

2023 TRANSFER STUDENT SURVEY

PRELIMINARY DATA BRIEF

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



Transfer Student Survey (TSS)

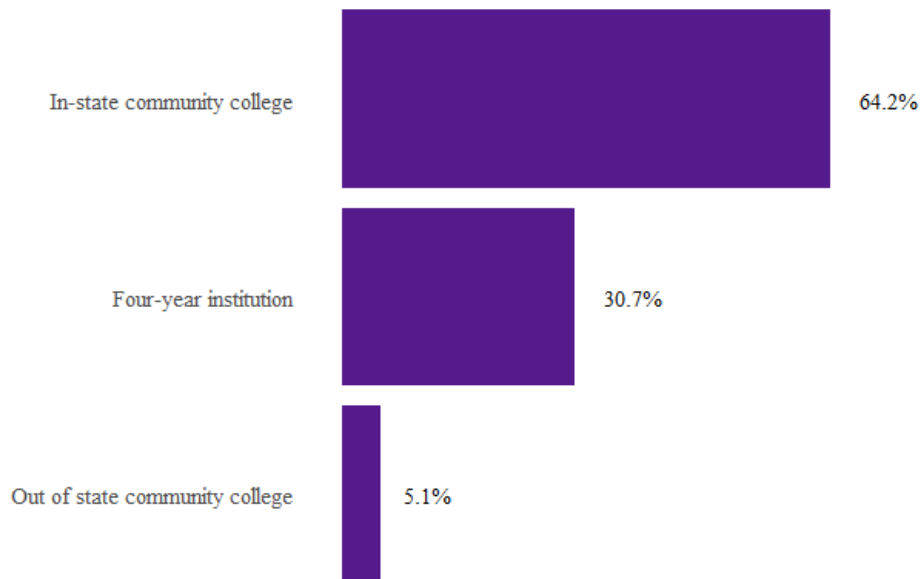
To gain a better understanding of the incoming transfer students and their needs, the Office of Planning, Analytics & Institutional Research (PAIR) administers the Transfer Student Survey (TSS) to all incoming students transferring from another institution. Survey responses were gathered between March 2023 and August 2023. Students receive a link to complete the First Year Survey as part of the [OneBook](#) process through orientation. There was a total of 564 responses (78.3% response rate¹).

This brief provides preliminary data to a sample of questions from the TSS focusing on sense of belonging and student characteristics. Final data will be available in January 2024 after official university demographic data are finalized.

Preliminary Summary of Findings

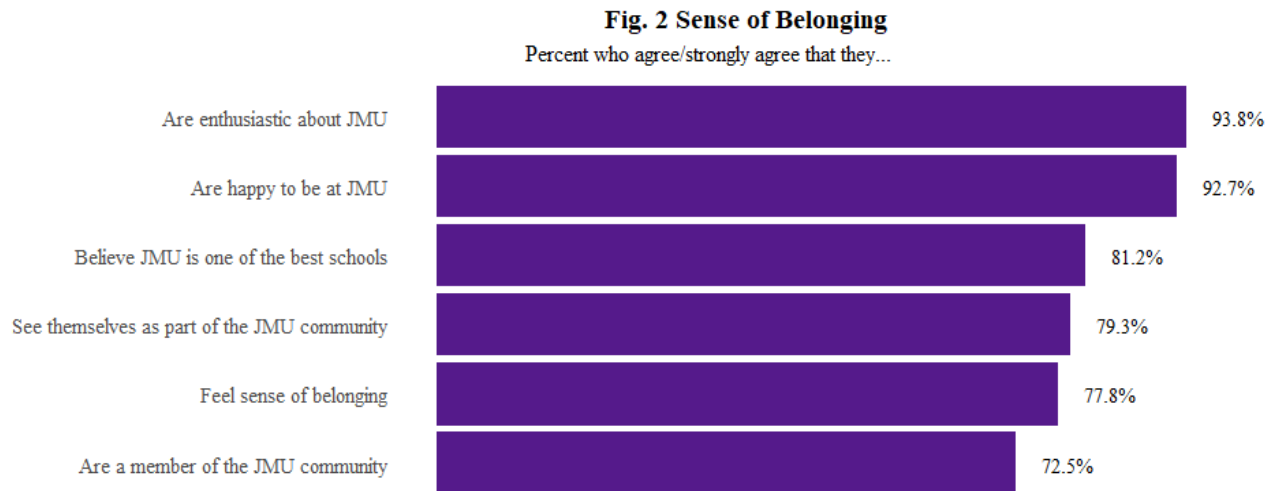
- **The majority of transfer students are coming from Community Colleges in Virginia. One third (33%) expect to come into JMU with a transferable Associate’s Degree from the original institution.**

Fig. 1 Where are Transfer Students Coming From?



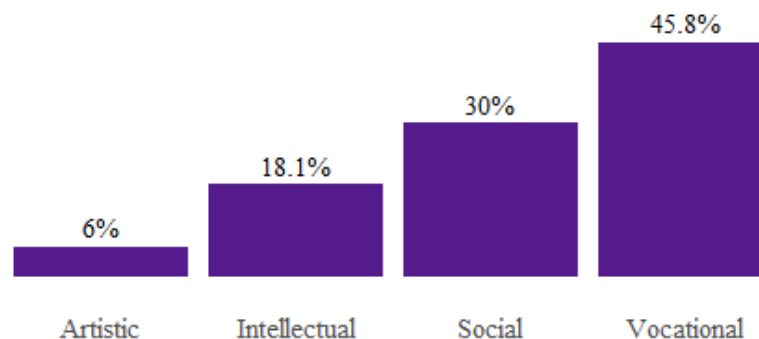
¹ This is calculated based on the number of enrolled students as of on-campus census, September 13, 2023. Enrollment numbers may have subsequently changed.

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



- The majority of transfer students have a vocational or social philosophy of education.

Fig. 3 Philosophy of Education

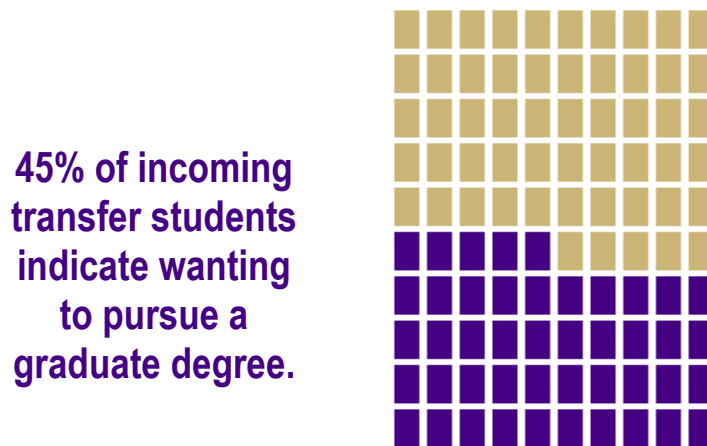


Vocational philosophy: Education is primarily a preparation for an occupational future. Social, intellectual and extracurricular activities are less important.

Social philosophy: Extracurricular activities, group parties, athletics, social life, rewarding friendships and loyalty to college traditions are emphasized and are viewed as important and necessary for the cultivation of the well-rounded person.

- Slightly less than half of transfer students are interested in pursuing graduate/professional degrees after their undergraduate education. Of note, nearly 60% of incoming first year students indicated interest in pursuing a graduate degree or postgraduate training.

Fig. 4 Postgraduate Education Interest



Coming Soon:

This brief provides a preliminary snapshot of responses to a few of the TSS questions. Once final data are available in January, a full dashboard suite will become available on the PAIR website to address 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.