



JAMES MADISON
UNIVERSITY®

COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAM OCTOBER 2020



OVERVIEW OF 2019-2020 ADMISSIONS CYCLE:

The Class of 2024—our largest freshman class—has students who hail from 1,111 different high schools across the Commonwealth of Virginia, 41 states and 11 countries. This impressive group was selected from a pool of a record 24,682 applicants.

Madison continues to be recognized as a comprehensive university where Undeclared remains the most popular major, followed by Nursing, Biology, Health Sciences, Psychology, Marketing and Management. *See "Admissions Insight" for more on our evaluation criteria for the Class of 2025.*

IN THIS E- NEWSLETTER

Admissions Insight

Honors College

Dingledine-Bluestone
Scholarship

Application Fee Waivers

Ways to Connect

Upcoming Webinars

ADMISSIONS INSIGHT

Recognizing Competitive Applicants:

Our primary considerations in our evaluation process both relate to academic performance.

- Taking a rigorous course curriculum (defined within the context of each school) such as:
 - College-level courses (Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Dual Enrollment, Cambridge International, Governor's Schools)
 - Honors, advanced, or college preparatory courses
- Earning As and Bs in core academic classes (English, foreign language, social studies, mathematics* and lab sciences).
 - *Mathematics requirement: One full year beyond Algebra II in a course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite.

At a school that offers college-level and honors-level courses, competitive applicants will take advantage of these opportunities. We expect to see a nice sampling of both college-level and honors-level classes on an applicant's transcript as that demonstrates to us that the applicant is prepared for the academic rigor of JMU.

At a school that does not offer college or honors-level curriculum, competitive applicants will challenge themselves with advanced core subjects or additional core classes than required for graduation. For example, students can take a fourth year of a foreign language or a physics as their lab science.

Students who take both a rigorous course curriculum and earn strong grades will be competitive for admission.

Optional Application Components:

Students are not advantaged or disadvantaged by electing to send in optional components in the application, scholarship, or Honors College review processes.

The following items are optional:

- Extracurricular Activities
- Letter of Recommendation
- Personal Statement
- Standardized Tests

*Submission of optional materials is most beneficial to an applicant when it provides context and insight into a student's academic performance.

[Read more about our application and evaluation processes here.](#)

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE

Although we would love to see you and your students on campus this fall, we have a great alternative for you! JMU will be offering our Virtual Open House that will span the entire month of October.

The Open House will consist of online events and include live chats with faculty, staff, and current students. Your students will have the opportunity to attend academic presentations, learn more about the honors program, financial aid, study abroad, student life, and more!

You can refer students [here](#) to register to receive email reminders and updates prior to each event.



Learn more about our academic [majors](#).



DINGLEDINE-BLUESTONE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Dingledine-Bluestone Scholarships are awarded based on demonstrated excellence in academic achievement, leadership, and community service.

The Dingledine-Bluestone Scholarship for freshman students is equivalent to in-state tuition and fees per year for a total of four years if eligibility requirements are met.

To apply, students must rank in the top 20% of their class. Students must also have a 3.6 cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 unweighted scale) / 91 (on a 100 point scale) **OR** have a 1250 SAT / 27 ACT score.

Read about how to apply [here](#).

We encourage all Dingledine-Bluestone applicants to have their early action freshman application submitted by Nov. 1 and their Dingledine-Bluestone scholarship application completed by Nov. 6.



of our graduates have done research, a practicum, an internship, or student teaching.

FEE WAIVERS

We provide need-based application fee waivers for students. We request that you fill out the fee waiver form with the appropriate, detailed information about the student and submit to our office.

Check [here](#) for more information.



HONORS COLLEGE

The Honors College intentionally mixes students from disciplines and majors across the entire campus. It is designed to create experiences that move you to higher levels of achievement and success.

Students in the Honors College receive a number of unique benefits, including:

- Enriched Curriculum and Discussion-based Seminar courses
- Authentic Faculty Mentorship
- Research and Scholarly Opportunities, including a three semester capstone project
- Honors College specific Study Abroad opportunities
- Access to the Honors Living Learning Community
- And More

Recognizing Competitive Honors College Applicants:

Admission to JMU's Honors College is competitive. All applications undergo a rigorous review process including the evaluation of applicants' essay submission, their high school record, their extra-curricular involvements, and more.

Of the 2020 applicants that reported a grade point average, 53% had above a 3.8 GPA with the majority of these students all taking a number of Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

Applying to the Honors College:

In addition to the admissions application, students must submit the Honors College application and essay by November 29th, 2020. Please note that applicants must complete their application to JMU before being able to complete and submit their application to the Honors College.

Learn more about the application process [here](#).



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](#), and register for the [October Open House](#). JMYou is our social media platform for prospective students to learn more about majors and campus life, in addition to being a place where they can connect with other prospective students as well as 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!



Enjoying the fall weather in the beautiful Edith J. Carrier Arboretum.

UPCOMING WEBINARS:

October 13, 2-3PM Chat with the Dean: Financial Aid and Scholarships

[Register Here](#)

Join JMU's Dean of Admissions, Michael Walsh, as he talks with Brad Barnett, Director of Financial Aid and Scholarships. They will review the different opportunities available to JMU students and applicants, talk through eligibility requirements, cover the selection process, and answer any additional questions you may have.

October 26. 1-2PM Document Submission and Tracking Your Students

[Register Here](#)

Join Jason Gochenour, Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and a former Director of High School Counseling, as he shares information on submitting transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other documents to JMU. He will also demonstrate how to track your students via our Counselor Companion. Jason looks forward to answering all of your questions!

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.