Greetings from the Office of Parent Services!

Spring is in the air. As we look forward to more warm and sunny days in Amherst, our students are preparing for fall and summer session course registration, final exams, Commencement, and more. Below is some information to help you and your student wrap up this school year and prepare for the fall semester.

Fall 2017 course registration
Course registration for fall 2017 begins Monday, April 3. Please talk with your student about fall semester plans. At this time, students should have appointments to meet with advisors to talk about course selection. If your student hasn’t already made an appointment, they should do so as soon as possible. Students will have access to the online registration system throughout April and can make changes to their schedules until the Add/Drop period ends on September 18.

Summer session
Course registration for UMass Amherst summer classes has already begun. With two six-week sessions, starting May 22 and July 10, and with the flexibility of online learning, it’s easy for students to keep earning credits toward graduation over the summer months. UMass Amherst summer session has hundreds of undergraduate classes from which to choose. Students can:

- Take the pressure off their fall and spring course loads
- Work toward graduating early
- Make up credits to keep their graduation date on track

If your student wants to take a summer class, urge them to take a look at the complete list of classes, check their SPIRE account for summer session add/drop dates, and register.

Finishing the spring semester
Final exams
Final exams begin May 4 and end May 11. The spring 2017 final exam schedule is now available. Students can view their final exam schedules by logging onto SPIRE. If your student has conflicting exams or has three or more exams scheduled in one calendar day, they should contact the Office of the University Registrar for assistance.

Hall closing
The residence halls will close for the spring semester on Thursday, May 11 at 8 p.m. Graduating seniors and Commencement volunteers will automatically be granted permission to stay until May 14 at 10 a.m. All other students who have a specific need to stay late may make a request from April 24 until 8:30 a.m. on May 11 using the form on the Residential Life website. As you plan for your student’s departure from campus, please visit the Residential Life website starting April 3 for more information about traffic patterns, loading zones, area storage facilities, and helpful tips for a successful move-out.

For parents of students participating in fall 2017 online room selection
Please confirm with your student that they have used their appointment to select a housing assignment for fall 2017 if they plan to live on campus. The multi-year room selection process ends March 31 at 4 p.m.
Commencement updates
Commencement Weekend is rapidly approaching. Here are a few more reminders to help you and your senior graduate get ready for the big day.

- Every senior should check their SPIRE account to be certain the graduation date and major are listed correctly. If the date is incorrect, seniors must speak with the Office of the University Registrar senior staff in Whitmore, Room 213. Your student should check the diploma address to make sure it’s current; this is where UMass Amherst will mail your student’s diploma.
- Commencement Weekend is scheduled for May 12 and 13. Visit the Commencement website for up-to-date information, including the complete schedule, parking information, low-cost dining opportunities in our award winning dining commons, how to make arrangements for special needs, and where to get caps and gowns.

Family Weekend: Save the date
Don’t miss our next Family Weekend, to be held October 13-15. It offers something for everyone, from academics and the arts to wagon rides and other classic fall activities. Registration opens in August, but you can make hotel reservations at off-campus locations now. Information about hotel room blocks and a simplified schedule of events is available on the Family Weekend website. Continue to visit our website for updates as more events are added through late spring and summer.

April Poll Question
If you were to send your student something, what would it most likely be? Participate in the poll and view previous results here.

Important dates
April 3: Registration begins for fall 2017
April 17: Patriots Day (no classes)
April 18: Monday class schedule followed
May 2: Last day of classes
May 4: Final examinations begin
May 11: Residence halls close at 8 p.m.
May 12-13: Commencement Weekend

Helpful links
Commencement 2017
Family Weekend
Office of the University Registrar
Residential Life Calendar
Summer 2017 Class Schedule

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 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,

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