

# James Madison University Bachelor of Science in Public Administration

## Associate Transfer Degree Plan in Political Science

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Complete at VCCS				Complete at JMU		
BACHELOR'S DEGREE REQUIREMENT	SATISFIED BY		Notes	BACHELOR'S DEGREE REQUIREMENT	Credits	Notes
Course	Credits	CC Course		Course		
UNST 000	1-2	SDV 100 College Success Skills or 101 Orientation		PPA 200	3	Students should complete this course as soon as possible after starting at JMU.
WRTC 000	3	ENG 111 College Comp I	ENG 111 + ENG 112 (Both must be completed for transfer credit for WRTC 103)	PPA 265	3	Students should complete this course as soon as possible after starting at JMU.
WRTC 103*	3	ENG 112 College Comp II or ENG 113 Technical-Professional Writing		POSC 295	4	Students should take Research Methods at least one semester before their Senior Seminar course.
JMU Degree Requirement	3	Any UCGS Arts or Humanities	These two courses must come from two different disciplines.	Courses required for the Public Management concentration or Public Policy concentration	15-19	Students choose one of two concentrations: Public Management or Public Policy.  Public Management students complete four concentration courses for 12 credits (ACTG 244, MGT 365, PPA 381, and PPA 415) and one Process, Issue and Application course for 3 credits.  Public Policy students complete PPA 359 (3 credits), two concentration electives (6 credits), and three substantive policy electives (9-10 credits).
JMU General Education Requirements*	3	Any UCGS Art, Humanities or Literature				
POSC 225	3	PLS 135 US Govt & Politics				
JMU General Education Requirements*	3	Any UCGS History				
	4	Any UCGS Natural Sciences		Senior Capstone	4-8	Public Management students complete PPA 420 Seminar in Public Management and PPA 496 Internship in Public Management (8 total credits).  Public Policy students complete PPA 492 Seminar in Public Policy (4 credits).
	3-5	Any UCGS Math	MTH 155 recommended			
JMU Degree Requirement	3-4	Second UCGS Math Course	Any UCGS math to satisfy the requirement of taking two math courses for the JMU B.S. degree			
JMU General Education Requirements*	3	CST 100 Principles of Public Speaking or 110 Introduction to Human Communication	CST 100 = SCOM 122 CST 110 = SCOM 121			
Elective	3	PLS 140 Introduction to Comparative Politics	= POSC 240	University electives	33-34	All students must complete at least 30 credits at JMU, 60 credits from a 4-year university, and 120 total credits

Elective	3	PLS 241 Introduction to International Relations	= POSC 230			
ECON 200	3	ECO 201 Principles of Macroeconomics				
Major Requirement	3	PLS 136 State & Local Politics or PLS 2XX Research Methods *	PLS 136 recommended for students interested in the Public Policy concentration.			
JMU Degree Requirement	3-4	Another PLS, social science, or science course	If you can take another political science class in addition to those listed above, you can satisfy the <a href="#">scientific literacy requirement</a> for the B.S. degree.			
Degree requirements, major electives, and/or transfer electives	15-17	Possible courses: - ACC 211 Principles of Accounting I - PLS 136 State & Local Politics - GIS 200 Geographical Information Systems I - General transfer electives	Students interested in the Public Management concentration could take ACC 211 and GIS 200.  Students interested in the Public Policy concentration should take PLS 136 if they haven't already.  Students who have completed all requirements can take additional courses from the rows above or general transfer electives to fulfill the minimum 60 credits required for an associate degree.			
CREDITS PRE-TRANSFER: 60-62				CREDITS POST-TRANSFER: 60		

\* Students who complete an approved transferable associate degree will qualify for a full waiver of general education requirements at JMU. Students who will not be earning an approved transferable associate degree should complete core community college requirements with courses that also satisfy requirements in JMU's general education program. For example, the WRTC 103 requirement can only be filled with ENG 111-112 at VCCS. Learn more about JMU general education equivalents offered at VCCS at <http://www.jmu.edu/transfer/vccs-transfer/genedequiv.shtml>. Email [transferadvising@jmu.edu](mailto:transferadvising@jmu.edu) with questions.

## TRANSFER GUIDANCE

### Admission into the Public Administration major at JMU

Students who meet the requirements for guaranteed admission to JMU are guaranteed admission to the Public Administration major.

- Students must complete an approved transferable associate degree from their Virginia community college with a minimum GPA of 3.0 for guaranteed admission to JMU. Students who do not qualify for guaranteed admission are encouraged to apply to JMU through the regular admission process. For additional details about requirements for guaranteed admission, please see the JMU letter of intent for your community college: [www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply/transfer-gaa.shtml](http://www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply/transfer-gaa.shtml).
- The political science associate degree is a great preparation for several majors within the political science department at JMU. Other possible majors include the B.A. in International Affairs and the B.S. in Public Administration. Find information and transfer courses for International Affairs at <https://www.jmu.edu/transfer/snapshots/ssinta.shtml> and for Political Science at <https://www.jmu.edu/transfer/snapshots/ssposc.shtml>.
- Have you discovered an interest in public administration later in your VCCS studies and don't have time to finish all the courses listed above? That's ok! Try to complete POSC 225, ECON 200, PPA 200, and PPA 265 before transfer, if possible.

### IMPORTANT LINKS & DATES:

- **University Transfer Center:** <https://www.jmu.edu/transfer/>
- **Register Intent to Transfer:** Students can notify JMU of their interest in transferring through College Connect at [www.TransferVirginia.org](http://www.TransferVirginia.org). Transfer applicants from a VCCS institution intending to apply through the Guaranteed Admission Agreement (GAA) must submit a Letter of Intent prior to applying. Requirements and forms are available at: <https://www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply/transfer-GAA.shtml>
- **Admission Application:** By March 1 for Fall or October 15 for Spring at <https://www.jmu.edu/admissions/apply/apply-online.shtml>
- **Financial Aid:** <https://www.jmu.edu/financialaid>
- **FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid:** Deadline is March 1. Learn more at [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov)

### WHAT SHOULD I CONSIDER WHEN SELECTING COURSES?

- Create a schedule for all required courses, pay attention to prerequisites and when courses are offered, complete your first math and English courses in your first year. For help, see Transfer Steps and Resource Center at [www.TransferVirginia.org](http://www.TransferVirginia.org).
- Connect with an advisor at your community college and make an appointment with a [JMU Next Transfer Advisor](#) in your first year.



### IS THIS DEGREE RIGHT FOR ME?

Both the public management and public policy concentrations require students to complete capstone requirements during their junior and senior years. For the public management concentration that includes a 200-hour internship and seminar in public management. For the public policy concentration that requires completion of a senior seminar in public policy..

### WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON MY DEGREE OF WORK I HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED?

- **Associate Transfer Degree Completion:** An approved transferable associate degree from a Virginia Community College will waive general education requirements at JMU.
- **Dual Enrollment – Completion of Associate Degree in HS:** The public administration program follows JMU's policies and score requirements regarding Dual Enrollment courses applied to their associate degree.
- **Credit for Prior Learning:** Credit for prior learning may be awarded differently at JMU than at your previous institution. JMU accepts and reviews AP, IB CIE, and CLEP examinations for all students with eligible scores. JMU will complete an independent review of the test score to apply credit to your JMU student record. Other credit for prior learning is awarded on a per case basis for the ADP and RN-BSN programs in consultation with the department of expertise. Credit for learning acquired in military service is awarded by the registrar's office using the ACE guide credit recommendation for study/experience listed on the military transcript and in consultation with the department of expertise.
- **Catalog Year:** Catalog year determined by first semester of attendance at JMU

### IS THIS COLLEGE RIGHT FOR ME?

- JMU is a mid to large size institution that behaves more like a smaller institution. Faculty and staff hold students as the top priority. JMU has a 96% satisfaction rate. 88% of classes have fewer than 50 students. JMU is the #1 most recommended public University in the US by the Wall Street Journal and Times Higher Education; JMU is the #1 Best College for Employment in Virginia according to U.S. Department of Education statistics compiled by Zippia. JMU has the highest post-graduation job levels of all Virginia colleges. Learn more about our college at <http://www.jmu.edu> and [www.TransferVirginia.org](http://www.TransferVirginia.org).

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- There is no limit to the number of credits you can transfer to JMU, but at least 50% of the credits required for graduation in your major must be taken at a 4-year college or university, and 25% must be taken at JMU. (Most JMU majors require 120 credits, so 60 must come from a 4-year and 30 must be taken at JMU.)
- Completing your Associate transfer degree post-high school satisfies all lower division general education requirements and increases the chance of completing your bachelor's degree.

- Exceeding 3 years or 90 credits at your community college means you may have exhausted your financial aid at that college and have limited your future financial aid at JMU.
- Students who may be eligible for Virginia's Two-Year College Transfer Grant should transfer in the fall or spring immediately following the completion of their associate degree. Learn more about the state transfer grant here: <https://www.schev.edu/financial-aid/financial-aid/federal-state-financial-aid/two-year-college-transfer-grant>

#### WHAT CAN I DO WITH THIS DEGREE?

The political science department, which houses the public administration major, offers programs that lead students to careers in the following fields public administration and management; federal, state and local government; international organizations; law; non-profit organizations; politics and campaigns; the intelligence community; and the private sector.

To enhance the marketability of its students, the political science department supports career-related internships, study abroad, the Washington Semester, and on-campus networking with alumni. Explore possible careers, salaries, and job outlook at [www.TransferVirginia.org](http://www.TransferVirginia.org)

#### PROGRAM SUCCESSES & HIGHLIGHTS

Most public administration students are able to complete their major and degree requirements within the standard four-year period. Graduates are also able to find jobs in a variety of fields—in both the public and private sectors—once they leave JMU. Our alumni network has proven helpful in directing our majors toward job and career prospects upon graduation. For those who are interested, the Washington Semester supplies both academic coursework as well as potential

career networking. Several political science faculty lead short-term study abroad courses in the summer, which help students gain exposure to global perspectives.

#### WHAT ARE MY CHANCES FOR GETTING ACCEPTED?

- Generally, two-thirds of transfer applicants are admitted to JMU. Competitive applicants will have mostly As & Bs and have completed at least one class in each of our four core areas (English, mathematics, lab science, and social science).
- JMU defines a transfer student as a student that has graduated from high school (or holds a GED equivalency) AND has taken courses in college after high school graduation.
- Learn more about applying at <https://www.jmu.edu/transfer/> or [www.TransferVirginia.org](http://www.TransferVirginia.org)

#### DO MORE WITH YOUR DEGREE!

The Department of Political Science offers several opportunities for public administration majors to combine their majors with other significant academic opportunities. The Department of Political Science offers a five-year MPA program which permits students to complete a Master's in Public Administration in one-year rather than the normal two years. Students admitted into the five-year MPA program in their junior year take both courses for their undergraduate program of study and for their graduate MPA program.

The Department of Political Science also offers a Washington Semester program that provides students in all three majors offered by the Department of Political Science the opportunity to spend a semester in Washington where they combine an internship experience with an academic program of study.