



Office of Parent Services
37 Mather Drive
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Amherst, Massachusetts 01003

October 13, 2009

Greetings from UMass Amherst

Now that the temperatures and leaves have dropped, we know that we are deep into the fall semester. This email contains information about attendance policies, midterms, the Learning Resource Center and much more!

Flu Vaccination Update

The H1N1 vaccine is coming soon! UHS will offer flu vaccination clinics for students once it is available. Check the University Health Services (UHS) website regularly for information (<http://www.umass.edu/uhs>).

In the meantime, seasonal flu vaccinations are still available on campus. UHS is hosting clinics every Thursday from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. through December 17, subject to vaccine availability. You can find registration information on the UHS website. Students who already have an appointment scheduled with a UHS provider can receive the seasonal vaccination at that time. Also, Maxim Health Systems is conducting a public walk-in seasonal flu shot clinic on Tuesday, October 27, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., in the Campus Center auditorium.

Policy on Class Absences

As we get closer to the winter months, the number of students missing classes due to illnesses increases. If a student cannot make it to a class or an exam, it is important that he or she notify the instructor before the class or exam is missed. Please take the time to review the Policy on Class Absences (<http://www.umass.edu/provost/admin/policies/absence.html>) and share it with your student. Students should also refer to their course syllabi for additional attendance/absence policies and preferred contact information for individual courses and instructors.

Mid-Semester Exams

Students will be facing their first major exam or midterm sometime this month. Please encourage your student to take the time to prepare thoroughly. It is a good idea to review their course syllabi to see what information will be covered, and to confirm when and where the midterm will be held. (Sometimes exams are given in the evening.) If your student has questions about the material on the exam, suggest he or she contact the professor either during office hours, by email, or by making an appointment to meet.

Final Exams

The Final Exams period is December 14-19. The complete Fall 2009 Final Exam schedule is available on the Registrar's website at http://www.umass.edu/registrar/gen_info/final_exams.htm.

Traveling Home

With the release of the final exam schedule, students start making plans to return home for the holidays and winter break. Go to the Visitors Center website (http://www.umass.edu/visitorsctr/Directions_to_Campus) for information on transportation to and from the Amherst area.

Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is located on the 10th floor of the W.E.B. Du Bois Library. It is a great resource for students who are having a difficult time with course work, those who are preparing for exams, and those who just want to improve a grade. Peer to peer tutoring, student lead supplemental instruction sessions, and media viewing facilities are available to students free of charge. Students must show their UCards to use calculators, books, and media. Learn more about tutoring, supplemental instruction, schedules, and hours on the LRC website: <http://www.umass.edu/lrc>.

Scholarship Night for Sophomores and Juniors

Tuesday, November 17

6:00 p.m.

Memorial Hall

The UMass Amherst Alumni Association and the Office of National Scholarship Advisement (ONSA) will host a scholarship information night for all sophomores and juniors. Space is limited. Stay tuned for more information by visiting <http://www.umassalumni.com/students>.

Frameworks for the Future

Frameworks for the Future is an ongoing celebration of the campus community's achievements, as we strive to meet the goals outlined in Chancellor Holub's Framework for Excellence. This month we've celebrated two milestones: the dedication of Skinner Hall (the renovated home of the School of Nursing) and Chancellor Holub's installation as the 29th leader of our campus at the Faculty Convocation. Other exciting events scheduled for this semester include the groundbreaking for the Band Building and the opening of the Recreation Center. You can watch Chancellor Holub's convocation address to the faculty, view pictures, and follow upcoming events by visiting the Frameworks for the Future website: <http://www.umass.edu/umhome/future>.

Important Dates

October 16 - Multi Bands Pops concert at the Fine Arts Center

October 17 - Fall Open House for prospective students and Homecoming

October 22 - Last day to drop with "W" - Undergraduate, Stockbridge, Continuing & Professional Education

October 28 - Majors Fair

November 11 - Veteran's Day

Links to Other UMass Amherst Websites

Registrar's Office: <http://www.umass.edu/registrar>

Writing Center: <http://www.umass.edu/writingcenter>

Office of the Chancellor: <http://www.umass.edu/chancellor>

Transportation to/from Campus: http://www.umass.edu/visitorsctr/Directions_to_Campus

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

Sincerely,

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Treating Our Parents as Partners