**FACT SHEET: Justin Morrill College**

**Keywords:** Residential college; interdisciplinary; cross-cultural; liberal education; heuristic learning; living / learning; “lifelong learning”; “Life of Inquiry”

**Lifespan:** Fall 1965 through Summer 1979

**JMC Facilities:** All of Snyder-Phillips complex + some offices / classrooms in Baker Hall

**Enrollment:**
- **Plan:** 400 admitted per year; max 1200.
- **Actual:** 881 max (Fall Quarter 1968)

**Total Students:**
- **Estimated:** 2000 – 3000 (Declared ‘JMC Majors’)

**Degrees:**
- ‘JMC’ Degrees (BA with ‘Justin Morrill College’ as Major): 1124 confirmed
- 4 Years @ JMC + University Major: Unknown
- At Least 2 Years @ JMC + Transfer to MSU Dept. for Completion: Unknown

**MSU Catalog Descriptions:**
- “…a limited-enrollment liberal education program with an international emphasis.” (1966)
- “…most suitable for students who seek a broad liberal arts education. … an excellent undergraduate education for later professional study in such areas as teaching, law, and medicine.” (1967)
- “…designed for students who want a broad, well-rounded liberal education combined with study in depth in the university leading to careers in government, the arts, business, industry, law, social service, medicine, or education.” (1975)

**Curricular Structure (1965 – 1974)**
- Credit requirements are given in quarter hours

Save for minor variations in credit hours, this layout reflects the curriculum in effect for 2/3 of JMC’s existence.

|Electives: (As req'd to fill out 180 credits overall) |
|---|---|
|SYNTHESIS | SENIOR / 'CAPSTONE' SEMINAR: 5 |
|EXPERIENCE | FOREIGN / FIELD / INDEPENDENT STUDY: 12 |
|FOCUS / DEPTH | FIELD OF CONCENTRATION: 40 - 45 |
|BREADTH | JMC NATURAL SCIENCES: 20 |
| | JMC SOCIAL SCIENCES: 20 |
| | JMC ARTS & HUMANITIES: 20 |
|BASIC SKILLS | FOREIGN LANGUAGE: 15 - 24 |
| | INQUIRY & EXPRESSION: 12 |

**Some JMC Features Commended in 1973 MSU Evaluation Report:**
(JMC Dean Rohman, ‘JMC Today’, 1975)

- Learner-centered, interest-based, open-number curriculum
- use of independent study
- wide variety of types of teaching strategies
- interdisciplinary courses
- new subject matter introduced (from human sexuality to problem-solving)
- writing program
- intensive language program
- use of off-campus persons in JMC programs
- field study -- including the innovative ways we train persons to learn from experience
- involvement of students in volunteer work
- experiments in affective education
- written evaluation system
- field of concentration idea.

**Miscellaneous:**
- The most common characterization of a JMC graduate was ‘wandering minstrel’.
- JMC ranked #1 or #2 for aggregate GPA among MSU colleges for years.
- Honors College membership among JMC students was notably high: For example, 22% among Spring ’73 graduates, compared to circa 8% MSU-wide.

Compiled from official MSU documentation and other sources by Randall Whitaker, October 2009