

JMU Graduate Community News

From here, everything is possible!

August 25, 2014

A warm welcome to the 773 new JMU Graduate Students! Welcome back to our continuing students! The JMU graduate faculty hope you have had a wonderful summer and we welcome you to a new academic year. This year is very special for all of us. This is the 60th anniversary of graduate programming at JMU! The JMU Graduate School was established in 1954, when the State Board of Education authorized the university to offer programs leading to the Master of Science in Education degree. The scope and volume of graduate programming at JMU has expanded tremendously since those early years. Last year JMU graduate programs received 2422 applications for our 60 programs. Our graduate student population now exceeds 1750 students. Our students are taught by nearly 600 Graduate Faculty.

How is life as a graduate student different from the undergraduate experience? We recently asked some JMU graduate students this question. They said that during graduate school:

- You have more autonomy and more responsibility.
- Courses are more rigorous. Projects are more challenging. You are busier than ever. Time management is essential.
- You put much more time into schoolwork and have less time for anything else.
- You spend more time developing competence and less time working for grades.
- You start to realize that you can never learn everything that you want to know; there is always more to learn.
- Professors treat you more like colleagues than students.
- You can get close to many of the students in your cohort; they provide an important source of support.
- You tend to have a smaller group of friends and you all tend to be more hard working, goal-oriented, and you party less often.
- You still make time for social activities, and that time becomes more important and appreciated.
- During social times, you are more likely to engage in in-depth conversations regarding controversial issues, blurring the distinction between work and play.
- You might look for a quieter place to live, more likely among other graduate students or in the “real world” among young professionals and families.

See more and share your own ideas on the [GSA Blog](#).

Missed Orientation? A new graduate student checklist is available. [More information](#)

Courses are still available for Fall 2014! Several JMU graduate programs offer courses that may be of interest to students throughout the campus. Consider the following courses:

WRTC 608. Intercultural Literacies. Examines critical approaches to intercultural communication beyond ethnic and racial lines. Investigates key theories of identity and difference, and intercultural communication practices. Topics may include definitions of culture, cross-cultural communication challenges and issues of globalization, localization and translation. For more information Contact Cathryn Molloy (molloycs@jmu.edu).

WRTC 644. Discourses of Health and Medicine. Introduces theory and research in medical rhetoric, health communication and related areas. Students will employ a variety of scholarly lenses, including technical communication, rhetoric, science studies and sociology, to examine the intersections between health and medicine. Topics may include patients’ agency and advocacy, patient compliance, uses of writing in clinical settings and digital spaces, access to health resources, politics of healthcare and the role of narrative. For more information contact Michael Klein (kleinmj@jmu.edu).

WRTC 664. Critical Perspectives on Digital Cultures. Introduces theories and methods that inform digital knowledge-making practices in social, civic, and professional contexts. Equips students with the analytical and technical skills to engage with established and emerging technologies. Topics may include network theory, remix culture, questions of identity, social media, code studies and mobile computing. For more information contact Traci Zimmerman (zimmermerta@jmu.edu).

LTLE 570. Design and Development of Digital Media. Introduces the processes for the design, development, and distribution of digital media elements. Concepts introduced include technical terminology; file management; computer-based learning, distance learning, and blended learning; the use of collaborative tools for learning; and practical applications in K12 and business. This course provides skills for future digital media development. For more information contact Diane Wilcox (wilcoxdm@jmu.edu).

AHRD 520. Foundations of Adult Education/Human Resource Development. Historical beginnings of adult education and human resource development programs will be examined in order to understand current practices. Social, economic, and psychological theories informing AHRD are introduced and explored. For more information contact Diane Wilcox (wilcoxdm@jmu.edu).

AHRD 670. American Higher Education. The objective and organization of prevalent types of institutions are studied. Current issues and problems of higher education are explored. For more information contact Diane Wilcox (wilcoxdm@jmu.edu).

EDUC 641. Learning Theories and Practice. Theories and research that guide the understanding of diverse learners, processes of learning and development, the role of the teacher, the design and delivery of instruction, the processes and strategies of teaching, and research-based decision-making. For more information contact Diane Wilcox (wilcoxdm@jmu.edu).

AHRD 640. Program Evaluation and Measurement in AHRD. Focuses on theories and practices in evaluation and measurement of AHRD programs from the perspective of impact on organizations, work processes, and individuals, as well as follow-up decisions. Methods and processes in developing specific instruments for program evaluation data collection and data analysis will also be discussed. Prerequisite: AHRD 520. For more information contact Diane Wilcox (wilcoxdm@jmu.edu).

Additional information about these courses is available on [MyMadison](#).

New GA Position Available! Outreach & Engagement seeks a graduate assistant to provide support with various programs offered throughout the unit. The primary focus of this position is to help with both on and off campus events and assignments. This position will focus heavily in conference planning and management, but will also assist in programs like: Pk-12, workforce development and distance learning. Candidate must be detail oriented, have strong organization skills and superior customer service skills. For more information, please contact Carol Fleming (568-8987; fleminka@jmu.edu).

Travel Grants Available! The Graduate School is pleased to be able to support graduate student travel to professional conferences. [More information](#)

Upcoming Events & Deadlines

- **Classes begin.** August 25.
- **International Student Reception.** August 30, 3:30. Meet new and returning students from around the world. Everyone invited! [More information](#)
- **Registration Deadline.** September 2. Last day to add a fall semester class without special permission, or to drop a class without receiving a "W."
- **GSA Meeting.** September 7, 6 PM, Festival Conference Room 7. [More information](#)
- **Part-Time Job Fair.** September 9, 1:30-4 PM. [More information](#)

- **Registration Deadline.** September 11. Final day to add a fall semester or first-block class with special permission.
- **Cohen Center Grand Opening.** September 17, 11 AM. [More information](#)
- **Graduate School Dinner.** September 19, 4-7 PM.
- **Annual International Festival.** September 27, 12-6 PM. [More information](#)

Join TGS for Our Annual Dinner! Each year the Graduate School sponsors a dinner for all JMU graduate students and faculty. The dinner is a great opportunity to meet and socialize with colleagues from across the university. This year our dinner will be on **Friday, September 19, 4-7 pm**, at the Festival Ballroom. Please save the date! Graduate students and faculty are welcome to bring their partners and children (*immediate family members only please*). The dinner is free, and we ask you to register as seating is limited. Watch for more detailed information by e-mail that will include registration instructions. For more information contact the Graduate School (grad@jmu.edu; 568-6131).

The Cohen Center for the Study of Technological Humanism will host internationally acclaimed speakers, support graduate student and graduate faculty research projects, offer experimental courses combining multiple disciplines, and support inquiries into transforming graduate education. The Center was created by a gift from JMU's first Provost's Distinguished Professor, Ralph Cohen, and his late wife, Libby Okun Cohen. It will be housed in Wilson 107. The Grand Opening will be on September 17. For more information contact Larry Burton (burtonlw@jmu.edu or cohencenter@jmu.edu).

A Message from the GSA President

Fellow Graduate Students,

To our new students, welcome to JMU, and to returning students, welcome back. As this year's President of the Graduate Student Association (GSA), I have been privileged to work with other wonderful graduate students developing ways to get the most out of our times here at James Madison University.

This year the GSA operates under one central theme: cultivating community. As part of this theme, we offer three core tenets: professional development, interdisciplinary socialization, and responsible stewardship. Professional development opportunities allow us to increase productivity in our disciplines and prepare us for future work. Interdisciplinary socialization is often infrequent in graduate school, so the GSA works to connect all JMU graduate students to strengthen the graduate student population as a whole (and have some fun & relax!). Lastly, we at the GSA recognize the importance of the greater JMU and Harrisonburg communities and therefore strive to act as responsible stewards in our environment.

With many activities on our schedule and many goals to accomplish, it is an exciting time to be leading the GSA and to be a graduate student. I am blessed to be part of such a tremendous organization and university, and I am looking forward to a wonderful school year. If you would like to receive information about this year's GSA events please connect via the [GSA Facebook page](#) or email me personally at dirthem@jmu.edu.

Thank you,

Eric Dirth
 Graduate Student Association President
 MA in Communication and Advocacy '15

Join the Graduate Student Association (GSA). The GSA is a student-led and student-run organization that provides professional and social opportunities to all JMU graduate students and alumni. [Like them on Facebook.](#) [Find them on Twitter.](#) (gsa@jmu.edu; 568-7088).

Hungry? Did you know that JMU has [26 dining facilities](#) offering everything from coffee and snacks to full meals. A wide variety of [meal plans](#) are available for reduced-price campus dining.

Need a Job? The JMU [Office of Student Employment](#) has links to positions now available on and off campus. For example, there are currently 34 positions available for students posted on JMU's [Joblink](#). This office will be hosting a Part-Time Job Fair on Tuesday, September 9, 1:30-4 PM in the Festival Conference and Student Center. For more information contact studentjobs@jmu.edu or call 568-3269.

Need Health Insurance? Information about health insurance coverage is available from the JMU Health Center. [More information](#)

Need help moving to Harrisonburg? Information about City Services (utilities, trash & recycling, public transportation), vehicle registration, local schools, information about pets, information about places of worship, etc. are available in the [City of Harrisonburg Moving Guide](#).

Tips from TGS (The Graduate School)

Graduate Policies. You are responsible to read and follow the graduate policies set forth in the [Graduate Catalog](#). Important information regarding degree progress, including rules for successful progression and continuous enrollment are also on the [Graduate School website](#).

Monitor your Dukes E-Mail account! Official information is sent to each student's official [Dukes e-mail account](#). Check your @dukes.jmu.edu e-mail account on a regular basis.

Monitor MyMadison! The *Student Center* in [MyMadison](#) is where you will find advising information, register for classes, and where you can view "To Do Items" that will keep you on track towards graduation. Use the Student Center to update your mailing address and cell phone number. It is **your responsibility** to maintain accurate contact information. Check your account regularly. Don't miss important information!

Essential Links:

- [Graduate School Website](#)
- [Graduate Policies](#)
- [Forms for Graduate Students](#)
- [Thesis Guidelines](#)
- [Financial Aid Policies](#)

TGS Staff Changes. Following the retirement of the Dean of the Graduate School, Dr. Reid Lynn, Dr. Melissa Alemán has assumed the role of Interim Dean and Dr. Michael Stoloff is serving as the Interim Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

Have Questions? Please contact the following person if you have questions regarding:

Assistantships/Scholarships/Thesis/Dissertations	Laura Ryman (rymanle@jmu.edu)
Graduation/Commencement/Transfer of Credit	Debbie Juhasz (juhaszdi@jmu.edu)
Continuous Enrollment	Tracie Esmaili (esmailtb@jmu.edu)
General Questions	(grad@jmu.edu)

We welcome suggestions for this newsletter, including events and opportunities. Please send your submission to grad@jmu.edu .

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