# James Madison University Senior Insights 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. If a dashboard series is not listed, you may contact PAIR for more information, [pair@jmu.edu](mailto:pair@jmu.edu)

*Programming notes are in blue font.*

**To what extent has JMU provided you with:**

1. None
2. Very little
3. Some
4. Quite a bit
5. Very much

[S\_OPP1\_1] Opportunities to develop skills valuable in the workforce

[S\_OPP1\_2] Expertise in a specific discipline or area of study

[S\_OPP1\_3] Contact with individuals of different backgrounds

[S\_OPP1\_4] A broad, liberal arts education

[S\_OPP1\_5] A sense of community

[S\_OPP1\_6] An environment that promotes well-being

[S\_OPP1\_7] Opportunities for applying critical thinking

[S\_OPP1\_8] Skills for lifelong learning

Dashboard Series: Student Experiences

**To what extent has your experience at JMU contributed to your knowledge, skills, and personal development in the following areas?**

1. None
2. Very little
3. Some
4. Quite a bit
5. Very much

[S\_GR1\_1] Writing clearly and effectively

[S\_GR1\_2] Thinking critically

[S\_GR1\_3] Taking a leadership role

[S\_GR1\_4] Functioning effectively as a team member

[S\_GR1\_5] Identifying moral and ethical issues

[S\_GR1\_6] Relating well to people of different backgrounds

[S\_GR1\_7] Understanding yourself (strengths, abilities, limitations)

Dashboard Series: Student Development

**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

[S\_CD1\_1] I know how to choose between occupations.

[S\_CD1\_2] I know how to identify possible career options based on my strengths, values and interests.

[S\_CD1\_3] I know what kind of preparation I need for my career

[S\_CD1\_4] I can see how my classes prepared me for my career

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

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

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

Dashboard Series: Student Development

**Which of the following statements describe your experience during your first semester at JMU? Select all that apply:**

*There was a professor, advisor, or staff member who:*

[S\_EX1\_1] I thought of as a mentor

[S\_EX1\_2] I checked in with regularly

[S\_EX1\_3] I could go to with questions or concerns

[S\_EX1\_4] Encouraged my ideas or work

[S\_EX1\_5] Gave me advice about academics, resources, and career planning

[S\_EX1\_6] Provided feedback that helped me grow as a student or professional

[S\_EX1\_7] None of the above

Dashboard Series: Student Experiences

*Note: only asked for Spring/Summer 2025 graduates*

**Which of the following have you already done or are currently doing while at JMU?**

1. I have not done this, and was not interested
2. I have not done this, but I wanted to
3. I have done this /am doing this

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

[S\_HIP1\_ 2] Participate in undergraduate research

[S\_HIP1\_3] Have an internship or work-based learning experience (e.g., student teaching, research)

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

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

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

[S\_HIP1\_7] Study abroad

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

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

Dashboard Series: Student Experiences

**Which of the following did you do during your first year at JMU?**

**Only show options respondents indicated doing in S\_HIP1. If respondent did not indicate doing any of the following, this question will be skipped.**

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

[S\_HIP1\_T\_ 2] Participate in undergraduate research

[S\_HIP1\_T\_3] Have an internship or work-based learning experience (e.g., student teaching, research)

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

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

[S\_HIP1\_T\_6] Participate in politics beyond voting

[S\_HIP1\_T\_7] Study abroad

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

[S\_HIP1\_T\_9] Have a job on campus

Dashboard Series: Student Experiences

*Note: only asked for Spring/Summer 2025 graduates*

## Work Based Learning Experiences

*Note: This section was only asked for Spring/Summer 2025 graduates*

**How many of the following types of activities did you complete while at JMU?**

1. 0
2. 1
3. 2 or more

[S\_WBLE\_1] Internship (working for a company or organization, paid or unpaid)

[S\_WBLE\_2] Practicum (field experience that allows students to apply their knowledge and skills in a professional setting)

[S\_WBEL\_3] Clinical (field experience in a clinical setting)

[S\_WBEL\_4] Student teaching (placement in a teaching position)

[S\_WBLE\_5] Undergraduate research (student’s creative or scholarly investigation under the supervision of a faculty member)

[S\_WBLE\_6] Lab, Teaching, or Research Assistantship (working as an assistant to faculty supervisor)

[S\_WBLE\_7] Fellowship (funding, short-term opportunities focused on research, community development or field specific training)

[S\_WBLE\_8] Externship (short term job shadowing experience)

[S\_WBLE\_9] Course with External Partners as Clients (course with semester-long group projects serving external clients, such as local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies)

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**Display if 1+ is selected for any S\_WBLE item**

[S\_WBLE1\_1] You indicated that you participated in at least one of the experiences listed above.

If you only participated in one of the above, please confirm the type of experience you had using the list below.

If you selected “2 or more” for any of the above or took part in multiple experiences, please choose the *most meaningful experience* and describe it using the selections below.

1. Internship (working for a company or organization, paid or unpaid)
2. Practicum (field experience that allows students to apply their knowledge and skills in a professional setting)
3. Clinical (field experience in a clinical setting)
4. Student teaching (placement in a teaching position)
5. Undergraduate research (student’s creative or scholarly investigation under a supervision of a faculty member)
6. Lab, Teaching, or Research Assistantship (working as an assistant to faculty supervisor)
7. Fellowship (funding, short-term opportunities focused on research, community development or field specific training)
8. Externship (short term job shadowing experience)
9. Course with External Partners as Clients (course with semester-long group projects serving external clients, such as local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies)

**Display if >=1 is selected for S\_WBLE**

You will now be asked a series of questions about the experience you just selected.

**S\_WBLE1\_2 Name of Organization**

Select the location of your experience.

[***Drop down of common WBLE locations]***

**S\_WBLE1\_2\_text**

What was the name of the organization through which you completed your experience? **[If S\_WBLE1\_2 is “Other”]**

**S\_WBLE1\_3\_1**

Which of the following best describes where your activity was located? **If you worked remotely, please indicate the geographic location of the primary office with which you worked.**

*[****Drop down of states, includes International as an option]***

**S\_WBLE1\_3\_2**

*[****Major cities based on state will appear as a drop-down****]*

**S\_WBLE1\_4**

Which of the following best describes how you engaged in workplace tasks during your experience? **If you engaged in more than one, please indicate which one best represents the work you did.**

1. Job shadowing: You mostly shadowed your supervisor and observed them perform tasks
2. Low-skill tasks w/supervision: You mostly engaged in relatively low-skill tasks after being trained by your supervisor
3. High-skill tasks w/supervision: You mostly engaged in relatively high-skill tasks after being trained by your supervisor, who would then review and approve your work
4. Autonomous work: You mostly worked on your own project(s) independently with support from a supervisor only as needed

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_5**

Approximately how many hours did you spend on this experience?

1. 1-50
2. 51-100
3. 101-200
4. More than 200 hours

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_6**

What time of year did you complete this experience?

1. Summer
2. Fall
3. Spring
4. My experience covered more than one part of the year (e.g., spring and summer).

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_7**

What level were you when you started the experience?

1. First-Year/Freshman
2. Sophomore
3. Junior
4. Senior

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_8**

What was the format of your experience?

1. Fully in-person
2. Fully virtual/remote
3. Hybrid/mix of in-person and virtual

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_9**

Did you receive college credit for this experience?

1. Yes
2. No

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_10**

For what course did you receive credit? For example EDUC 480. [**If Yes to S\_WBLE1\_9**]

[Text Response]

**S\_WBLE1\_11**

Was this experience paid or unpaid?

1. Paid
2. Unpaid (including for credit)

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_12**

During this experience, did you have a designated mentor or supervisor?

1. Yes
2. No

**S\_WBLE1\_13**

During this experience, did you have regular self-assessment and feedback sessions to track progress, identify areas for improvement, and connect learning to classroom concepts?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unsure

**S\_WBLE1\_14**

During this experience, did you have opportunities to practice and develop both technical skills specific to your field of study or career path of interest?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unsure

**S\_WBLE1\_15**

Did the majority of the experience occur outside a college classroom?

1. Yes
2. No

**S\_WBLE1\_16**

How did you initially learn about this experience?

1. University Career Center
2. Career Fair
3. Handshake
4. Faculty member helped me locate it
5. Options were provided through a JMU course
6. Family/friend connection
7. I was recruited by an employer for the position
8. Other \_\_\_\_\_

 Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_17**

How satisfied were you with this experience?

1. Very Dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Satisfied
4. Very Satisfied

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**Please indicate how often this experience provided opportunities for developing the following skills.**

1. Never
2. Seldom
3. Sometimes
4. Often
5. Almost always

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_1] Communication

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_2] Teamwork

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_3] Problem solving

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_4] Leadership

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**Display if 2 or more is selected for any S\_WBLE item OR if 1 is selected for more than one S\_WBLE item.**

You indicated previously that you have had more than one of any of the following experiences:

Internship (working for a company or organization, paid or unpaid)

Practicum (field experience that allows students to apply their knowledge and skills in a professional setting)

Clinical (field experience in a clinical setting)

Student teaching (placement in a teaching position)

Undergraduate research (student’s creative or scholarly investigation under a supervision of a faculty member)

Lab, Teaching, or Research Assistantship (working as an assistant to faculty supervisor)

Fellowship (funding, short-term opportunities focused on research, community development or field specific training)

Externship (short term job shadowing experience)

Course with External Partners as Clients (course with semester-long group projects serving external clients, such as local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies)

[WBLE\_Option] **If you would like to provide information about another experience you had, please select the first option below.**

1. I had another experience I would like to provide information about.
2. I do not have any more information to provide. **[Skip to Perceptions Block]**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Display if WBLE\_Option = 1**

[S\_WBLE2\_1] Think of another experience you had (different from the one you previously reported) that was impactful. Which of the following best describes your experience?

1. Internship (working for a company or organization, paid or unpaid)
2. Practicum (field experience that allows students to apply their knowledge and skills in a professional setting)
3. Clinical (field experience in a clinical setting)
4. Student teaching (placement in a teaching position)
5. Undergraduate research (student’s creative or scholarly investigation under a supervision of a faculty member)
6. Lab, Teaching, or Research Assistantship (working as an assistant to faculty supervisor)
7. Fellowship (funding, short-term opportunities focused on research, community development or field specific training)
8. Externship (short term job shadowing experience)
9. Course with External Partners as Clients (course with semester-long group projects serving external clients, such as local businesses, non-profits, or government agencies)

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**Display if WBLE\_Option = 1**

You will now be asked a series of questions about the experience you just selected.

**S\_WBLE2\_2 Name of Organization**

Select the location of your experience.

[***Drop down of common WBLE locations]***

**S\_WBLE2\_2\_text**

What was the name of the organization through which you completed your experience? **[If S\_WBLE2\_2 is “Other”]**

**S\_WBLE2\_3\_1**

Which of the following best describes where your activity was located? **If you worked remotely, please indicate the geographic location of the primary office with which you worked.**

*[****Drop down of states, includes International as an option]***

**S\_WBLE2\_3\_2**

*[****Major cities based on state will appear as a drop-down****]*

**S\_WBLE2\_4**

Which of the following best describes how you engaged in workplace tasks during your experience? **If you engaged in more than one, please indicate which one best represents the work you did.**

1. Job shadowing: You mostly shadowed your supervisor and observed them perform tasks
2. Low-skill tasks w/supervision: You mostly engaged in relatively low-skill tasks after being trained by your supervisor
3. High-skill tasks w/supervision: You mostly engaged in relatively high-skill tasks after being trained by your supervisor, who would then review and approve your work
4. Autonomous work: You mostly worked on your own project(s) independently with support from a supervisor only as needed

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE2\_5**

Approximately how many hours did you spend on this experience?

1. 1-50
2. 51-100
3. 101-200
4. More than 200 hours

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE2\_6**

What time of year did you complete this experience? (Check all that apply)

1. Summer
2. Fall
3. Spring
4. My experience covered more than one part of the year (e.g., spring and summer).

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE2\_7**

What level were you when you started the experience?

1. First-Year/Freshman
2. Sophomore
3. Junior
4. Senior

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE2\_8**

1. What was the format of your experience?
2. Fully in-person
3. Fully virtual/remote
4. Hybrid/mix of in-person and virtual

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE2\_9**

1. Did you receive college credit for this experience?
2. Yes
3. No

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE2\_10**

For what course did you receive credit? For example EDUC 480. [**If Yes to S\_WBLE2\_10**]

[Text Response]

**S\_WBLE2\_11**

Was this experience paid or unpaid?

1. Paid
2. Unpaid (including for credit)

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_12**

During this experience, did you have a designated mentor or supervisor?

1. Yes
2. No

**S\_WBLE1\_13**

During this experience, did you have regular self-assessment and feedback sessions to track progress, identify areas for improvement, and connect learning to classroom concepts?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unsure

**S\_WBLE1\_14**

During this experience, did you have opportunities to practice and develop both technical skills specific to your field of study or career path of interest?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Unsure

**S\_WBLE1\_15**

Did the majority of the experience occur outside a college classroom?

1. Yes
2. No

**S\_WBLE1\_16**

How did you initially learn about this experience?

1. University Career Center
2. Career Fair
3. Handshake
4. Faculty member helped me locate it
5. Options were provided through a JMU course
6. Family/friend connection
7. I was recruited by an employer for the position
8. Other \_\_\_\_\_

  Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**S\_WBLE1\_17**

How satisfied were you with this experience?

1. Very Dissatisfied
2. Dissatisfied
3. Satisfied
4. Very Satisfied

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

**Please indicate how often this experience provided opportunities for developing the following skills.**

1. Never
2. Seldom
3. Sometimes
4. Often
5. Almost always

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_1] Communication

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_2] Teamwork

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_3] Problem solving

[S\_WBLE1\_18\_4] Leadership

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

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**Display if 0 selected for S\_WBLE**

**[S\_WBLE\_BAR1]**

Select each item you consider a reason for why you were unable to pursue a work-based learning experience.

1. Course load was too heavy
2. Insufficient/no pay offered
3. Need to work at current job
4. Lack of transportation
5. Lack of childcare
6. Lack of opportunities in my field
7. Applied for work-based learning experience, but wasn’t selected
8. Not sure how to find a work-based learning experience
9. Other \_\_\_\_\_
10. I was not interested

Dashboard Series: Work Based Learning Experiences

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## Perceptions

**A random subset of participants received the following questions.**

*Note: only asked for Spring/Summer 2025 graduates*

**ST1**

How would you rate the value of your college degree?

1. Low
2. Medium
3. High

Dashboard Series: Student Perceptions

**ST2**

How do you think your college education prepared you for entering the workforce?

1. Not at all
2. A little
3. Pretty well
4. Extremely well

Dashboard Series: Student Perceptions

**Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:**

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. Agree
4. Strongly agree

[ST3\_1] Obtaining my college degree was worth it.

[ST3\_2] JMU provides a welcoming environment for all students.

[ST3\_3] I felt like a member of the JMU community during my time here.

Dashboard Series: Student Perceptions

## General Questions

**[S\_PRO3]**

The following statements describe four personal philosophies of higher education. Choose the one statement that most accurately portrays your own point of view.

A) 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.

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) Education is viewed essentially as preparation for an occupational future. College is seen primarily to obtain training for a chosen career.

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.

**[S\_PRO6]**

What is the highest academic degree that you intend to obtain?

1. Bachelor's degree
2. Master's degree
3. Specialist degree (e.g., Ed.S.)
4. Professional degree (e.g., medicine, law, theology)
5. Doctoral degree (e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., D.B.A.)

**[S\_SAT1]**

Indicate your level of satisfaction with JMU in general

A) Very dissatisfied

B) Dissatisfied

C) Satisfied

D) Very satisfied

Dashboard Series: Satisfaction

**[S\_SAT2]**

If you could start over again, would you attend JMU?

A) Definitely no

B) No

C ) Yes

D) Definitely yes

Dashboard Series: Satisfaction

**S\_PRO10\_1**

What is your present religion, if any?

1. Protestant (e.g., Baptist, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal)
2. Catholic
3. Orthodox (e.g., Greek or Russian)
4. Jewish
5. Muslim
6. Buddhist
7. Hindu
8. Atheist
9. Agnostic
10. Not religious
11. Non-denominational
12. My identity is not listed here \_\_\_\_\_
13. Prefer not to respond

**S\_PRO5**

How would you describe your sexual orientation?

1. Heterosexual or straight
2. Gay
3. Lesbian
4. Bisexual
5. Pansexual
6. Asexual
7. Prefer not to respond

**S\_PRO1**

Select the item below that best characterizes your political views. If you prefer not to answer, you may skip this question.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |  |
| Liberal |  |  |  |  |  |  | Conservative |