August 8, 2017

Greetings from UMass Amherst!
We hope that both you and your student are having a fantastic summer. The 2017–2018 academic year is around the corner, and we can't wait for your student to arrive on campus! This email contains Move-In reservation information, “To Dos” for new and returning students, and much more. Some preparation over the next few weeks can make the beginning of fall semester much easier.

Before your student arrives this fall...

Enrollment Verification
Students and families needing verification of full-time enrollment at UMass Amherst for insurance coverage, financial aid, or other purposes can request it through SPIRE’s Student Center. Using the “Other Academic” drop-down menu, your student should select “Enrollment Verification,” and follow the instructions. For questions, contact the Office of the University Registrar, (413) 545-0555.

Fall Semester Bills
Fall semester bills are due August 17. All financial information is posted on SPIRE and can be viewed and paid online through QuikPAY. Paper invoices will not be mailed. Visit the Office of the Bursar’s website for more information.

My UMass App!
Download the My UMass app for iPhone and Android before Move-In. It’s packed with important information including reservation instructions, a detailed parent/caregiver checklist, and weather and traffic updates. The app includes all of the maps you will need; printed maps will not be available.

Move-In: Reservations, Boarding Passes, and Other Information – August 14-28
Beginning August 14, every student with an on-campus housing assignment must complete a Move-In reservation and print their boarding pass for Fall 2017 Move-In. Residential Life’s Move-In website has the information you and your student need, including the reservation schedule, video tutorials, guides and checklists, driving directions, and more.

Luggage Program for International and Out-Of-State Students
International and Out-of-State students are able to mail belongings before arriving to campus. For more information, please read the Summer Luggage Program doc.

Mail and Package Delivery
The Residential Service Desks will begin processing mail and packages for your students starting Monday, August 28. Please note that mail delivery will be suspended from September 1 through September 3 due to Fall Move-In. Normal package delivery will resume on September 4. Students who need packages delivered over the weekend can order directly from Amazon.com. The Amazon Pickup point in the Campus Center will be accepting packages through Fall Move-In.

Student Health Insurance
Students taking five or more credits in a semester are automatically enrolled in the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) and charged on the semester’s tuition bill. Students may be eligible to waive the plan. The deadline to complete the online waiver is September 18, 2017. SHBP information, waiver eligibility guidelines, and instructions are on the University Health Services website; a link to the online waiver process is also posted on the SPIRE home page under Additional Links > Health Insurance Waiver > Waiver > Please go here to waive.
Student Employment

The Student Employment Office (SEO) website is a great place for students to find part-time and seasonal job opportunities. Students beginning their first job at UMass Amherst must complete several forms and provide specific types of identification before starting work. Students with questions should contact SEO.

UMass Amherst Alerts and Emergency Contacts

Check with your student to ensure they've enrolled in UMass Amherst Alerts, the campus emergency text messaging system. Subscribers receive immediate updates on ongoing emergencies and campus closures, along with instructions on staying safe. It’s quick and easy to sign up: from the SPIRE menu, choose UMass Amherst Alerts > Cell Phone Info.

Also encourage your student to supply emergency contact information. On SPIRE, go to Main Menu > My Personal Information > Emergency Contacts. Students should check their UMass Amherst Alerts and emergency contact information once a semester to make sure it’s up-to-date.

For new students...

New Student Immunization Program (NSIP)

College students must have certain immunizations and submit documentation to the university before coming to school. Learn what's required at the University Health Services website. Students who've completed necessary immunizations should log in to the UHS patient portal to enter their information before the end of the add/drop period, September 18.

Mandatory Action Items to Complete on Moodle

All new students, including transfers, are required to complete MyStudentBody and YIS (Your Intervention Strategies – Preventing Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence and Stalking) by September 1. Students received an email shortly after their Summer Orientation with information about the two courses and instructions on accessing and completing them. To complete the courses, students need to log into Moodle using their NetID and password, select Intro to UMass Community Values and Resources, and click on the Action Items section. Online Orientation students access the courses in Moodle as well, by selecting Online Orientation and clicking on the Action Items section.

- MyStudentBody meets the federal Drug-Free Schools and Community Act mandate. The course includes separate modules covering alcohol use and illicit and prescription drug use. Information about the course is also posted on the MyStudentBody website.
- YIS – Your Intervention Strategies meets federal mandates of the Campus Sexual Violence (SaVE) Act. For questions or technical or other difficulties accessing and completing YIS, contact New Students Orientation at newstudent@umass.edu or (413) 545-2621.

Transcripts and Test Scores

All first-year students must send an official final high school transcript to Undergraduate Admissions by the beginning of the semester if they haven’t already. Those who do not will have a hold placed on their record, preventing them from registering for spring courses. Transfer students and any other new student who took college courses elsewhere must send official, final transcript(s) if they were enrolled in courses in the spring or summer. Students may earn advanced standing and/or credit based on their AP or SAT II scores. Official score reports must be sent to UMass Amherst’s admissions office to receive credit. Students may have already requested this when they took the test; if not, they should go to the College Board website to make arrangements. The mailing address for Undergraduate Admissions is 37 Mather Drive, UMass Amherst, Amherst, MA 01003.

Amazon@UMass Amherst

Amazon@UMass Amherst is our official online bookstore. Depending on the course, students can purchase or rent textbooks online and take advantage of free one-day shipping to campus and/or free one-day pickup at the Amazon@UMass Amherst location in the Campus Center. Here’s what students need to know before ordering:

- Students should activate their free Amazon@UMass benefits on the Amazon@UMass website and add the Amazon@UMass location to their
University Helpline
The University Helpline provides students with answers to a range of basic questions, including billing, financial aid, student health insurance, class registration, meal plans, parking, and more. Helpline staff can only provide student-specific information directly to the student, unless the student has designated an authorized payer and/or completed a FERPA privacy waiver. Learn more about authorized payer on the Office of the Bursar’s website. To reach the Helpline, call (413) 545-6900, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., until September 1. Follow them on Facebook for useful tips, important dates, and more.

2017-2018 Hall Opening and Closing Information
As you start planning for the upcoming year, we would like to remind you of residence hall closures during the academic year. Please note that Brett, Cashin, Johnson, Prince, and the North Apartments will remain open from September 3 through May 10.

- **Thanksgiving Break:** Halls close Saturday, November 18 at 10 a.m. and reopen Sunday, November 26 at 10 a.m.
- **Winter Session Break:** Halls close Thursday, December 21 at 10 a.m. and reopen Sunday, January 21 at 10 a.m.
- **Spring Break:** Halls close Saturday, March 10 at 10 a.m. and reopen Sunday, March 18 at 10 a.m.
- **May Closing:** Halls close Thursday, May 10 at 8 p.m.

Advisory Council Application
The UMAPA Advisory Council is the process of recruiting new members for the 2017-2019 term. The council represents UMass Amherst parents/family members by taking an active role in the experience of undergraduate students and advising the Office of Parent Services and other departments on matters of concern to all parents and family members of undergraduates. To learn more about the council and to complete an application, visit the UMAPA website. Applications are due August 18.

August Polling Question
Where have you gone to eat with your student locally? Participate in the poll and view previous results on the OPS website.

Important Dates
**August 14:** Move-in reservation process begins
**August 17:** Fall bills due
**September 1:** First-year Move-In, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
**September 2:** Transfer Move-In, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
**September 2-4:** Fall NSO for first-year and transfer students
**September 3:** Returning Student Move-In, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
**September 5:** First day of classes
**September 18:** Last day to add/drop classes, waive the Student Health Benefit Plan, and submit immunization records

- Address book.
- Amazon@UMass will hold their package(s) for up to 15 days, so they may order textbooks prior to the start of school.
- Required course materials are listed on SPIRE. Students should log into their SPIRE account to view their class schedule and requirements.
- Although Amazon.com is the university’s official online bookstore, some instructors may require students to buy custom course packets that may not be available on Amazon. In that case, the instructor will provide specific instructions via SPIRE on where to purchase and pick up materials.
- Amazon does not accept the UCard debit account as payment. Do not deposit funds to your student’s UCard account for book purchases; use a debit card, credit card, or another form of payment accepted by Amazon. Get more information on the UCard website.
Website links
Residential Life Student Services Calendar
Student Employment Office
University Health Services
University Health Services Patient Portal

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Office of Parent Services. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We are more than happy to assist you.

In case of a campus emergency, always follow the university’s main web page at www.umass.edu. The website will display a distinctly colored stripe at the top containing pertinent status updates and information related to ongoing emergencies.

Sincerely,
Jeanne Horrigan, Director
Office of Parent Services

Email: umassparents@umass.edu • Phone: (413) 577-4444 • Fax: (413) 545-9631
Office of Parent Services website • UMass Amherst Parents on Facebook
• UMass Amherst Family to Family blog and Facebook group
Treating Our Parents as Partners

UMass Amherst Office of Parent Services