LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

At James Madison College, students are challenged to be critical thinkers, problem solvers, and change agents, both in the classroom and throughout their lives during and after college. Madison students engage in a rigorous academic curriculum and majors that broaden their perspectives on an array of issues critical to the world today. And for many, the Madison experience sparks intellectual curiosity, the desire to dig deeper by conducting undergraduate research. Students pursue their interests in a variety of ways. Students may engage in undergraduate research for academic credit as part of a senior honors thesis or by preparing to present their original research at an academic conference. The most common forms of UR at Madison are: Senior Research Conference, Research as part of a faculty-led project, Independent Study, and Professorial Assistantships. Please speak with your academic advisor to learn more about these opportunities. Another popular way for students to showcase their research is through participation in the University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum. Every spring MSU brings together students, faculty and staff for this exciting event. Please visit their website at urca.msu.edu/uuraf. Another way to learn about undergraduate research opportunities is to visit the Venture website at venture.msu.edu. Venture is a database of undergraduate research, scholarship, and creative opportunities available at MSU.

MSU Scholars captures the research activities of MSU faculty (books, articles, etc.) as well as trending research topics on campus. Visit scholars.msu.edu/dashboard to learn more about the scholarships happening at MSU and to develop potential leads for research opportunities.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year a number of James Madison College students apply for prestigious national and international awards, scholarships, and fellowships. Over the past forty years, Madison students have won numerous Rhodes, Marshall, Truman, National Science Foundation and Mitchell awards. Madison students have also served as Carnegie Junior Fellows and received Fulbright awards. Many of these major national and international scholarships and fellowships are sponsored by international organizations and government agencies. These prestigious award competitions are rigorous and require that students think critically about important public policy issues, but also their short-term and long-term career goals and life plans. Madison students are encouraged to ask their academic advisor or the Assistant Dean about the awards and scholarships. It is never too early to begin thinking about these scholarships. First-year students should discuss these with their advisors and professors. Madison College faculty members are a great resource for learning more about these scholarships and fellowships. More information about national and international scholarships and awards can be found at studentawards.msu.edu and jmc.msu.edu/students/academics/scholarships.

LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

CAREER SERVICES

JMC Career Services has a dedicated Career Advisor who helps students explore career opportunities, develop professional skills, and prepare for life after graduation. Students and recent graduates can:

- Connect with the resources available to every Spartan through the Career Services Network.
- Explore career interests and options.
- Strategize with a Career Practitioner about ways to acquire career-related experience and/or pursue professional development opportunities.
- Develop job search strategies.
- Design professional documents (cover letters, resumes, LinkedIn profiles).
- Learn about and practice interview strategies.
- Connect with professional staff to review and respond to job offers.
- Build an understanding of the graduate and professional school application process.

Students are able to schedule career advising appointments with JMC's career advising team online through Handshake.

LIFE AFTER MADISON: CAREERS AND GRADUATE PATHS

James Madison College graduates pursue a wide range of meaningful and rewarding career paths. Some apply their degree directly by entering careers in their field or pursuing graduate or professional education, while others take a more interdisciplinary route, combining the knowledge and skills gained at Madison with their unique interests and experiences to build careers across a variety of industries. Whatever path they choose, Madison graduates leave with a strong foundation of transferable skills - including critical thinking, communication, problem-solving, and analytical reasoning - that are highly valued by employers and graduate and professional programs alike.

Each year, MSU's wider Career Services Network publishes a report documenting the post-graduate outcomes of Spartans across campus. Learn about Madison graduates' entry-level roles online at careernetwork.msu.edu/outcomes.

STUDENT GROUPS

James Madison College and Michigan State University have a wide variety of student organizations to check out and connect with during your time at MSU. For more details and information MSU's registered student organizations, please visit msu.campuslabs.com/engage.

LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Student Success and Engagement aims to promote a socially inclusive environment that nurtures excellence through equal opportunity and respect for everyone in the college. The Office seeks to enhance student, faculty, and staff interaction, and sensitivity to dimensions of social inclusion such as race/ethnicity, nationality, gender, social class, sexual orientation, and ability.

What students are offered:

- Cultural and educational programs and events
- Student leadership opportunities
- First year mentoring
- Informational resources
- Safe space to share concerns or issues
- Volunteer and student employment opportunities

EARLY START PROGRAM

The Early Start program is open to incoming first-year, first-generation college students who have indicated an interest in joining James Madison College. Program participants move into their Case Hall residence room prior to official move-in. In addition, the program seeks to:

- Acclimate students to Michigan State University and James Madison College;
- Nurture a sense of belonging among incoming students;
- Equip incoming students with the academic tools and resources they will need to be successful at Michigan State University and James Madison College;
- Foster connections between Early Start participants and James Madison College alumni, faculty, staff, and students; and
- Advance student success at Michigan State University and James Madison College.

We continue to work with students throughout the academic year and throughout their James Madison College matriculation. There is an application process to join the program. For more information, please contact Assistant Dean Brian Johnson at John3582@msu.edu.

MADISON ACADEMIC DIVERSITY INITIATIVE (MADI)

The purpose of MADI (Madison Academic Diversity Initiative) is to support underrepresented students during their transition into James Madison College by providing a support network for the participating students to ensure their successful retention while focusing on creating a more diverse, equitable and inclusive environment.

MADI offers professional development opportunities, social gatherings, topic focused community dinners once per month with local alumni, faculty and the Deans, mid-term study tables, a community service project, leadership opportunities within the college and a Leadership Retreat; all FREE of charge to you! Space is limited for this amazing program!

LIFE OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

STUDENT SUCCESS AND ENGAGEMENT

COLLEGE INCLUSION COMMITTEE (CIC)

The College Inclusion Committee (CIC) consists of administrators, faculty, staff and students in James Madison College who are working to foster an inclusive environment. The committee serves as a point of contact regarding ideas, suggestions, and concerns related to inclusion. For more information, please contact Assistant Dean Brian Johnson at John3582@msu.edu.