

Greetings and congratulations on your acceptance to the Communication major at UMass Amherst!

You were directly admitted to the Communication major on the basis of your high school GPA, class rank, and SAT scores. So, we're writing to encourage you to join the Residential Academic Program in Communication (COMM RAP) at the University.

COMM RAP provides a "small college" living and learning environment for a group of about 24 high achieving first-year Communication majors. Living and attending small classes with other high achieving students encourages academic excellence and a smoother adjustment to the University.

This coming Fall, COMM RAP students will live in the Pierpont/Moore Low Rise cluster in the Southwest area of campus. Students will have the option to live with others in the COMM RAP program or with other students living in Pierpont/Moore cluster.

In the Fall semester, COMM RAP students will enroll in a small section of Introduction to Interpersonal Communication (COMM 118) as well as a departmental Seminar, (COMM 191S), and College Writing 112, all taught in the residential area. In the Spring semester, students will enroll in Introduction to Media & Culture (COMM 121).

For more information about COMM RAP, go to <http://www.umass.edu/rap/Communication.htm>.

Full information about the RAP program in general is at <http://www.umass.edu/rap/>.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ENROLLING IN THE COMM RAP PROGRAM, GO TO: [www.umass.edu/rap/procedures.htm](http://www.umass.edu/rap/procedures.htm). ADMISSION WILL BE ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS.**

COMM RAP participants are also encouraged to participate in Commonwealth College - the Honors Program -- which allows students to continue taking small classes with other high achievers beyond the first year. For more information about Commonwealth College, go to [www.comcol.umass.edu](http://www.comcol.umass.edu).

You do not have to participate in COMM RAP to pursue a major in Communication, so we would like to tell you a little bit about the Communication Department more generally. Our teaching and research goals are analytical: to understand how communication processes work, whether an argument between friends, interaction among people of different cultures, how children make sense of a television show, or how new technologies affect society. We do offer a few courses with "skills" components -- for example, video production, screenwriting, and public speaking -- but our focus is much more academic than technical. Our students are very successful at gaining hands-on training and skills through internships and various extra-curricular campus experiences.

We've attached a two page sheet to give you more information about the Department.

Our webpage has descriptions of our courses, our requirements, and a variety of other opportunities in the department (go to [www.umass.edu/communication](http://www.umass.edu/communication)).

Once more, to find out how to enroll in the COMM RAP program, go to [www.umass.edu/rap/procedures.htm](http://www.umass.edu/rap/procedures.htm).

Congratulations again! Whether or not you join COMM RAP, we look forward to meeting you in the Department next fall!

Sincerely,  
Carolyn Anderson  
Acting Undergraduate Program Director

Michael Morgan  
Professor and Chair