

2025 TRANSFER STUDENT SURVEY

DATA BRIEF

ANALYTICS & DECISION SUPPORT
OFFICE OF PLANNING, ANALYTICS & INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH



Transfer Student Survey (TSS)

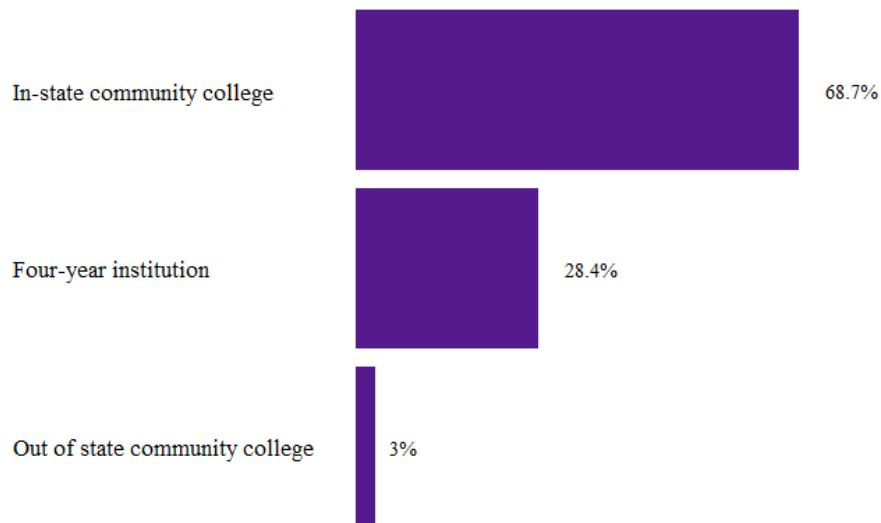
To gain a better understanding of the incoming transfer students and their needs, the Office of Planning, Analytics & Institutional Research (PAIR) administers the Transfer Student Survey (TSS) to all incoming students transferring from another institution. Survey responses were gathered between March 2025 and August 2025. Students receive a link to complete the First Year Survey as part of the [OneBook](#) process through orientation. There were 610 responses (74.6% response rate¹).

This brief provides summary data to a sample of questions from the TSS focusing on sense of belonging and student characteristics. Survey dashboards on the PAIR website will be updated by October 2025.

Preliminary Summary of Findings

- **The majority of transfer students are coming from Community Colleges in Virginia. Slightly more than one third (38%) expect to come into JMU with a transferable Associate’s Degree from the original institution.**

Fig. 1 Where are Transfer Students Coming From?



¹ This is calculated based on the number of enrolled students as of on-campus census, September 10, 2025. Enrollment numbers may have subsequently changed.

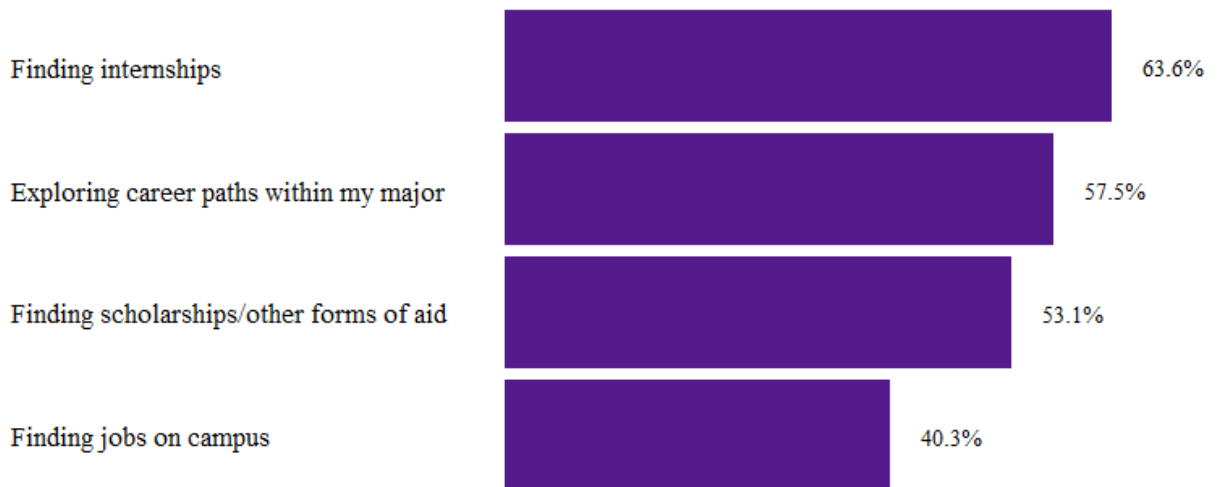
- Overall, the majority of transfer students feel they belong at JMU.

Fig. 2 Sense of Belonging
Percent who agree/strongly agree that they...



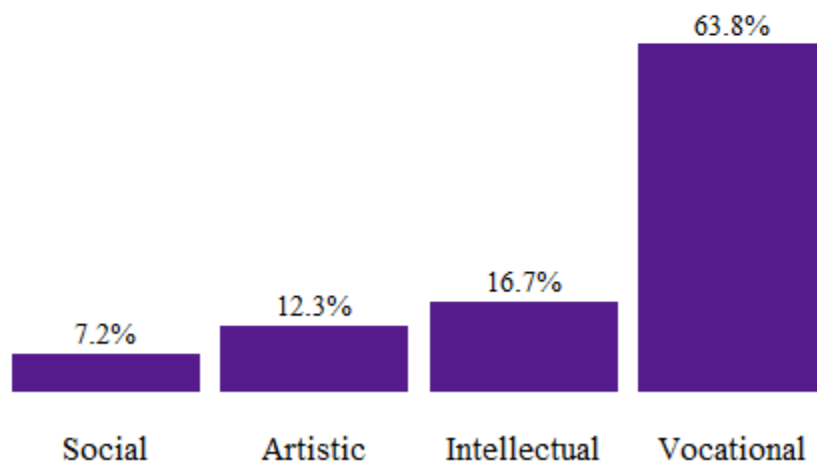
- Most incoming transfer students indicated interested in accessing resources related to career planning and finding internships during their first year. The fourth most cited need was resources related to finding a job on campus

Fig. 3 Top Resources of Student Interest



- The majority of transfer students have a vocational philosophy of education. The percentage of transfer students endorsing this philosophy of education rose from 59.4% in 2024 and 45.8% in 2023.

Fig. 4 Philosophy of Education

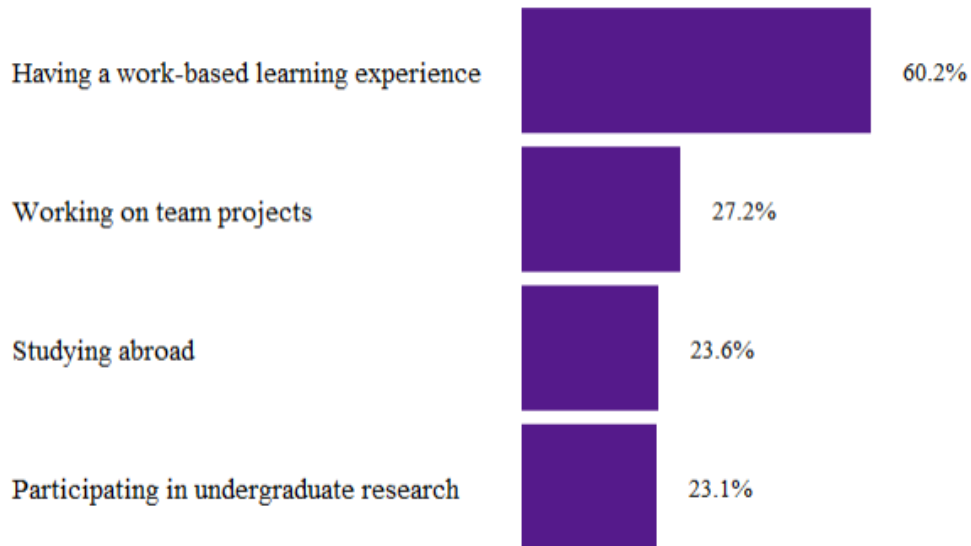


Vocational philosophy: Education is primarily a preparation for an occupational future. Social, intellectual and extracurricular activities are less important.

- Less than half (44.3%) of incoming transfer students are interested in pursuing graduate/professional degrees after their undergraduate education, declining from 50.3% in 2024.

- More than half incoming transfer students indicated having a work-based learning experience (e.g., internship, student teaching, etc.) is very important to them.

Fig. 5 Top High Impact Practices of Interest
Percent indicating the following are very important



Coming Soon:

This brief provides a preliminary snapshot of responses to a few of the TSS questions. By October, the full dashboard suite will be updated on the PAIR website to address additional items on the TSS related to additional student characteristics.

To see historical data from past years, visit: <https://www.jmu.edu/pair/ads/survey-research.shtml>
For additional questions, please contact pair@jmu.edu.