Who am I?

• A proud UMass Alum
  – Old Rochester Regional Highschool, 1977, Mattapoisett, Massachusetts
  – UMass, Undergraduate BA Education 1981
  – UMass, Graduate M.Ed. Education 1985
  – UCLA, Graduate Ph.D. Education 1990
  – University of Wales, United Kingdom, Faculty, 1990 – 1992
  – University of Georgia, Faculty, 1992 – 2005
  – Associate Professor, UMass 2005 – present
    • Department Head Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies 2013 – 2015
    • Chair, General Education Council 2013 – present
    • Chancellors Fellow 2018 - present
Who are the faculty at UMass?
“Faculty members agree almost unanimously that teaching students to think critically is the principal aim of undergraduate education” – Derek Bok
What do college students think is important?

“Many students … embraced a collegiate culture … little to do with academic learning…sharply at odds with that of the faculty…embraced a college life…defined by a peer culture oriented to nonacademic endeavors.”

Quoted from Academically Adrift, Arum & Roksa, 2011
What do we ask students to do?

• University requirements
  – 120 credits
  – 2.00 minimum GPA
  – General Education (about 1/3 of the curriculum)

• College Requirements (varies by college)

• Major Requirements (Program of Study)
The General Education Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst provides students with experiences, knowledge, and skills necessary to become well-educated, successful, and valuable contributors to our ever-evolving global community. The two complementary components of an undergraduate education are a student's choice of major, providing depth in a field, and his or her General Education choices, providing breadth of experience.
Major Requirements

Level 1 Core Courses (Junior Year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 393M Introduction to Early Childhood</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 282A ECE Pre-practicum (students must register for this pre-practicum with EDUC 393M)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 325 Introduction to Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 461 Principles and Teaching Reading and the Language Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 480E Education Pre-Practicum (students must register for this pre-practicum with EDUC 461)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 463 Principles/Methods of Teaching Mathematics Prep-6th grade</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 370 Junior Year Writing (currently offered spring only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 503 Sheltered English Immersion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Level 2 Clinical Courses and Field Experiences (Senior Year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall Semester:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 490A ECE Planning and Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 598A ECE Practicum I (students must register for this practicum with EDUC 490A)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 491D Seminar Early Childhood Education (students must register for this seminar with EDUC 598)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring Semester:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 361 Young Children in Families and Schools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*EDUC 505Y Student Teaching ECE PreK-2nd or EDUC 598B ECE B-5th Pracicum</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 491D Seminar in Early Childhood Education (students must register for this seminar with either EDUC 598B or EDUC 505Y)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Official Description of all majors, departments, and colleges.

All requirements listed herein.
Advising!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Great advisers listen, are engaged, and facilitate a supportive community. We also recognize that one can't do it alone; collaboration with faculty, students and staff is key. I have such wonderful students and they know my door is always open! --Advisor
What do faculty do?

- **Research: (40%)**
  - Early literacy
  - Children’s relationships with teachers

- **Service: (20%)**
  - Curriculum Committees
  - Accreditation

- **Teaching: (40%)**
  - HumDev 270 Child Development
  - EDUC 225 Controversial Issues in Education
  - FFYS 191 Thinking about teaching?
  - EDUC 393M Introduction to Early Childhood
Classes do not all look alike…

- Take out your phone.
- Find a video of a smart 4 year old.
- Share the video with a partner.
- What makes a 4 year old smart?
- Divide into team groups.
- Review today’s readings.
- In what ways do these articles agree? Disagree?
- Based on these two articles and the data we looked at last week design an infographic that illustrates your team’s perspective on standardized testing.
Successful students don’t all look alike…
What do students think about their freshman year?

• My freshman year was so confusing! I was living in Southwest (Pierpont) with a roommate who hit my every nerve (in the worst way).

• My biggest struggle was learning and understanding what my professors expected out of me. Each professor had a way of teaching things, and you were kind of supposed to adapt to that.

• I learned the hard way how to study for classes (1\textsuperscript{st} semester I had a 2.1 GPA, yikes!!)

• I thought I didn’t need to go to classes (I was wrong!)

• I brought WAY too much stuff!!! The clutter hampered my ability to be organized.
Looking back, what advice would students give to entering students?

• I wish I knew that sometimes, the class you do the worst in is the class you will learn most from.

• You are affected not only by yourself and actions, but the actions of your roommates, people of your floor, and cumulative residence hall..

• Talk to your professors! Get their advice! You’ll make good connections that way too.

• Find a hobby or something that makes you happy.

• Join clubs and intramurals and all that cool junk.

• Don’t be afraid to explore anything.
Top 5 Tips for a Successful UMass Student Experience

# 5. Grades Matter

(They’re important. But they’re not the only thing.)
“Your grades, whatever is your GPA, rapidly becomes irrelevant in your life.”
#4. **Discipline yourself to do your homework and your required reading and writing from day one. Be organized.**

(Don’t expect someone to keep after you to do it.)

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**Vanity Fair Magazine**
**July 2010**

“If you could go back in time and give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be?”

- Take school seriously: 45%
- Eat better: 15%
- Have more fun: 12%
- Marry differently: 9%
- Be nicer: 7%
Top 5 Tips for a Successful UMass Student Experience

#3. Get to know your professors.

(Go to office hours, sit up front in class, and ask questions. Form a discussion group and invite the professor. Get involved in a research project & experience both the research and academic sides of this place.)
Top 5 Tips for a Successful UMass Student Experience

#2. pursue different kinds of educational experiences and course Internships, practica, service learning Courses outside of your major that you take just for fun
Top 5 Tips for a Successful UMass Student Experience

#1. Remember why you’re here.

(Take advantage of all that UMASS Amherst has to offer, but get your academic situation solid. Then enjoy the rest of the place from a position of academic strength.)
#5. Remember that your student can be very successful here.

(They’ve got the academic stuff, otherwise we wouldn’t have let them in. Remind them of this whenever they need to hear it.)
Top 5 Tips for a Successful UMass Student Experience

#4. Discipline yourselves to let them make their own decisions. (Listen to them when they need to talk, but don’t feel you need to try and fix all of their problems.)
#3 Encourage them to see their academic advisor.
Top 5 Tips for a Successful UMass Student Experience

#2 Call and text them, and encourage them to call or text you.

By the way: you may be paying all or most of the bill, but the law and the policy is that grades and all other information are sent to the students, not the parents.)
#1. **Trust Them** -- Realize that this is a time of great social and intellectual growth for your students.

- Their opinions, viewpoints, and attitudes may change.
- They may come home at thanksgiving wearing weird clothes or they may be tattooed or have a pierced body part.
- *Have the courage to trust your student and give him or her the autonomy she needs to develop.*
Top 5 Tips for a Successful UMass Student Experience

Don’t worry so much.

NSO Program