

# 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 adviser 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.html](http://urca.msu.edu/uuraf.html). Another way to learn about undergraduate research opportunities is to visit the Venture website at [venture.msu.edu](http://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](http://scholars.msu.edu/dashboard) to learn more about the scholarship 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 adviser 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 advisers 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 [nifs.msu.edu](http://nifs.msu.edu).

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## CAREER SERVICES

James Madison College is part of MSU's Career Services Network, which serves students from their first year to graduation and beyond through a variety of career-focused programming and services.

The college's Career Consultant is available to students year-round for one-on-one advising appointments and career-focused programming meant to:

- Review the variety of resources available to every Spartan through the Career Services Network
- Explore career interests and options
- Help students strategize about ways to acquire career-related experience and/or pursue professional development opportunities throughout college
- Develop job search strategies
- Assist with professional document development (cover letters, resumes, LinkedIn profiles, etc.)
- Discuss interview strategies and/or feedback
- Review job offers
- Walk through the process of applying for graduate and/or law school

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

## LIFE AFTER MADISON: CAREERS AND GRADUATE PATHS

Madison graduates pursue a wide range of interesting career opportunities. Some focus on a direct application of their degree—including earning advanced degrees through graduate study or law school—while others opt for a more indirect application of their discipline, interwoven with other skills and interests. Regardless of their final destination, Madison students develop a strong set of transferable, discipline-crossing competencies that are highly sought after by employers and advanced degree programs alike. Explore relevant career resources based on career interest areas and identity/affinity groups. Each page features curated content to assist you in narrowing down choices. To learn more, visit [careernetwork.msu.edu/channels/career-interest-groups/](https://careernetwork.msu.edu/channels/career-interest-groups/)

Each year the university administers and publishes the Destination Survey, a thorough report that documents the post-graduate outcomes of all MSU students who have a received a bachelor's degree aimed at offering a snapshot of their progress as they transition out of college. JMC's annual Destination Survey results are online at [careernetwork.msu.edu/outcomes/](https://careernetwork.msu.edu/outcomes/).

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## DIVERSITY AND STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Diversity Programming and Student 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

## FIRST YEAR MENTOR PROGRAM

The purpose of the First Year Mentor Program is to promote persistence, provide opportunities that encourage academic success, and foster a sense of belonging. The one-on-one model is designed to be student-centered and student-directed, allowing participants to easily blend their busy schedules with the requirements of the program.

The James Madison First Year Mentor Program strives to:

- Support First Year Students in their transition to James Madison and Michigan State University
- Encourage successful academic and personal development
- Promote student involvement
- Enrich the connections of Madison students to each other, the college, and the MSU campus

## 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!

## COLLEGE INCLUSION COMMITTEE (CIC)

The College Inclusion Committee (CIC) consists of administrators, faculty, staff and students in James Madison College who are working to increase diversity and foster an inclusive environment. The committee serves as a point of contact regarding ideas, suggestions, and concerns related to inclusion and diversity.

Visit the [JMC Diversity & Inclusion](#) website to find more details about these programs

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## STUDENT GROUPS

### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ORGANIZATION

Promotes cultural awareness and foreign policy in a competitive model UN format.

**Contact:** msuiro@gmail.com

### JAMES MADISON COLLEGE CONSERVATIVES

An MSU student organization dedicated to protecting valued beliefs in political and social issues.

**Contact:** www.facebook.com/JMCCConservative

### JAMES MADISON COLLEGE STUDENT SENATE

The James Madison College Student Senate was founded in 1993 by Madison students and faculty to serve as the official voice of students within the college. The senate advises the dean and faculty on college issues, provides leadership opportunities to students, and sponsors extra- and co-curricular activities.

**Contact:** JMCSenate@gmail.com

### MSU MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Organizes Model United Nations conferences for high school and middle school students.

**Contact:** msumodelun@gmail.com

### ROOSEVELT INSTITUTE

A student-run policy organization aimed at engaging youth in progressive activism, empowering them as leaders and promoting their ideas for change.

**Contact:** msuroosevelt@gmail.com

### STONEWALL SOCIETY

Mission: To provide LGBTQ Madisonians a voice through meaningful discussions about LGBTQ issues in the world and on campus, advocacy.

**Contact:** www.facebook.com/MSUStonewallSociety

### UNITED MULTICULTURAL MADISON ASSOCIATION

Mission: To engage students in cross-cultural dialogue and represent multicultural students.

**Contact:** www.facebook.com/jmcumma

### W.E.B. DUBOIS SOCIETY

An organization focused on black students in James Madison College.

**Contact:** msuduboisociety@gmail.com

*For a full listing of all MSU student groups, visit [msu.campuslabs.com/engage](http://msu.campuslabs.com/engage)*