

Summer Orientation

College of Arts and Letters

An Arts and Letters Welcome



Arts and Letters at JMU

- JMU is a national research university
- The College of Arts and Letters offers the small liberal arts college feel



Student Insight

The goal of group discussions is not to agree, but to learn something new. This principle revolutionized how I related to my peers.

Overview of the College

By the Numbers

- Over 3,100 students
- 260 faculty members
- 10 academic departments
- 13 majors & 60+ minors
- Pre-professional programs such as pre-law and pre-theology



Student Story

“Study groups have been my favorite way to form lifelines and friendships since transferring. Nothing bonds people like a midnight coffee run. I also met some of my closest friends in a first-day class group chat!”



Areas of Study



- Anthropology
- Communication Studies (SCOM)
- English
- Justice Studies
- History
- International Affairs
- Media Arts and Design (SMAD)
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Philosophy and Religion
- Political Science
- Public Policy and Administration
- Sociology
- Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication (WRTC)

Student Tips

**Think of questions in advance
to ask in class**

Take notes

Participate in class discussion

Get to know your professors

Unique Learning Opportunities

Conduct Undergraduate Research

- Work closely with a professor conducting, and even publishing, research (e.g. JMURJ)
- (FYRE) First-Year and Transfer Student Research Experience
- Join the 20% of CAL majors who present at local, regional or national conferences
- Present at JMU's Arts & Letters Undergraduate Research Conference



American Political Reform and Innovation Laboratory (APRILab)

Innovative Courses



**“Harrisonburg 360 Podcast”
ENG 360**



**“Hacking for Defense”
ENGR 498 / POSC 361**



**“Community Innovations”
IPE 490 / PPA 483 / WRTC 328**

Student Tip

**Explore and embrace as much of
JMU and Harrisonburg as you can
– starting now**

Community Engagement

- Community-Engaged Courses
- Innovation Center for Youth Justice
- Participation in Peace Corps (JMU in Top 20 nationally)
- Gandhi Center for Global Nonviolence
- Madison Center for Civic Engagement -- Democracy Fellows



Student Tip

Don't be afraid to try new things. Four years seems like a long time, but time flies. Don't let nervousness stop you!

Internships & Study Abroad

- **Internships**
 - Opportunities to pursue paid and unpaid internships and gain professional experience
- **Study Abroad**
 - 1 in 4 of our students gains study abroad experience while at JMU
 - CAL faculty are leaders in international education—designing and leading about 100 unique study abroad courses each summer



Student Story



“Joining an org made me feel that I was part of something.... I wanted to look for activities and friends so I joined the Latinx Student Alliance (LSA) club and I got the sense of belonging I was looking for.”

Student Clubs and Organizations

- Student Media
- Simulations
- Debate and Speech Teams
- Honor Societies and Clubs



Student Tip

Time management is the most critical skill to develop in college.

Arts and Letters in the Working World

○ JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY ○

Student Tip

Making mistakes or going out of your comfort zone can help you grow personally and professionally.

Create Your Dream Job



"The critical thinking skills that you gain as a liberal arts major... becomes such a superpower."

April Armstrong ('92)

CEO of AHA Insight

Majors: Modern Foreign Languages (French); Communication Studies

Student Professional Development

- CAL Career Readiness Conference
- Career Treks
 - Pre-Law to Richmond
 - D.C. on the Hill
- Career Engagement for Majors
- Alumni-Student Mentorship



Shannon Wilson, Director Professional Development and Engagement

Visit our Career page:



[JMU.EDU/CAL/CAREERS](https://jmu.edu/cal/careers)



Skills that Employers Value

National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) list of **most valued career-readiness skills** (in order of importance):

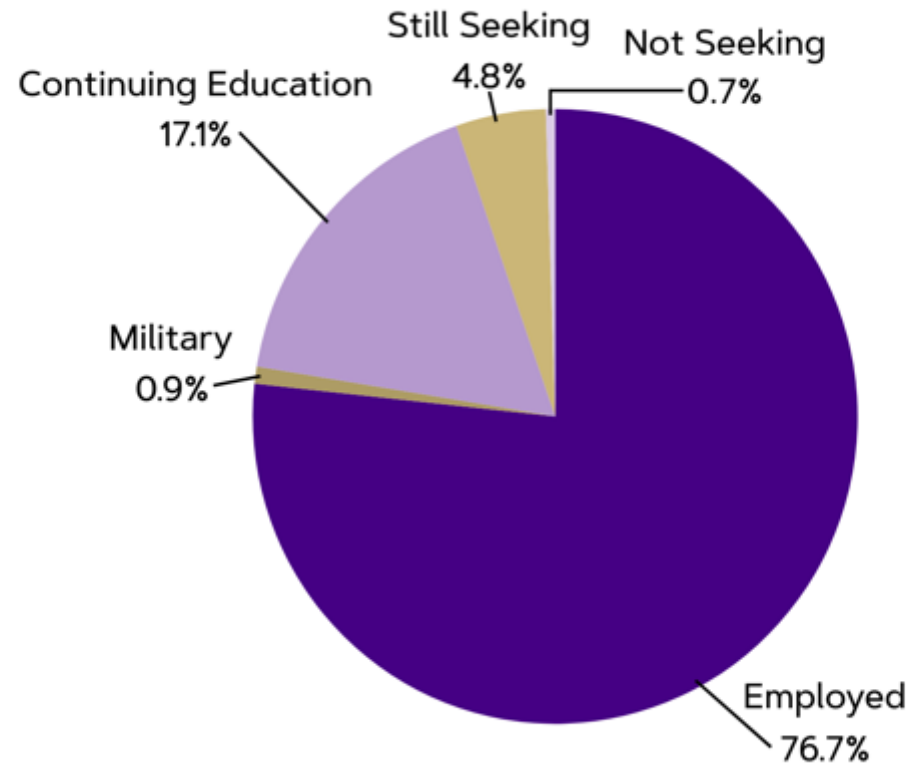
1. Problem solving skills
2. Ability to work in a team structure
3. Strong work ethic
4. Analytical/quantitative skills
5. Communication skills (written)
6. Leadership
7. Communication skills (verbal)
8. Initiative
9. Detail-oriented
10. Technical skills
11. Flexibility/adaptability
12. Interpersonal skills

Career Outcomes

94.7%

of students are
employed, continuing
education, or in
military service

College of Arts and Letters 2022 Graduates



Source: University Career Center, Class of 2022 graduates 6 months after graduation

Student Tip

Trust that your hard work will
pay off.

Keys to Your Success

Show Up

Communicate

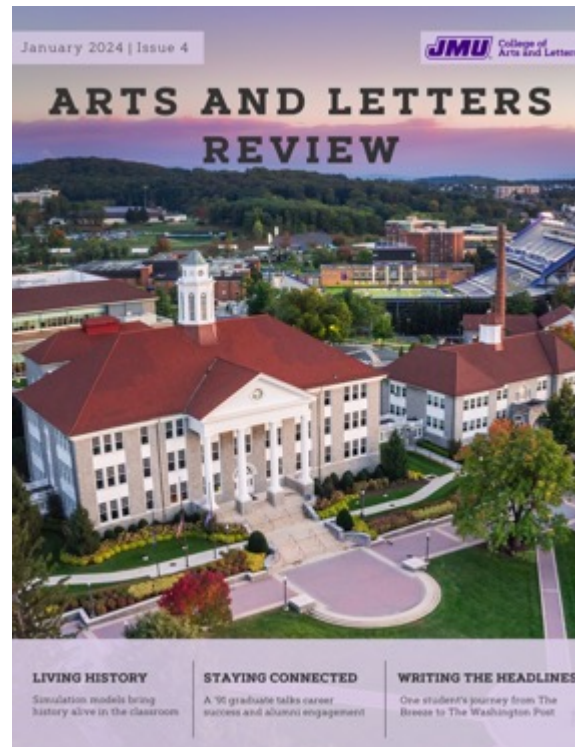
Ask for Help

Stay Connected!

@JMUCAL



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