Living@UMass

Your Student’s Transition to the Campus and the Amherst Community
Some Facts for Us

1. Your student: First Year, Transfer community college, or Transfer from a four year institution?

2. Your student: from out of state or from MA?

3. Your student will live: on campus or off campus?

4. Your student: will have a college roommate for the first time or has already lived with a roommate in college?
Intersections of Community

- Roommates
- Inclusion & Connection
- Diversity
- Floor & Residence Hall Community
- Campus & Local Community
- Care & Compassion
- Self

- Civility
- Engagement
YOUR STUDENT

• Transfer & Spring Admit Transitions: new student culture, starting over, high expectations, missing information.
• Discuss your student’s expectations about coming to UMass Academics, making friends, and creating social networks.
• Time to examine their own values and strengths, talents, and self-image. What is real? What are media messages?
• A recognition we all have “conscious & unconscious” bias.
Advice from One Student to Another

Living at UMass Amherst
How to be Successful

• Get involved!
• Explore new and different organizations and opportunities
• Make connections with professors, staff, roommates and neighbors
• Learn to communicate both in the classroom and in your living environment
• Stay on top of schedules and policies in the classroom and around campus
• Budget money and time
• Safeguard your physical and mental well-being

• Remember UMass Amherst
Get Them Ready for a Roommate!

The most successful roommates,

• Respect and honor differences

• Engage in open and honest communication

• Frame clear expectations
Their Floor & Hall Community

Residence Hall Living is unique, it is likely to be the most diverse living environment your student will ever be a member of.

- Respect and consideration are key!
- Community members’ needs and schedules are different
- Sharing spaces such as bathrooms and lounges facilitate interaction and require communication and compromise
- Be open to differences and acknowledge your own comfort level with diversity
Our Community Living Principles

Safety ... Personal and Property
Inclusion ... Commonalities and Differences
Civility...  Acceptance & Courteous
Engagement ... Enrichment
Integrity ... Respect for Truth
Code of Conduct, Policies, & Laws

- Code of Student Conduct, On and Off campus
- Residential Life Community Standards
- Campus Policy on Alcohol & Drugs
- Title IX Compliance
- State and Federal Laws Apply
- UMass at UMass
Residence Hall Leadership

- Resident Assistants (RAs)
- Residence Directors (RDs)
- Assistant Residence Dir. (ARD)
- Facilities Staff
- Residential Service Desks

House Council
More Campus Resources!!

- Dean of Students Office; CMASS, Stonewall, CWC, MMC, SVRC, ORSL; Off Campus Student Services
- CCPH/Disability Services
Just for Parents

• Review with your student expectations and communication plans
• Register with Parent Services
• Always good to log into University & Self Help Web Sites:
  www.UMASS.edu
  www.umass.edu/parents/
  www.jedfoundation.org/parents
• Have your student update their Emergency Contact on SPIRE!
• Review their University To Do list
• Look at your own Insurance Policy & consider Renter’s Insurance
Just for Parents

• University Regulations and Laws that guide our relationship with our students and parents.
• FERPA
• Confidentiality: Therapist, Doctors, Clergy, Attorneys, Student Records
• Privacy: How we handle information and sensitive situations
• Remember, the Internet is public!
On Campus Housing Preference Application

On campus options:
- McNamara Transfer Community, MassTransfer RTP, Engineering RTP
- DRCs, SophoMORE, Honors, Special Housing Options
- 7 Residential Areas

Student Resources:
- NSO – Housing Lab
- Roommate Search
- Video tutorials

ALL new students must submit the Preference Application to apply for on-campus housing between November 9th and January 4th.

Assignment Notification available on SPIRE January 8th!
UMass Off Campus Housing

• Search available off campus housing and housemates
• Find and form mutually successful landlord/tenant relationships
• Numerous resources and guides
  – Housemate Agreements
  – Money Tips
  – Legal rights
  – Town by-laws
  – What landlords can and can’t do

umocss.org
Off Campus Student Services
Student Union 314

• Dedicated center for students who live off campus
  – Locker Rentals
  – Fridge and Microwave
  – Quick lookup Stations and Print Station
  – Work tables, comfortable chairs and WiFi
• Get connected/referred to campus resources
• Stay informed on campus activities and opportunities!

umass.edu/offcampus
like us at UMass OCSC
We get to actively choose the community in which we live.

Let’s choose to care.

Questions?

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