAIR7_2]	Christopher Newport University
[PAIR7_3]	College of William & Mary
[PAIR7_4]	Elon University
[PAIR7_5]	George Mason University
[PAIR7_6]	Longwood College
[PAIR7_7]	Old Dominion University
[PAIR7_8]	Penn State University
[PAIR7_9]	Radford University
[PAIR7_10]	Towson University
[PAIR7_11]	University of Delaware
[PAIR7_12]	University of Maryland – College Park
[PAIR7_13]	University of Mary Washington
[PAIR7_14]	University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
[PAIR7_15]	University of North Carolina – Wilmington
[PAIR7_16]	University of Richmond
[PAIR7_17]	University of Virginia
[PAIR7_18]	Virginia Commonwealth University

[PAIR7\_19]

Virginia Tech

Dashboard Series: Where else students applied/were accepted

**[PAIR8] Number of other colleges or universities you were accepted to:**

- A) None
- B) 1
- C) 2
- D) 3
- E) 4
- F) 5
- G) 6 or more

Dashboard Series: Where else students applied/were accepted

**Please check if you were accepted to the following schools (check all that apply):**

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| [PAIR9_1]  | Only JMU                                   |
| [PAIR9_2]  | Christopher Newport University             |
| [PAIR9_3]  | College of William & Mary                  |
| [PAIR9_4]  | Elon University                            |
| [PAIR9_5]  | George Mason University                    |
| [PAIR9_6]  | Longwood College                           |
| [PAIR9_7]  | Old Dominion University                    |
| [PAIR9_8]  | Penn State University                      |
| [PAIR9_9]  | Radford University                         |
| [PAIR9_10] | Towson University                          |
| [PAIR9_11] | University of Delaware                     |
| [PAIR9_12] | University of Maryland – College Park      |
| [PAIR9_13] | University of Mary Washington              |
| [PAIR9_14] | University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill |
| [PAIR9_15] | University of North Carolina – Wilmington  |
| [PAIR9_16] | University of Richmond                     |
| [PAIR9_17] | University of Virginia                     |
| [PAIR9_18] | Virginia Commonwealth University           |
| [PAIR9_19] | Virginia Tech                              |

Dashboard Series: Where else students applied/were accepted

**[UU1] Did you or a family member ever attend a summer camp or conference at JMU?**

- A) Yes
- B) No
- C) Don't know

Contact PAIR for information

**[UU2] List the camp/conference and who attended. \_\_\_\_\_**

Contact PAIR for information

**The following items are asking how you feel about JMU. Not all students feel the same way or are expected to feel the same way.** Please read each item carefully and respond according to how you feel at this current moment, not how you hope to feel as a first year student. There is no right or wrong answer. Just answer as honestly as possible.

Strongly Disagree 1	2	3	4	Neutral 5	6	7	8	Strongly Agree 9
------------------------	---	---	---	-----------	---	---	---	------------------

- [F\_SENS1\_1] I feel a sense of belonging to JMU.
- [F\_SENS1\_2] I am happy to be at JMU.
- [F\_SENS1\_3] I see myself as part of the JMU community
- [F\_SENS1\_4] I am enthusiastic about JMU
- [F\_SENS1\_5] JMU is one of the best schools in the nation
- [F\_SENS1\_6] I feel that I am a member of the JMU community

Dashboard Series: Student Perceptions

**Many students use academic support at JMU to improve their learning and success. Please check any subjects you may want support for when you are at JMU (not all are currently available):**

- [F\_LC1\_1] Biology
- [F\_LC1\_2] Chemistry
- [F\_LC1\_3] English language support
- [F\_LC1\_4] Learning strategies coaching
- [F\_LC1\_5] Math
- [F\_LC1\_6] Physics
- [F\_LC1\_7] Public speaking
- [F\_LC1\_8] Preparing presentations
- [F\_LC1\_9] Multilingual support
- [F\_LC1\_10] Writing
- [F\_LC1\_11] Other

Contact PAIR for information

**[F\_STA1\_1] How likely are you to study abroad?**

- A) Very Likely
- B) Likely

- C) Unlikely
- D) Very unlikely
- E) Undecided

Contact PAIR for information

**[F\_IT1\_1] Which of the following best describes your computer needs?**

- A) I will use my own computer.
- B) I will borrow or share someone else's computer.
- C) I will use a computer in the JMU computer labs.
- D) I need a computer, but I do not have access to one.
- E) I do not need a computer.

Contact PAIR for information

**[F\_IT2\_1] Which of the following best describes your computer printer needs?**

- A) I will use my own printer.
- B) I will borrow or share someone else's printer.
- C) I will use a printer in the JMU computer labs.
- D) I need a printer, but I do not have access to one.
- E) I do not need a printer.

Contact PAIR for information

**[F\_PRO1] Select the item below that best characterizes your political views:**

	1	2	3	4	5	
Liberal	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	Conservative

Contact PAIR for information

**[F\_PRO2] What was your approximate high school rank in your graduating class?**

- A) Top 10%
- B) Top 25%
- C) Top 50%
- D) Bottom 50%

Dashboard Series: About our First Year Students

**[F\_PRO3] Of the total cost to attend JMU what percentage will you and your family pay directly? Exclude from your estimate funds obtained from loans, scholarships, or grants.**

- A) 80 - 100%
- B) 60 - 79%
- C) 40 - 59%
- D) 20 - 39%
- E) 0 - 19%
- F) Don't know

**Dashboard Series: About our First Year Students**

**[F\_PRO4] To what extent do you plan to work during this coming semester?**

- A) I do not plan to work
- B) 1-5 hours a week
- C) 6-10 hours a week
- D) 11-20 hours a week
- E) 21-30 hours a week
- F) More than 30 hours a week

**Dashboard Series: About our First Year Students**

**F\_PRO10\_1 What is your present religion, if any?**

- A) Protestant (e.g., Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal)
- B) Catholic
- C) Orthodox (e.g., Greek or Russian)
- D) Jewish
- E) Muslim
- F) Buddhist
- G) Hindu
- H) Atheist
- I) Agnostic
- J) Not religious
- K) Non-denominational
- L) My identity is not listed here \_\_\_\_\_
- M) Prefer not to say

**Contact PAIR for information**

**[ODS1] If you are a student with a disability, please choose the category that best describes your documented disability:**

- A) No disability
- B) ADD-ADHD
- C) Blind / visual impairment
- D) Chronic illness (chronic fatigue syndrome, Crohn's Disease, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.)
- E) Deaf/Hard of hearing
- F) Learning disability
- G) Mobility impairment
- H) Orthopedic impairment
- I) Psychiatric / emotional disability

- J) Spinal cord injury
- K) Speech disorder
- L) Traumatic brain injury
- M) Other

Contact PAIR for information

**[ODS2] Please select the option that best describes your preparation for providing documentation and seeking disability accommodations from the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at JMU.**

- A) My parent(s) is handling everything.
- B) I do NOT plan to submit documentation or seek accommodation at this time.
- C) I have not checked on documentation requirements yet and I'm not sure what I have to do.
- D) I have checked with ODS or obtained information from the ODS website (<http://www.jmu.edu/ods/>) and I plan to submit the required documentation and schedule an appointment with ODS prior to the start of the fall semester.

Contact PAIR for information

**Please indicate the types of services and accommodations that you plan to request from ODS during your first year at JMU.**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| [ODS3_1]  | None   |
| [ODS3_2]  | Undecided  |
| [ODS3_3]  | Extended time for exams                              |
| [ODS3_4]  | Reduced exam distraction                             |
| [ODS3_5]  | Interpreter  |
| [ODS3_6]  | Captioning in the classroom                          |
| [ODS3_7]  | Alternate text formats                               |
| [ODS3_8]  | Assistive technology                                 |
| [ODS3_9]  | Physical accessibility of classrooms residence halls |
| [ODS3_10] | Learning strategies instruction                      |
| [ODS3_11] | Learning Resource Center services                    |
| [ODS3_12] | Other  |

Contact PAIR for information

**[F\_PRO5] Indicate the sexual orientation that you consider yourself to be:**

- A) Heterosexual or straight
- B) Gay
- C) Lesbian
- D) Bisexual
- E) Pansexual
- F) Asexual
- G) Prefer not to say



Contact PAIR for information

**How well do you feel your high school prepared you in the following areas?**

- A) Poorly
- B) Fairly well
- C) Very well

[F_LC2_1]	Mathematical skills
[F_LC2_2]	Computer skills
[F_LC2_3]	Reading
[F_LC2_4]	Composition
[F_LC2_5]	Foreign languages
[F_LC2_6]	Science
[F_LC2_7]	Social Studies
[F_LC2_8]	Vocational skills
[F_LC2_9]	Musical skills
[F_LC2_10]	Artistic skills
[F_LC2_11]	Study habits
[F_LC2_12]	Time management

Contact PAIR for information

**How active were you in each of the following activities in high school?**

- A) Not active
- B) Somewhat active
- C) Very active

[HS1_1]	Academic clubs
[HS1_2]	Foreign Language International Clubs
[HS1_3]	Fine arts groups
[HS1_4]	Organized athletics
[HS1_5]	Part-time work
[HS1_6]	Publications
[HS1_7]	Recreational sports
[HS1_8]	Religious clubs

[HS1\_9] School and community service  
[HS1\_10] School spirit clubs cheer- leaders, pep, drill, etc.

**Dashboard Series: About Our First Year Students**

**How confident are you that:**

- A) Not confident
- B) A little confident
- C) Pretty confident
- D) Very confident

[F\_PER1\_1] JMU is the right university for you

[F\_PER1\_2] You will earn your degree from JMU

**Dashboard Series: Student Perceptions**

**During your first year, do you think you will need help with or information about:**

[F_RESO1_1]	Finding job on campus
[F_RESO1_2]	Finding job off campus
[F_RESO1_3]	Creating resume or cover letter
[F_RESO1_4]	Exploring career paths within my major
[F_RESO1_5]	Finding internships
[F_RESO1_6]	Finding scholarships/other forms of aid
[F_RESO1_7]	Understanding financial aid
[F_RESO1_8]	Health and wellbeing resources
[F_RESO1_9]	Career Closet (free work attire for students)
[F_RESO1_10]	The Pantry (food + pantry open to all students)
[F_RESO1_11]	Madison Community Scholars (Federal Work Study jobs working with local non-profits or elementary school)

**Contact PAIR for information**

**[F\_PRO6] What is the highest academic degree that you intend to obtain?**

- A) Not a degree seeking student
- B) Bachelor's degree
- C) Master's degree
- D) Specialist degree (e.g., Ed.S.)
- E) Professional degree (e.g., medicine, law, theology)
- F) Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., D.B.A.)

Dashboard Series: About Our First Year Students

**[F\_PRO7] The following statements describe four personal philosophies of higher education. Choose the one statement that most accurately portrays your own point of view.**

- A) Education is viewed essentially as preparation for an occupational future. College is seen primarily to obtain training for a chosen career.
- B) Extracurricular activities, parties, athletics, social life, friendships and loyalty to college traditions are viewed as important and scholarly endeavors are less important though not ignored.
- C) The greatest emphasis is on the scholarly pursuit of knowledge and understanding. Involvement in course work or independent study beyond the minimum is sought. Social life and organized activities are relatively unimportant.
- D) Emphasis is placed on ideas, art forms and individuality. There is often either a conscious rejection of commonly held value orientations or a search for meaning in one's own life.

Dashboard Series: About Our First Year Students

**How important is it that JMU provides you with the opportunity to:**

- A) Not important at all  
B) Somewhat Unimportant  
C) Somewhat Important  
D) Very Important

[F\_HIP1\_1] Hold a leadership role on or off campus

[F\_HIP1\_2] Participate in undergraduate research

[F\_HIP1\_3] Have an internship or professional learning experience (e.g., student teaching)

[F\_HIP1\_4] Volunteer (not as a part of a course)

[F\_HIP1\_5] Participate in service learning (a teaching strategy that integrates service to the community)

[F\_HIP1\_6] Participate in politics beyond voting

[F\_HIP1\_7] Study abroad

[F\_HIP1\_8] Work on team projects with fellow students

[F\_HIP1\_9] Have a job on campus

Dashboard Series: Student Perceptions

**Based on the following scale, please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements.**

- A) Strongly Disagree
- B) Somewhat Disagree
- C) Somewhat Agree
- D) Strongly Agree

[F\_CD1\_1] I know how to identify possible career options based on my strengths, values and interests.

[F\_CD1\_2] I know how to choose between occupations.

[F\_CD1\_3] I know what kind of classes to take in order to prepare for my career.

[F\_CD1\_4] I know how my classes prepare me for my career.

[F\_CD1\_5] I know how my major and career goals are related.

[F\_CD1\_6] I know how to gain practical experience in my field of study.

[F\_CD1\_7] I know how to gain experience to prepare me for my career.

**Contact PAIR for Information**