Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur was established in 1962 as University of Jodhpur. The following four Government Colleges of Jodhpur became part of the University:

I. MBM Engineering College (now Faculty of Engineering with 11 Departments),
II. Jaswant College (now Faculty of Commerce & Management Studies with 04 Departments)
III. S.M.K. College (now Faculty of Law and Campus of Institute of Evening Studies and also being used presently for Undergraduate teaching of Faculty of Arts. This also houses Coaching Centre for Weaker Sections)
IV. K.N. College for Women (The multi-faculty constituent college of the University).

Shah G.L. Kabra Teacher's Training College also existed as private college at the time of foundation of the University. This is now one of the affiliated colleges of the University.

The University is proud of the fact that it has recognized several National Institutes located in Jodhpur for pursuing research leading to Ph.D. degrees. Three other centers working in the fields of Art, Culture, History and Heritage are also recognized by the University.

This is the only residential University in the State of Rajasthan, catering mainly the needs of students of western Rajasthan (the Marwar). Since, this University is located in the great Indian Thar Desert, its R&D activities centered on heritage, society and challenges of the region. This is the Western most University of the country and imparts education and conducts research in border areas neighboring Pakistan. It is our endeavor to provide education not only to citizens of the Desert/border Districts but also to the wards of Defence/Paramilitary forces and other Organizations which are working in strategically important sectors of the country.

Jai Narain Vyas University is a residential university but the Colleges situated within the municipal limits of Jodhpur are affiliated to the University. Date of UGC recognition as university July 14, 1962.