



**JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY®**

COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM MARCH 2021



WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Please take a brief moment to share your thoughts on the format and timing of our Counselor Open House by completing this one question [survey](https://jmu.questionpro.com/t/AQsuhZIS3W). We thank you in advance for your input.

<https://jmu.questionpro.com/t/AQsuhZIS3W>

IN THIS E- NEWSLETTER

Course Scheduling
Information

Freshman Applicants for
Fall 2021

Decision Made, Deposit Paid

CHOICES

Financial Aid & Scholarship:
Updates

New on Campus

Ways to Connect

Upcoming Webinars

COURSE SCHEDULING INFORMATION

The information seen below is adapted from our most recent webinar hosted by Jason Gochenour. If you are interested in learning more, we encourage you to watch the full video [here](#).

Course selection is an important part of making a competitive applicant. Here at JMU, our process for evaluating applicants centers on two primary considerations: **strength of course curriculum** and final **grades in core classes** (English, foreign language, mathematics, lab science, and social science).

Strength of curriculum is purposefully vague because strong curriculum looks different at different schools. We realize that each of you have a different school set-up, have different parameters for accessing certain courses/course levels, etc. Because of that, the best answer to what makes curriculum look strong really boils down to how your school works curriculum—what do you have available to your students? The school context is hugely important for us, and we rely on you, the counselor, and your school profile to provide this information. As we review applications, we look at applicants within the context of their school. We believe that making students responsible for what is available to them is the most fair way of evaluating an applicant.

For schools with many offerings (college-level and honors courses), we would like to see students start with honors classes and move towards college-level classes as they progress through their high school curriculum. For those schools where this may not be the case, we are simply looking at whether your students have a chance to challenge themselves and whether your students took advantage of that opportunity, provided it was available. We are not looking to make judgments on how your school operates curriculum—we just want to understand how you do it to allow the student to display how they are competitive for admission.

A strong course curriculum is not only the level of the class. In specific subject areas, we have things that we will see that make a student more competitive as well. In the area of mathematics, we need to see a math class above algebra 2 and that class must have algebra 2 as a prerequisite for it. *AP Computer Science is not viewed as a math class for us—we like to see this class, just not as a fourth math.* In the area of foreign language, we will look at what the state and school require to see what a competitive student looks like. In the area of lab science, students can enhance their competitiveness by taking a college-level course or a physics class (due to its traditionally rigorous nature).

Additionally, there are classes that are not weighted/leveled but are incredibly hard. If you have a class that is rigorous but doesn't appear so on the transcript, email or call us and notify us of this. A fifth-year of foreign language or a calculus class, for example, may not be honors weighted but are just as challenging as an honors class. This information is helpful to us as we want to give credit to students for challenging themselves. That communication from you as counselors is vital because you are an expert on your school and curriculum.

On a final note, what we see, more often than not, for students who do not fall in that competitive range for admission is that they swing one of two ways: either the route of not challenging themselves much with their curriculum and doing really well academically OR the student puts way too much on their plate from a curriculum standpoint and doesn't do as well academically. Those two areas are out of balance. We encourage you to have honest conversations with your students to find the right balance. Ultimately, we want students to take rigor and challenge themselves, but they have to be successful (make As and Bs). Have your students play to their strengths by taking upper-level classes in their strong subject areas.

Additional questions? Want to talk through specific situations?

Please reach out to your [regional admissions counselor](#) or call 540-568-5681 to speak with a representative during business hours.

FRESHMAN APPLICATIONS FOR FALL 2021



JMU is still accepting applications for competitive students for the incoming freshman class of Fall 2021. Students that are still interested in applying should email their regional admissions counselor and attach an unofficial copy of their high school transcript to be reviewed.

The regional admissions counselor will review the unofficial transcript and let the student know if they can still be considered for admission for Fall 2021. Instructions on submitting will also be provided for those that are approved for an extension. To find your regional admissions counselor please [click here](#).

DECISION MADE, DEPOSIT PAID

Is your student ready to commit to JMU? While they have until the deposit deadline of May 1st, students are encouraged to pay their deposit now. The sooner they deposit, the higher their priority is for residence hall selection.

If your students have financial need/are unable to pay the \$400 amount, have them reach out to their [regional counselor](#). We will work with students to secure a partial or full deposit waiver.

Students can make their admission deposit [here](#).



CHOICES

CHOICES, our Admitted Student Open House, is the best way for students to explore JMU and begin their Madison Experience.

Our main event will occur virtually on **March 27** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (EST). You and your students are encouraged to [register here](#) to attend.

The main event includes the following live virtual programs:

- CHOICES Welcome (hear from JMU's President, Harrisonburg's Mayor, and more)
- Academic Sessions (each academic college will be presenting)
- Campus Look (livestreamed tour + inside look at special campus locations)
- JMU Life Panels (separate student and parent options)

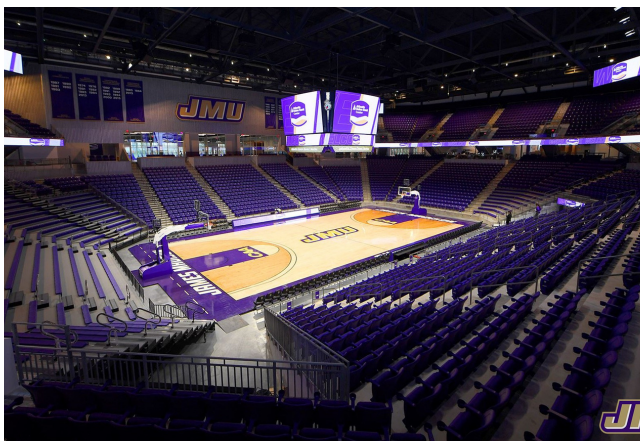
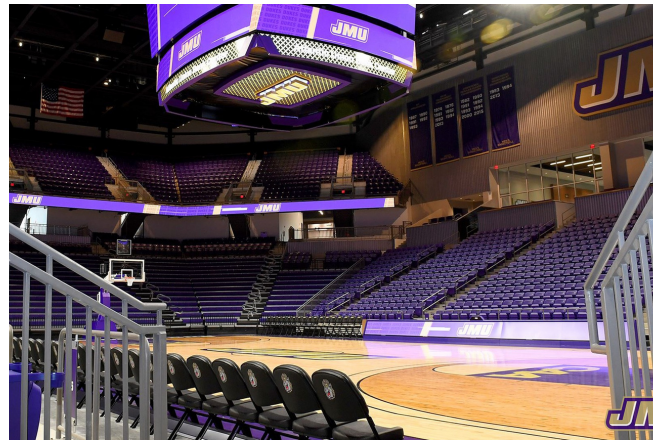
Over the next two months, we will offer other live events, along with on-demand videos and virtual tours. Learn more on our [CHOICES website](#).



NEW ON CAMPUS

The **Atlantic Union Bank Center** is the new home for our men's and women's basketball teams. Located on the corner of Carrier Drive and University Boulevard, the Atlantic Union Bank Center seats 8,500 guests for basketball games and closer to 10,000 for commencement and other events with additional floor seating. The new facility will also provide the Harrisonburg – Rockingham County area a state-of-the-art venue for trade shows, concerts, and other large gatherings.

A separate practice gym highlights the athletics success area of the facility. It includes offices, academic areas, locker rooms, team meeting rooms, strength and conditioning spaces, sports medicine facilities, and other amenities specific to our men's and women's basketball programs. The facility also houses new operations areas for the athletics ticket office and the facility and events staff.



Left to Right: Atlantic Union Bank Center entrance, court-side seating, arena overview, and student athlete highlight outside the Campanelli Club.

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Financial Aid:

Preliminary financial aid award notices will go out to regular decision admits approximately 10-14 business days after decisions are released. Please remind your students to stay tuned to the email address listed in their application materials and their MyMadison Applicant Portal.

Additionally, our office has been receiving numerous inquiries about our financial aid appeal process, a process called Professional Judgement (PJ). Please know that our Office of Financial Aid is just beginning to review PJ requests for the 2021-2022 academic year. Encourage your students and their families to be patient as this process gets underway. You can read more about the professional judgement/financial aid appeal process [here](#).

Scholarship Award Notices

Merit scholarships from JMU are very competitive. In fact, less than 5% of incoming students will receive a merit scholarship directly from the University. With that being said, here are a few action items for your students who may want to maximize the consideration given to them for merit awards:

- Reach out to their intended academic department (*Undeclared reach out to University Studies*)
- Complete the General Scholarship Application in the Scholarship Hub of MyMadison **AND** flip through each opportunity included there to see if any are good matches
- Reach out to [their Admissions Counselor](#) to inquire about other opportunities

We always recommend that students reach out to you for help finding outside/third-party scholarship opportunities. We appreciate the guidance you provide in this area!

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Check out our [counselor web page](#), stay tuned for next month's newsletter, and check out our [helpful resource guides](#).

Your students can stay connected with our office as well. They can check out our [virtual visit options](#), [join JMYou](#), [download our virtual tour](#), and watch the [Open House recordings](#). JMYou is our social media platform for prospective students to learn more about majors and campus life and is a place where they can connect with other prospective students and current JMU students.

We invite you and your students to follow us on Instagram [@JMUadmissions](#), too. If you have not already, please consider joining our counselor [mailing list](#) to stay up to date on all things JMU!



Greek Row, located by Newman Lake near Bridgeforth Stadium, is home to on-campus living for numerous Greek Life organizations

UPCOMING WEBINAR:

April 19th, 10-11 AM JMU Mock Committee Experience:

[Register Here](#)

Ever want to know how the admissions decision process works at JMU? Join Admissions Counselors for a mock committee experience on Monday, April 19 at 10:00 AM to do just that. First, you'll learn how we review applications and make decisions. Then, participants will be split into small groups and given mock applications about which your group will recommend an admissions decision.

RECORDED WEBINARS:

Miss one of our previous webinars?

[Check out all past webinars on our website.](#)

Get caught up on Understanding JMU Admissions Decisions, Crafting Strong Class Schedules, Financial Aid 101, Admissions 101, and more!

Please feel free to email the Counselor Education Program at counselored@jmu.edu or reach out to your [regional admissions counselor](#) with any questions or concerns.

HAVE WE MISSED ANYTHING?

Do you have ideas for new content, questions, or concerns?

Please let us know! We are always looking for ways to improve and to provide the most current and helpful information possible. Your opinions and ideas are valuable to us.