

James Madison University Advising Guide Notes for Biology

Mathematics Placement

All students in the AS Science Program complete at least one semester of calculus (MTH 263). Your first step as a science major is to work with Academic Advising to determine your mathematics placement. Placement into mathematics courses is based on multiple measures. Students should work with an advisor to determine which mathematics course is the best entry point to the program. MTH 161, 162, and 263 are all possible entry points, however, direct placement into a course above MTH 161 requires advisor approval. There are separate advising guides for both precalculus and calculus entry points.

Academic Advising Notes for Biology

All students interested in the biology major should obtain credit for college biology and chemistry prior to enrolling at JMU. Students who transfer in with an approved associate degree are considered to have met all JMU's general education requirements. These students will have only math and science courses left to complete for their degree at JMU. Because of course sequencing and the rigor of the curriculum, students with associate degrees should be prepared to spend up to 3 years at JMU to complete their degree.

Information for Students Interested in Teaching High School Biology

- If you are planning on majoring in biology in order to teach at the secondary level, one of your social science electives should be PSY 230.
- EDU 200 is required for admission to the College of Education and should be taken as one of your approved electives. You must submit [this form](#) to enroll in it.

Admission to Teacher Education

Once admitted and enrolled in courses at JMU, all students must apply to teacher education and be accepted before they can take the required education courses. Students who meet the criteria for the Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) with JMU ([Guaranteed Admission Agreements](#)), have completed the coursework outlined in the advising guide for the appropriate teacher licensure area, and who have met the Teacher Education Admission Requirements outlined below will receive conditional admission into JMU Teacher Education during their first semester at JMU. Conditional admission to teacher education programs requires the completion of ENG 112 or equivalent (must transfer to JMU as WRTC 103), PSY 230 and EDU 200 with a grade of C or better and satisfaction of the teacher education admission assessment requirements. See [Admission to Teacher Education](#) for more information. **Students cannot have any record of felony convictions or misdemeanors involving children or drugs.** Other admission requirements include a cumulative JMU GPA of at least 2.5, satisfactory completion of training modules in child abuse prevention and a first aid/CPR/AED certificate (CPR must be done in person). These requirements should be completed by the end of a transfer student's first semester at JMU.

Students seeking teacher licensure in biology must also complete the pre-professional secondary education program which leads to a one-year Master of Arts in Teaching degree after completion of the bachelor's degree (5-year program). They must also demonstrate professional behavior and perform satisfactorily in practicums and key assessments in order to progress.

Graduate Program

Consult the [graduate catalog](#) for M.A.T. graduate requirements. Admission to and the satisfactory completion of the M.A.T. program are required in order to receive a recommendation through JMU for a teaching license at the secondary school level

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JMU Transfer Advisor: Ms. Kate McDaniel, mcdanikm@jmu.edu, E112 (Tues/Wed during the school year)

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