

TRANSFER STUDENT SURVEY February 2021

This report shares information with the university community about James Madison University (JMU) transfer students' attitudes, values, perceptions and experiences.

JMU requested incoming transfer students to complete the Transfer Student Survey online. The survey collects responses to questions about respondents' decision to attend college and, more specifically, James Madison University; their experiences at other institutions; and their attitudes, values and beliefs. Demographic data were also requested.

The data was obtained via the 584 usable surveys from the incoming transfer students.

TRANSFER STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Transfer students identify as the following genders: 54% female, 45% male, and 1% non-binary and/or non-confirming (Table 1). Eighty-one percent of this year's respondents indicated that their age was between 19-21 years old (Table 2). Caucasian was the most reported race at 75%, this was followed by Latino/Hispanic at 7%, African-American/Black and Asian/Pacific Islander both at 6%, Asian/Pacific Islander at 4%, Multiracial at 5%, and 2% other (Table 3). Ninety-two precent of respondents reported living in the state of Virginia and 8% from out of state (Table 4). Twenty percent reported to be first generation (Table 6).

PREVIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Half of this year's transfer students have already received an associate's degree before transferring to JMU; 28% reported attending a community college but did not receive an associate's degree (Table 7). Seventy percent of respondents reported transferring from a 2-year public institution, 19% from a 4-year public institution (Table 8). Ninety percent of respondents indicated that they had a GPA of 3.00 or higher from their previous institution (Table 9). Respondents were also asked if there was interaction with a JMU transfer advisor. Of the 48% who reported consulting with a transfer advisor coordinator; 98% reported that the information received was helpful with their transition to JMU (Table 10 and 11).

IDENTIFTY AS JMU STUDENT VS TRANSFER STUDENT

Respondents were asked when they felt they would identify as a JMU student and not as a transfer student. Forty percent of respondents reported that they would identify as a JMU student on the first day of their first semester, 23% after the completion of their first semester, 18% reported midway through their first semester at JMU (Table 12).

ACCLIMATION TO JMU

Ninety-five percent of respondents are enthusiastic about JMU and 93% said they were happy to be at JMU; 82% of respondents believe that JMU is one of the best schools in the nation. Eighty precent of transfer students see themselves as part of the JMU community and 77% feel a sense of belonging to JMU (Table 13).

PHILOSOPHIES OF EDUCATION

Incoming transfer students were asked to indicate their own philosophies concerning the emphasis of higher education. Forty-seven percent of this year's respondents said they hold a vocational philosophy of education, which is viewed as preparation for an occupation. Twenty-five percent of respondents hold an intellectual philosophy, where emphasis is placed on scholarly pursuit of knowledge (Table 14). Fifty-six percent of respondents plan to pursue a degree beyond the baccalaureate (Table 5).

Listed in the following tables are summaries of data collected in 2020 (2019, 2018 and 2017 figures, when available, are in parentheses).

For more information about this survey, please contact the Office of Institutional Research via phone: 540.568.7208, or email: ask-oir@jmu.edu.

| Table 1 | Gender of the Respondents | Table 4 Region of Current Family Residence | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | | |
| Female | 54% (54% / 46% / 48%) | Northern Virginia | 34% (38% / 38% / 38%) | | |
| Male | 45% (45% / 50% / 52%) | Shenandoah Valley | 25% (27% / 24% / 23%) | | |
| Non-binary/Non-confirming | 1%(1%//) | Piedmont Area | 18% (17% / 15% / 14%) | | |
| Transgender | 0%(0%//) | Tidewater Area | 10%(9%/ 11%/ 10%) | | |
| Other | 0%(0%//) | Outside Virginia | 8% (6%/7%/9%) | | |
| | | Southwest Virginia | 5%(4%/ 5%/ 6%) | | |
| Table 2 | Age of the Respondents 2020(2019/2018/2017) | Outside the United States | 0%(0%/ 0%/ 1%) | | |
| 18 years or less | 3%(2%/ 4%/ 3%) | Table 5 Highest Acad | emic Degree Respondents | | |
| 19 years old | 29%(25%/ 25%/ 25%) | Table 5 Highest Read | Intend to Obtain | | |
| 20 years old | 39%(33%/ 37%/ 34%) | | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | | |
| 21 years old | 13%(19%/ 15%/ 18%) | Baccalaureate degree | 44%(42%/ 41%/ 34%) | | |
| 22 years old | 6%(8%/ 6%/ 7%) | Master's degree | 40%(44%/ 42%/ 47%) | | |
| 23 years old or older | 11%(13%/ 12%/ 14%) | Specialist degree e.g., Ed.S. | 0%(0%/ 1%/ 1%) | | |
| as years ord or order | 1170(1370) 1270) 1170) | Doctoral degree e.g., Ph.D., Ed.D., | , | | |
| | | D.B.A. | 9%(9%/ 10%/ 11%) | | |
| Table 3 | Race of the Respondents | Professional degree e.g., medicine, law | , | | |
| | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | theology | 6% (6%/7%/8%) | | |
| Caucasian-AmericanWhite | 75% (75% / 74% / 75%) | Not a degree seeking student | 1%(0%/ 0%/ 0%) | | |
| Hispanic | 7% (8%/8%/7%) | | | | |
| African-American/Black | 6%(6%/ 5%/ 6%) | AT 11 C | | | |
| Asian/Pacific Islander | 6% (4% / 6% / 6%) | Table 6 | First Generation Status | | |
| Multiracial | 5% (6%/5%/5%) | No | 2020(2019/2018/2017) 71%(//) | | |
| Other | 2% (2% / 2% / 2%) | Yes | 20%(//) | | |
| American Indian/Alaskan Native | 0%(0%/ 5%/ 0%) | Unknown/Unreported | 8%(/) | | |

| Not sure So% (55%) 51% (55%) 25% (25%) 25% | Table 7 | Associa | ates Degree Completion | Midway through my | first semester at | | | |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Attended community college, but have not received an Associate's degree 28% (29% 28% 29%) 28% (2 | | | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | JMU | | 18%(18%/ 18%/ 18%) | | |
| After the completion of two semesters at JMU Spid 39% 59 | Received Associates degree | | 50%(55%/ 51%/ 51%) | Not sure | | 9%(9%/ 7%/ 0%) | | |
| Table 8 | | | | 1 | | 5%(9%/ 6%/ 7%) | | |
| Table 8 | | | 28% (29%/28%/29%) | | | | | |
| 2-year public 2-year public 3020(2019/2018/2017) 2-year public 30% (76% / 71% / 73%) 2-year public 4-year private 19% (0% / 1% / 1% / 2%) 4-year private 9% (75% / 78% / 7%) Cher 3% (3% / 3% / 2%) Table 9 GPA from Previous Institution 2020(2019/2018/2017) 3.50 - 4.00 44% (43% / 42% / 39%) 3.00 - 3.49 46% (47% / 48% / 50%) 2.50 - 2.99 10% (10% / 10% / 10% / 0% / 0% / 0% / 0% / 0% | Did not attend a con | mmunity college | 22%(16%/ 21%/ 20%) | JMU | | 5%(3%/ 5%/ 3%) | | |
| 2.9car public 70% (76%) 71% / 73%) 2.9car private 11% (9%) 12% 14%) 4.year public 19% (15%) 18% (20%) 4.year private 71% (7%) 7% 74%) 3.6c | Table 8 | Institu | ition Transferring From | Table 13 | _ | | | |
| 2-year private 2-year private 1 \(\frac{1}{2}\) \(\frac{1}\) \(\frac{1}\) \(\frac{1}{2}\) \(\frac{1}{2} | | | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | | _ | _ | | |
| 2-year private 4-year public 4-year public 4-year private 19% (15% / 18%) 20% 4-year private 75% (7% / 7% / 7% 7% Other 35% (3% / 3% / 2%) Table 9 GPA from Previous Institution 2020(2019) 2018/2017 3.50 - 4.00 3.40 44% (43% / 42% / 39%) 3.00 - 3.49 2.50 - 2.99 10% (10% / 10% / 10% / 10% Less than 2.00 0% (6% / 6% / 6% / 6% Table 10 Consult with JMU Transfer Advisor 2020(2019) 2018/2017 No 52% (42% / 51% / 54%) Yes 48% (53% / 49% / 46%) Table 11 Advisor helpful 2020(2019/2018/2017 Yes 98% (98% 96% 69% No 3% (1% 2% 96%) No 1 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/2018/2017) Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/2018/2017) Tinish whatever I begin 36% (34% / -/ | 2-year public | | 70%(76%/ 71%/ 73%) | | | | | |
| 4-year public | 2-year private | | 1%(0%/ 1%/ 1%) | Enthusiastic about I | MII | | | |
| See myself as a member of the best schools in the nation 82% (71% / 73% / 73% / 73% | 4-year public | | 19%(15%/ 18%/ 20%) | _ | | , | | |
| Information received from Transfer Advisor Advisor helpful 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Advisor helpful 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Yes 98%(98% 96%) 49%(1% 2%) 2%(1% 2% | 4-year private | | 7% (7% / 7% / 7%) | 117 | | 93%(88%) 84%(83%) | | |
| See myself as a member of the JMU community 80% (70% 68% 69% 69% 69% 3.50 - 4.00 44% (43% 42% 39%) 3.50 - 4.00 44% (43% 42% 50%) 2.50 - 2.99 10% (10% 10% 11%) 2.00 - 2.49 1% (1% 0% 0%) 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% 0% | Other | | 3%(3%/ 3%/ 2%) | • | of the best schools | 82%(71%/ 73%/ 73%) | | |
| Table 9 | | | | | nber of the IMU | 0270(1170) 1370) 1370) | | |
| 2020(2019/ 2018/ 2017) 2018 2017 2018 2017 3.50 = 4.00 44% (43% / 42% / 39%) 3.00 = 3.49 46% (47% / 48% / 50%) 2.50 = 2.99 10% (10% / 10% / 10% / 10% / 0%) 2.00 = 2.49 1% (1% / 0% / 0%) 200 2018 / 2017 2018 / 2017 2020(2019 / 2018 / 2017) 2020 (2 | | | | • | | 80%(70%/68%/69%) | | |
| 3.50 – 4.00 3.00 – 3.49 3.00 – 3.49 3.00 – 2.99 3.00 – 2.49 3.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 – 2.00 (2019/ 2018/ 2017) 3.00 – 2 | Table 9 | GPA fr | | Sense of belonging | | 77%(63%/ 65%/ 64%) | | |
| 3.00 - 3.49 | | | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | Feel a part of the JM | IU community | 75%(60%/ 63%/ 69%) | | |
| 2.50 – 2.99 10% (10% / 10% / 10% / 0%) 2.00 – 2.49 1 1% (1% / 0% / 0%) Less than 2.00 0% (0% / 0% / 0%) Table 10 Consult with JMU Transfer Advisor 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) No 52% (42% / 51% / 54%) Yes 48% (53% / 49% / 46%) Table 11 Advisor helpful 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Yes 98% (98% 96% 96%) No 3% (1% 2% 2%) No 3% (1% 2% 2%) No 3% (1% 2% 2%) No 0% (1% 1% 2%) Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Table 12 Information received from Transfer Student 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Information received from Transfer Student 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) I man a hard worker 62% (47% // | 3.50 - 4.00 | | 44% (43% / 42% / 39%) | | | | | |
| 2.00 – 2.49 Less than 2.00 O%(O%/ O%/ O%) Less than 2.00 O%(O%/ O%/ O%) Consult with JMU Transfer Advisor 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) No 52%(42%/ 51%/ 54%) Yes Awsior helpful 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Yes Awsior helpful 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Yes 98%(98% 96%/ 96%) No 3%(1% 2%/ 2%) Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) I finish whatever I begin 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Yocational philosophy education viewed as preparation for an occupation 47%(53%/ 49%/ 53%/ 49%/ 53%/ Intellectual philosophy emphasis on scholarly pursuit of knowledge 25%(23%/ 24%/ 22%/ Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized 20%(17%/ 20%/ 21%/ 5%/ Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8%(7%/ 7%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5 | | | 46%(47%/ 48%/ 50%) | | | | | |
| Vocational philosophy education viewed as preparation for an occupation 47% (53% / 49% / 53% Intellectual philosophy emphasis on scholarly pursuit of knowledge 25% (23% / 24% / 22% Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized 20% (17% / 20% / 21% Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8% (7% / 7% / 5% Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized 20% (17% / 20% / 21% Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8% (7% / 7% / 5% Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized 20% (17% / 20% / 21% Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8% (7% / 7% / 5% Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized 20% (17% / 20% / 21% Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8% (7% / 7% / 5% Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized 20% (17% / 20% / 21% Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8% (7% / 7% / 5% Social philosophy emphasis on scholarly pursuit of knowledge 25% (23% / 24% / 22% 20% (17% / 20% / 21% 20% (17% / 20% / 20% / 20% 20% (17% / 20% / 20% / 20% 20% (17% / 20% / 20% / 20% / 20% 20% (17% / 20% / 20% / 20% / 20% 20% (17% / 20 | | | , | Table 14 |] | - • | | |
| as preparation for an occupation Table 10 Consult with JMU Transfer Advisor 2020(2019/2018/2017) No 52%(42%/51%/54%) Yes 48%(53%/49%/46%) Information received from Transfer Table 11 Advisor helpful 2020(2019/2018/2017) Yes 98%(98% 96%/96%) No 3%(1% 2%/6 2%) No 3%(1% 2%/6 2%) No 0%(1% 1%/6 2%) Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/2018/2017) Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/2018/2017) I an a paration for an occupation 1ntellectual philosophy emphasis on scholarly pursuit of knowledge 25%(23%/24%/22%) Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8%(7%/7%/5%) Table 15 Positive Work Ethics Most Like Mo | 2.00 - 2.49 | | | | | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | | |
| Intellectual philosophy emphasis on scholarly pursuit of knowledge 25%(23%/24%/22% 2 | Less than 2.00 | | 0%(0%/ 0%/ 0%) | * * * | | | | |
| Table 10 Consult with JMU Transfer Advisor 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Social philosophy social life and loyalty to college emphasized 20%(17%/ 20%/ 21%/ Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8%(7%/ 7%/ 5%/ 5%/ 5%/ 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Table 11 Advisor helpful 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Yes 98%(98% 96%/ 96%) I am a hard worker 62%(63%// | | | | 1 1 | * | 47%(53%/ 49%/ 53%) | | |
| 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Social philosophy social life and loyalty Yes | Table 10 Consult wit | | IMI Transfer Advisor | | | 250//220//240//200/) | | |
| No 52% (42% / 51% / 54%) Yes 48% (53% / 49% / 46%) Information received from Transfer Table 11 Advisor helpful 2020(2019/2018/2017) Yes 98% (98% 96% / 96%) No 3% (1% 2% / 2%) NA 0% (1% 1% 1% / 2%) Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/2018/2017) It o college emphasized 20% (17% / 20% / 21% / Artistic philosophy emphasis on ideas, art forms, individuality 8% (7% / 7% / 5% / 5% / 5% / 5% / 5% / 5% / | Table 10 Collsuit | | • | , - | o . | 23%0(23%0/ 24%0/ 22%0) | | |
| Yes | No | | | | | 20%(17%/ 20%/ 21%) | | |
| Information received from Transfer Table 11 | | | , | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | 20,0(1,70, 20,0, 21,70, | | |
| Table 11 Advisor helpful Table 15 Positive Work Ethics Most Like Most Li | 103 | | 40/0(33/0/ 42/0/ 40/0) | | • | 8%(7%/ 7%/ 5%) | | |
| 2020(2019/ 2018/2017) Yes 98% 98% 96%/ 96%) No 3%(1% 2%/ 2%) NA 0%(1% 1%/ 2%) I am a hard worker 62%(63%// I have achieved a goal that took years of work I am diligent 50%(47%// I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge 49%(41%// 2020(2019/ 2018/ 2017) I finish whatever I begin 36%(34%// | | Information | | 77 11 45 | D W | I Data Maria Maria | | |
| Yes 98% (98% 96% / 96%) I am a hard worker 62% (63% / /) No 3% (1% 2% / 2%) I have achieved a goal that took years of work 51% (47% / /) NA 0% (1% 1% / 2%) I am diligent 50% (47% / /) I am diligent 50% (47% / /) /) I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge 49% (41% / /) I finish whatever I begin 36% (34% / /) | Table 11 | | _ | 1 able 15 | Positive W | | | |
| No 3%(1% 2%/ 2%) NA 0%(1% 1%/ 2%) I have achieved a goal that took years of work I am diligent I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge 2020(2019/2018/2017) I finish whatever I begin 36%(34%//) | | | | T 1 1 1 | | | | |
| NA 0%(1% 1%/ 2%) work 51%(47%//) I am diligent 50%(47%//) I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge 49%(41%//) I finish whatever I begin 36%(34%//) | Yes | | ` ' | | -1 41-4 4- 1 | , | | |
| I am diligent 50% (47% / /) I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge 49% (41% / /) 2020(2019/2018/2017) I finish whatever I begin 36% (34% / /) | | | | _ | oai that took years of | | | |
| Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student 2020(2019/2018/2017) I have overcome setbacks to conquer an important challenge 49%(41%// 1 finish whatever I begin 36%(34%// | NA | | 0%(1% 1%/ 2%) | | | | | |
| Table 12 Identify as JMU Student vs Transfer Student important challenge 49%(41%//) 2020(2019/2018/2017) I finish whatever I begin 36%(34%//) | | | | | thacks to conquer as | , | | |
| 2020(2019/2018/2017) I finish whatever I begin 36%(34%// | Table 12 Identify as IMIT | | ent vs Transfer Student | | * | | | |
| | 1000 12 10 | action, as juic state | | | | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | |
| | First day of my first | semester at IMII | 40%(37%/ 37%/ 41%) | | 9 | 18%(13%//) | | |

23%(24%/ 25%/ 24%)

After the completion of first semester at

JMU

| Table 16 | Negative Work Ethics Most Like Me | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------|---|---|--|
| | | 2020(2019/2018/2017) | | | | |
| I become interested in new pursuits | | | | | | |
| every few months | | 16%(| 14%/ | / |) | |
| New ideas and projects so | ometimes | | | | | |
| distract me from previous | ones | 9%(| 9%/ | / |) | |
| I have difficulty maintaini | ng my focus | | | | | |
| on projects that take more | e than a few | | | | | |
| months to complete | | 6%(| 4%/ | / |) | |
| I have been obsessed with | a certain idea | | | | | |
| or project for a short time | but later lost | | | | | |
| interest | | 6%(| 6%/ | / |) | |
| My interests change from | year to year | 5%(| 6%/ | / |) | |
| I often set a goal but later | choose to | | | | | |
| pursue a different one | | 4%(| 2%/ | / |) | |