Congratulations and Welcome to UMass!
Our Common Goal

Helping your student to thrive through a robust and meaningful educational experience

Parent/Family Orientation Program
Our Challenges

• Cultural Context

• Very Different From High School

• Freedom and Responsibility
How Can We Best Support Them?
“Triple Helix” of Liberal Arts Education

- Intellectuals
- Community Members
- Professionals
The “Right” Major is What They Love

• A major does not mean a career

• Ask what fascinates them

• Ask what matters to them
Gen Ed is an **Opportunity**

*College is a time to try on new hats and have your ideas turned on their heads*
Get Involved Early

• Shrink the “psychological size” of the university
• Meet friends with similar interests
• Learn new skills
• Contribute to something that matters to them

Parent/Family Orientation Program
Understand the Workload

- 15 credits = 45 hours of work per week
  - Class Meetings: 1 hr/credit/week = 15 hours
  - Homework: 2 hrs/credit/week = 30 hours

This is their full-time job!
Get to Know Faculty and Advisors

• Advice
• Recommendations
• Opportunities
• Resources
Be Proactive....
Don’t Wait to Get Help

- Office Hours: Faculty and TAs
- Writing Center
- Learning Resource Center
- Librarians
- Disability Services
- Cultural Centers
- Study Groups
NEVER MISS CLASS!

• Arrive Early
• Come Prepared
• Sit in First Two Rows
• PARTICIPATE!
• Don’t Leave Class Early
• Don’t Text, Surf, etc.
• *Don’t* Rely on Power Point Slides!
Know What’s Expected

• Students MUST check email daily

• The syllabus is a “contract”
  – Check at least weekly
  – Write deadlines in planner first day of class
  – Ask your student to share the syllabus
Ask Questions!!
Help Them to Stay Focused on Why They’re Here!