

Financial Aid Important Dates & Timeline for Prospective Students

To apply for financial aid at UMass Amherst, you need to complete one form, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, commonly called the "FAFSA."

Priority Deadline

▀ The FAFSA should be filed by:

- February 14 to meet the campus deadline of March 1.
- Be sure to list the University of Massachusetts Amherst as one of the schools on your FAFSA form.
- UMass federal school code number is 002221.

▀ When will the review process begin?

- If you have been accepted for admission to UMass Amherst the process will begin once Financial Aid Services receives the results of your FAFSA.
- Be sure that your name, date of birth and Social Security number are the same on your admission application and FAFSA form.

Timeline

▀ October

- Start the financial aid process early by beginning your search for private scholarships.
- Talk with your school counselor about scholarships from local businesses, employers, professional associations, community foundations, unions, and religious organizations.
- There are also free reliable online searches but be sure you read and understand their privacy and information sharing policies.
 - Avoid scams, never pay to search for scholarships; there are plenty of free searches available. If a scholarship service asks for payment it may be a scam.
 - Avoid gimmicks that promise a scholarship or your money back and never give out your credit card number, bank account information or your Social Security number.

▀ November - December

- Ask if your school offers a "financial aid night" and plan to attend.
- Also you can get an early start on the financial aid process by filling out a FAFSA4caster at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov.
 - If you use FAFSA4caster when you're ready to officially apply for financial aid, FAFSA4caster will transfer all of your data to the FAFSA on the Web application.
 - FAFSA4caster will also generate your Federal Student Aid PIN which you will need when you officially apply for federal student aid.
 - Your parent should also apply for a PIN (if you are dependent) at the Federal Student Aid PIN Web site, www.pin.ed.gov.
- Pick up a 2009-2010 FAFSA on the Web worksheet from your high school guidance counselor or from the UMass Amherst financial aid office.

▀ January

- Complete and submit the 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- You can complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
 - You will use your PIN to sign your FAFSA application.
 - Continue your search for private scholarships.

February

- You will receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), which is a copy of your completed FAFSA.
 - Make sure that UMass Amherst is listed on your SAR.
 - The federal government will direct you to a secure website to review your SAR.
 - Please review the information on your SAR carefully and make corrections to your information so that your initial financial aid award is as accurate as possible.
- Continue your search for private scholarships

March

- UMass Amherst Financial Aid Services priority deadline is March 1 for the FAFSA form.

April

- Newly admitted freshman begin receiving financial aid award letters.

May - June

- May 1 is the deadline to submit the Acceptance Form and deposit for first-year students.
- June 1 is the deadline for transfer, Stockbridge and postgraduate students.
- Newly admitted transfer students receive financial aid award letters.
- If you are borrowing, complete your Direct Loan Program Master Promissory Note (MPN) and Entrance Interview form for student Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans.

July

- Enrollment begins for 9 month payment plan with Tuition Management Systems (TMS). Fall semester bills are available from the Bursar's Office.

August

- Fall semester bills are due.
- Disbursement of completed financial aid for the fall term happens at the end of August.
- All required and requested forms must be complete and you must be registered for classes for disbursement to occur.

September

- Financial aid awards are finalized after the add/drop deadline.

December

- Spring semester bills are mailed to students.

Notes

- You must reapply for student financial aid every year by completing a FAFSA form.
- If you are transferring to the University of Massachusetts Amherst your aid does not automatically transfer with you, you must request that your FAFSA form be sent to UMass Amherst.
- If your FAFSA form is selected for verification by the Department of Education or UMass Amherst the necessary forms and documentation to complete the process will be requested.
- Financial Aid offers made prior to the completion of the verification process will be considered tentative until the requested items have been reviewed.