

The University of Massachusetts Amherst
Information for Veterans about Application, Admission, and Military Credits
For On-Campus Undergraduate Degree Programs

How do I apply for undergraduate admission?

UMass Amherst uses the Common Application form for admission to undergraduate degree programs.

Apply online: www.commonapp.org

Some parts of the Common Application may not be geared towards adult students. If you have questions, please email the Undergraduate Admissions Office at mail@admissions.umass.edu or call our office at 413-545-0222.

IMPORTANT: *If you are not applying for an on-campus degree program but plan to apply to an online degree program or University Without Walls, do not use the Common Application form. Instead, use the Continuing and Professional Education application form, available at www.umassulearn.net*

Should I apply as a freshman (first-year) or as a transfer?

- Students who have attempted 12 or more semester credits at a college or university after high school graduation (or GED) apply for **transfer** admission (even if they did not complete those credits).
- High school graduates or GED recipients who have attempted no college credits, or who have attempted fewer than 12 semester credits at a college or university after high school graduation (or GED), apply for **freshman** admission.
- Military and test credits are not used to determine freshman/transfer application status.

What do I submit, in addition to a freshman Common Application?

- Arrange for an official high school transcript to be sent directly from your high school to the Undergraduate Admissions Office at UMass Amherst. (If you earned the GED, please send both GED results and an official high school transcript.)
- Arrange for official SAT/ACT scores (if any) to be sent to UMass Amherst by the testing agency. Photocopies and Student Score Reports are not considered official. If you have not taken the ACT/SAT, just email the Undergraduate Admissions office at mail@admissions.umass.edu and ask for an SAT/ACT waiver, which is routinely granted to military applicants.

Request SAT scores: www.sat.collegeboard.org

Request ACT scores: www.actstudent.org/scores/send

- A military transcript is not required for the application process.

What do I submit, in addition to a transfer Common Application?

- Arrange for official college transcripts to be sent from all colleges you have previously attended, regardless of whether or not credit was earned. Student-printed transcripts are not considered official. If you have not already earned 27 or more semester college credits, please also arrange for an official high school

transcript to be sent directly from your high school to the Undergraduate Admissions Office at UMass Amherst. (If you earned the GED, please send both GED results and an official high school transcript.)

· If you have not already earned 27 or more semester college credits, arrange for official SAT/ACT scores (if any) to be sent to UMass Amherst by the testing agency. Photocopies and Student Score Reports are not considered official. If you have not taken the ACT/SAT, just email the Undergraduate Admissions Office at mail@admissions.umass.edu and ask for an SAT/ACT waiver, which is routinely granted to military applicants.

· A military transcript is not required for the application process.

Will I be admitted to UMass Amherst?

Freshman admission is more selective than transfer admission. However, in all cases, the discipline and commitment involved in military service is regarded as a significant factor in making the decision about general admissibility to UMass Amherst. In some cases where a specific type of academic preparation is required for the applicant's chosen major (example: engineering), an applicant may also be referred to a community college for preparatory coursework because the university does not offer coursework at a developmental level. In these cases, the university will provide advising assistance to assist veterans to prepare for their chosen major while at the community college.

When will I hear if I have been admitted?

Fall freshman admission decisions are mailed in late December/early January (Early Action) or March/April (Regular Decision). Fall transfer decisions are mailed in mid-March through May. All Spring decisions are mailed in mid-October through early December.

How do I get military credits to apply to my degree?

Although a military transcript is not required as part of the application process, you should also arrange for the Undergraduate Admissions Office to receive an official copy of your military transcript or test transcript:

Request military transcript: <https://jst.doded.mil/smart/signin.do>

Request DANTES transcript: www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html

Request CLEP transcript: <http://clep.collegeboard.org/military>

UMass Amherst does accept electronic military (joint service) transcripts.

Which of my military credits will transfer to UMass Amherst?

UMass Amherst adheres to the VALOR Act Academic Credit Evaluation Policy. We use the American Council on Education (ACE), CLEP, and DSST guidelines and apply the same standards to credits for military education as those applied to coursework from accredited colleges and universities. In other words, if ACE indicates that military credits are vocational in nature and are applicable to associate degree programs only (ex: mechanical repair credits), then those credits will not transfer to UMass Amherst. However, if ACE indicates that military credits are applicable to baccalaureate programs (ex: primary leadership credits), then transfer credit is possible.

How will I know which credits transfer after sending an official military transcript?

Freshman applicants have military credits posted to their official UMass Amherst records after they commit to enrollment and before they register for classes. Transfer applicants will be notified about military credits at the time of admission, with credits posted to their official UMass Amherst records after they commit to enrollment and before they register for classes. However, veterans wanting earlier notification about military credits may also (1) arrange for the Undergraduate Admissions Office to receive an official military transcript and then (2) contact Eric Lewison in the Registrars office for military credit information at edl@acad.umass.edu or 413-545-0555.

How will my military credits apply to my bachelor's degree?

A minimum of 120 semester credits is required for a bachelor's degree. Of them, 45 must be UMass Amherst degree-seeking credits and the rest may be transfer credits, including test credits and military credits. However, earning 120 semester credits does not guarantee a bachelor's degree, since those credits must also fulfill various requirements. If, for example, you start a major with many requirements after completing a considerable number of unrelated credits, then it may delay your graduation.

UMass Amherst bachelor's degrees have the following components: (1) general education requirements (approximately 1/3 of the degree requirements); (2) college requirements (ex: language requirement for majors in some colleges, but not for all); (3) major requirements (may vary from 30+ to 70+ credits); and (4) electives. The greater the number of credits required for the major, the fewer elective credits a student may need to complete the degree.

In general, military credits are used for electives towards a degree. However, with the approval of a faculty advisor, they may be used towards their major as well.

CONTACT UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS:

Address:

Undergraduate Admissions Office
UMass Amherst
243 Whitmore Admin Building
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003

Phone:

413-545-0222

Email Address:

mail@admissions.umass.edu

Freshman Admissions:

Jon Westover, Senior Associate Director of Freshman Admissions

Transfer Admissions:

Cynthia Goheen, Senior Associate Director of Transfer Admissions

Kim Montague, Associate Director of Transfer Admissions

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Rosalee Peterson, Senior Assistant Director of Transfer Admissions