

**STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS WORKING GROUP**

**WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:**

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**TITLE:** Student Scholarship Audit

**PROBLEM:**

Students who receive institutional aid through Madison Recognition Awards or Madison Awards for Excellence are required to maintain a gpa of 3.0. According to studies completed by the [Journal of Blacks in Higher Education](#) grade point average for students of color is lower than that of white students.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

JMU financial aid and scholarship should audit its scholarship process to focus on the realities of how BIPOC students may not have the same GPAs as non-BIPOC students. Satisfactory academic progress of a 2.0 gpa. GPA would be evaluated annually. Students that do not fulfill the GPA requirement need to be able to retain their scholarships in order for them to remove the stress of paying for JMU as they move towards graduations. In addition, the scholarships and foundation office should revise and reconsider what is determined to be progress toward degree. In addition, they should consider an extension of scholarships into the summer and for two additional semesters in order to guarantee student completion in majors that require more time at JMU for completion. Scholarships should be extended to 10-12 semesters that cover J term and summer course work.

These scholarships could be applied to graduate work if the student is in a dual enrollment Bachelor/Master's program.

The JMU financial aid and scholarships should develop a long-term plan for scholarships to focus on retention, not just matriculation. For students that drop below a 2.0 GPA, they will be able to appeal their scholarships on an annual basis.

Scholarship support program- check ins, tutoring, internship support, graduate school mentoring.

**See following page for Rationale and Success Measures**

**WORKING  
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LEADERSHIP**



Hakseon Lee,  
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**RATIONALE:**

Create a culture in the scholarships and foundation office that focuses on the diverse needs of students and creates a definition of inclusive excellence. Develop a broader understanding of extenuating factors that may influence their GPA as well as their progress toward graduation. This should create a culture in which the scholarships office has space to define student success outside of a GPA and completion on a traditional 8-semester time line. This will also take into account the different majors and their difficulty. Focus on retention and supporting BIPOC students on their path to graduation and graduate work.

**SUCCESS:**

Success will be measured through retention #s of BIPOC Students, completion of BIPOC students who retain their scholarships, and completion rates of BIPOC students that receive scholarships.

Student survey to evaluate how these changes have affected BIPOC students.

Increase retention and completion rates of all students who receive institution and foundation scholarships.