Parent/Family Academic Perspective

By Assistant Dean Melvin Rodriguez

Winter 2018-2019
Welcome Parents/Families!!!
Transfer Students Orientation: Winter 2019
The UMass System

Amherst is the UMass “flagship” institution.
UMass Amherst Roles/Offices

Chancellor
Kumble Subbaswamy
(“Swamy”)  

Provost
John McCarthy  

School/College
Deans  
UG Academic Deans  
Advising Office  

Registrar’s
Office
(Whitmore)  

Financial Aid
Office
(Whitmore)  

Bursar’s Office
(Whitmore)  

Vice Chancellor for
Student Affairs
Enku Gelaye  

Dean of Students
Cara Appel-Silbaugh
UMass Amherst Schools/Colleges

- Commonwealth Honors College
- College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
- College of Humanities and Fine Arts
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- College of Natural Sciences
- School of Public Health and Health Sciences
- College of Nursing
- Isenberg School of Management
- College of Information and Computer Sciences
UMass Undergraduate Student Experience

PROFICIENCY

COMMUNITY

RESPONSIBILITY

AGENCY
UMass Amherst Resources & Support

• Your school/college advising office and Academic Dean
• Faculty, teaching assistants and office hours
• Peer Mentors in your residential hall
• Learning Resource Center (LRC) in the Library
• Writing Center
• Disability Services
• Counseling and Psychological Health Services
• Financial Aid Office, Bursar’s Office, Registrar’s Office
WHO WE ARE
Deans & Academic Deans

Deans
Oversee all aspects of a respective school/college

Academic Deans
Oversee the academic related issues within a specific school/college. The academic dean is the person you go to with major issues that revolve around academics.

In most cases students will work with academic or faculty advisors when dealing with course planning.
Academic Advisors

Academic Advisors help guide you through your academic career at the University. They will help students navigate their major and college requirements but students are responsible for selecting their own courses and completing their requirements.

The academic advisors are partners in helping students obtain their undergraduate degree at the University.
UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS
The University is a top tier institution

- Great institution to study, learn and grow
- Make connections with top faculty
- Take part in undergraduate research
- Explore subjects they didn’t know existed
- Explore the other five college campuses
- Learn in and outside the classroom
Academic Expectations: Students expected to attend classes and inform instructors before they miss – keep track of individual attendance policies.
University Requirements

General Education Requirements:
University requirements that are designed to provide a common, broad-based, well-rounded experience by exposing students to a variety of curriculum areas.

Credits:
Students have 10 semesters to complete 120 credits.

GPA:
A minimum 2.0 GPA is required to remain in good academic standing and to graduate.
College and Major Requirements

**College Requirements:**
Courses that all students in the college, regardless of their respective major must take. In many cases, these are foundation and capstone courses.

**Major Requirements:**
Each major has a set of requirements that may vary slightly with regards to in class and outside class experience. Minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in the major.
FERPA

The Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act
Course Registration and Orientation
Transfer Orientation Day

Course Registration/Orientation

Lots of help available today; students will be provided with many opportunities to ask questions!

- Small group meetings with peers
- Meetings with academic deans
- Advising appointments with advisors

Please note that the advisor the student meets with today may or may not be the permanent advisor.
Transfer Orientation Day...

Students will be selecting their courses

- We understand that transitional can be the most difficult
- Flexibility and trust is key to ensure best experience
- Add/Drop Period will allow some time for students to change schedules
- Students will register in April for the fall 2019 term
Academic Schedule

Dean’s Recommendation
Students should consider taking 4 courses in first semester (if possible)

Courses for Spring 2019
• College Requirement
• Major Requirement
• College or Major Requirement or General Education
• Free Elective
GET INVOLVED!
Academic Options

• 5 College Exchange
• Domestic Exchange
• Study Abroad
• Research
• Internships/Coops
• Research
• Double Majors/Minors
Transfer and Additional Information

• Students should meet with academic advisors and utilize their advising services/office
• Maximum credits transferable to University is 75
• Courses can be further verified with syllabi, and/or course descriptions
• Last semesters courses at other institution might be in process of transferring