New Student Guide

UWW Student Center – your student web portal .......................................................... 2
New Student Orientation – on-campus ........................................................................ 2
New Student Orientation – webinar ............................................................................ 2
Your support team ....................................................................................................... 2
Your preliminary transfer credit evaluation ............................................................... 2
Tuition and fees ............................................................................................................ 2
Your financial aid ......................................................................................................... 3
SPIRE – Accessing your student record ..................................................................... 4
Your student email address ......................................................................................... 4
Academic calendar ....................................................................................................... 4
Course delivery options ............................................................................................... 5
Your first semester classes ........................................................................................ 5
Earning credit for your experience ............................................................................. 6
Registering for classes ................................................................................................. 6
Accessing your online classes – blackboard learn ...................................................... 8
Paying for your classes ................................................................................................. 8
Computer requirements ............................................................................................... 8
Technical support ......................................................................................................... 9
Getting your textbooks/ e-books ................................................................................. 9
Accessing the library ................................................................................................... 10
Getting your UMass Student ID .................................................................................. 10
Health insurance ......................................................................................................... 10
Tips for adult students ............................................................................................... 10
Resources .................................................................................................................... 10
Diploma and certificate ............................................................................................... 12
UWW Course Descriptions ...................................................................................... 12
UWW Student Center – your student web portal

The UWW Student Center is your one-stop-shop for staying informed and connected. When in doubt, go to the Student Center! The Student Center contains up to date information, links to important resources, instructions, forms, handbooks, scholarship information, and opportunities to connect with classmates via social media. You can access the Student Center from the very top of any page on the UWW website. Bookmark it. You’ll be spending a lot of time here. To log into the UWW Student Center, just enter your NetID and password (these will be emailed to you by UMass Information Technology - IT).

New Student Orientation – on-campus

You are invited to our UWW New Student Orientation on Saturday, January 12 from 2-4pm at UMass Amherst. Please RSVP to our admissions coordinator. This orientation is a great place to meet fellow UWW students, your academic advisor and the UWW faculty instructor who will be teaching your degree planning class. We will walk you through what to expect and address any questions or concerns you may have. For those of you who live far away, we offer webinars just for you.

New Student Orientation – webinar

For those of you who are unable to attend the in-person New Student Orientation, we will be hosting new student orientation webinars on Wed, January 9 from 7-8pm (EST) and Sun, January 13 from 1-2pm (EST). Participating is easy and you don't have to RSVP. Log-in instructions available at our webinar information page.

Your support team

Your UWW support team consists of your academic advisor, UWW faculty and administrative staff. We are all here to help as you work toward completing your degree. Learn more about your support team by reading our bios. If you have any questions or you need advice and guidance at any point in the process, please call us at 413-545-1378 or email us.

Your preliminary transfer credit evaluation

If you did not previously attend UMass Amherst as an undergraduate student (which is most of you), you received your preliminary transfer credit evaluation (PCTE) with your acceptance letter. This evaluation shows how many of your credits have transferred in at this time and how many of the university’s general education requirements you have already completed. It’s important to remember that this evaluation is preliminary. During your first semester, an advisor may be able to assist you in transferring certain additional credits from courses and trainings. If you have any questions or concerns about this evaluation, please do not hesitate to call or email, and one of our advisors will be happy to review your evaluation with you.

If you’re a former UMass Amherst student, you will not receive a PTCE and must immediately have all official transcripts from any colleges you attended prior to and after being enrolled as a UMass Amherst student sent to the UWW office.

Tuition and fees

Here is an overview of tuition fees. And here are the estimated costs for a first year UWW student. UWW has worked hard to keep our fees low for our adult students. On-campus, "day-division" students pay additional fees that UWW students do not pay. These additional fees give on-campus students free or discounted access to certain events and services that UWW students do not have free or discounted access
to, including housing and meals, legal services, childcare tuition assistance, campus athletic events, and use of the recreation center.

Your financial aid

Your financial aid package

If you haven't already, soon you will receive an email from Information Technology (IT) containing your UMass NetID and password. This will allow you to access your financial aid information online through the UMass student records system called SPIRE. If your financial aid package is not there when you visit SPIRE, it’s likely still being processed. To check on the status of your financial aid, call UMass Financial Aid Services for assistance at 413-545-0801. It will help if you identify yourself as a UWW student.

Need a New Computer?
Submit an appeal form to the Financial Aid Office requesting a loan for the purchase of a new computer.

Required credit load

If you have been approved for financial aid, you will receive an award package for your first semester based on six credits (minimum enrollment for eligibility for federal financial aid). If you enroll for more or less than six credits, your package will be automatically adjusted up or down based on your actual enrollment after add/drop. Your federal financial aid will begin with your first semester. If you choose to take classes before the start of your first semester, be aware that you will not be eligible for federal financial aid for those classes. You are a non-degree student until your first semester and non-degree students are not eligible for federal aid.

Verification

Each semester, students may be selected for verification, which requires that they submit additional documentation before receiving financial aid. If your Student Aid Report (SAR) indicates that you have been selected for verification, submit the requested documents immediately to avoid delays.

Applying for federal aid

If you need financial aid and have not yet applied, do so ASAP. Learn about financial aid and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (UMass Amherst school code: 002221).

Military benefits

If you have questions about your military benefits, contact your educational officer and UMass Amherst Veteran’s Services.

Grants, waivers and scholarships

Some students studying early care and education may be eligible for a state grant. Some students are eligible for tuition and fees waivers. Each semester, we post information about scholarship opportunities in the "announcements" section of the UWW Student Center. The UMass Financial Aid Services website also provides information about scholarship opportunities.
SPIRE – Accessing your student record

SPIRE is the online university student records system. In SPIRE, you can: register for courses, check your financial aid status, view your bill, update your contact information, update your date of graduation, see your grades, get your unofficial transcript, and more.

Visit SPIRE regularly to see what’s going on with your records, monitor your progress toward graduation, and see if you have any “to dos” or “holds.”

Soon after you were accepted, an email was sent to your personal email address from UMass Amherst Information Technology (IT) containing your NetID and a temporary password which you need to log into SPIRE (student information system) and your student email account. The email came from this address. If you can’t find it, check your promotions, spam or trash folders. If you still cannot locate the email, contact IT as soon as possible.

Here’s how to access SPIRE. You can also access SPIRE from the UWW Student Center. If you have any problems with your SPIRE account, contact IT.

Your student email address

Soon after you were accepted, an email was sent to your personal email address from UMass Amherst Information Technology (IT) containing your NetID and a temporary password which you need to log into SPIRE (student information system) and your student email account. The email came from this address. If you can’t find it, check your promotions, spam or trash folders. If you still cannot locate the email, contact IT as soon as possible.

Your student email address will be your NetID @ umass.edu. For example, if your NetID was lskywalker, your email address will be lskywalker@umass.edu. You are required to have a student email address, so activate it immediately and check it regularly. For problems with your student email, contact IT.

The UMass Amherst email system is called Google Apps. To set up and access your student email account, go to Google Apps, which you can get to from the UWW Student Center or at the top of the UMass Amherst homepage where it says “Email.”

Your student email is the only way UMass and UWW will communicate with you. If you don’t check your student email regularly, you will miss important, time sensitive information.

Check your spam folder regularly to make sure you are not missing important university emails, and add important UMass email addresses to your address book so they will not be blocked, including the email addresses of your advisor and instructors. Also add online course technical support and the course registration office.

Academic calendar

Here is the Academic Calendar. The academic calendar is also available at the UWW Student Center. UMass Amherst has two main semesters – fall and spring – and each are about fourteen weeks long. There are also two 5 to 6-week-long summer sessions and one 4-week-long winter session. You can log in to your spring classes, check out the syllabi, and contact your instructors beginning Tuesday, January 15 during what’s called Preview Week. Classes start Tuesday, January 22.
**Course delivery options**

You can take classes 100% online or take advantage of blended and on-campus course options. The majority of UWW students complete their degrees 100% online.

**Online**

UMass Amherst online courses are convenient and flexible, allowing you to take classes without ever having to come to campus. They are also asynchronous. This means you’ll have syllabi, assignments, class participation, and deadlines like any on-campus class, but when you choose to get your work done is up to you.

*Online classes are convenient, but they aren’t any easier.*

**Blended**

Blended courses are online courses that include four to seven in-person Wednesday or Saturday class sessions a semester. When you choose a blended course, you’ll complete most of your coursework online while also benefiting from periodic face-to-face class sessions with your instructor and classmates. For many students, blended classes help them feel connected and foster a smooth transition to 100% online coursework.

*How do I find a blended course in SPIRE?*

Choose “Blended” under Mode of Instruction in the Class Search.

*Can I take all my classes blended?*

No. Only the four required UWW courses are offered in this format.

**On-campus**

You have the option of taking on-campus courses. They do cost more than online courses, though. So, before you enroll in an on-campus class, contact us and we’ll give you the low-down.

**Your first semester classes**

As a UWW student, you are required to take four core UWW courses before you graduate as part of the degree completion progress. Offered in either 100% online or blended formats, these courses are designed to support you in building your program of study, earning credit for your experience, and enhancing the skills and knowledge relevant to your life and work. These courses also carry general education designations, helping you meet university degree requirements.

*As a new student, you are required to register for:*

One degree planning class:

- UWW 191G Frameworks of Understanding (I) – 4 cr  
  OR
- UWW 394A Concepts in Learning Integration – 4 cr
Which degree planning course should you register for? Your academic advisor will email you a recommendation.

UWW students come into our program with diverse academic histories, as well as professional and personal experience. These courses were designed with that in mind. All students are required to complete one of the degree planning courses. UWW’s Academic Advisors review your academic record and notify you as to which course will be the best fit.

In this course, you will work with a UWW faculty instructor to build your degree plan and your own individualized program of study called an area of concentration (AOC). Your degree plan is like a map of how you will get from where you are now to graduation. Here are the course descriptions. Also, want to learn more about the members of your support team? You can read their bios.

If you take a second course, you are required to register for one of the following:

- UWW 310 Experiential Reflections of the Technological World (IE) – 4 cr
- UWW 320 Experiential Reflections of Leadership (IE) – 4 cr
- UWW 330 Experiential Reflections of Public Policy (IE) – 4 cr
- UWW 340 Experiential Reflections of Organizations (IE) – 4 cr
- UWW 350 Experiential Reflections on Health (IE) – 4 cr
- UWW 360 Experiential Reflections of Learning and Education (IE) – 4 cr

If you want to take more than two courses:

You could register for a second Experiential Reflections course (you’re required to take two before you graduate), or you could take a course that meets a general education requirement you still need to fulfill. If you want to take more than two courses, contact us for advice.

**Future courses**

Questions about courses for future semesters will be answered in your degree planning course.

**Earning credit for your experience**

In your second semester, you will take a class called Writing About Experience (UWW 370). In this class you will write a series of essays reflecting on your life and work experience. These essays will become what is called your prior learning portfolio, which will be evaluated for up to thirty UMass Amherst credits. The average UWW student earns fifteen credits – some earn more and some less. You may also be able to earn transfer credit for professional and military trainings and certifications you have completed in your area of study. You will learn more about how to earn credit for life and work experience in your first semester degree planning class.

**Registering for classes**

Class registration begins on Monday, November 5 and continues until the end of the Add/Drop period on Monday, February 4.
Your enrollment appointment

Although spring registration begins on Monday, November 5, that may not be when you can start registering for classes. You can start to register on the date and time of your enrollment appointment. To find out when your enrollment appointment starts, log in to your SPIRE account. Your enrollment appointment date and time will be located in a blue box on the right side of your homepage, labeled “Enrollment Dates.” Enrollment appointments will be assigned approximately one week before the start of registration (or within one day of matriculation if you sent your Intent to Enroll on or after November 5). If you do not receive an appointment within this timeframe, contact Continuing and Professional Education Registration at 413-545-3653 or by email.

How to register for classes

You will register for your courses in SPIRE. You can also access SPIRE from the UWW Student Center.

To accommodate different learning styles, we have written instructions listed below, a visual step-by-step guide to registering for classes, and YouTube videos on searching for classes and enrolling in classes.

1. Log in to SPIRE.
2. Check to make sure your enrollment appointment has started.
3. From your SPIRE homepage, click the green box on the right side of your screen that says “Search for Classes.”
4. Select the correct “Term” (Spring 2018).
5. Under “Course Subject,” select the appropriate option. To register for UWW designated courses, choose “University Without Walls.”
6. All UWW designated classes are offered online or blended.
7. Under “Mode of Instruction,” choose Online or Blended.
8. You will see a list of courses. A green circle next to “Status” indicates that the course is open.
9. Click on the course number next to where it says “Section” to read a course description.
10. To select a class, click “select class” (green button).
11. Then click "Next" (green button). Doing this will add the class to your shopping cart.
12. Now click on your shopping cart. Select the course(s) you want and click "Enroll" (green button).
13. You can confirm your course enrollment by visiting your course schedule, which is always located on your SPIRE homepage at the top of the page under the heading "Academics."
14. For more help refer to our step by step guide to registering for classes, or visit Information Technology.

I just signed up for classes, but when I log in to Blackboard, they’re not there!

Your classes won’t be available to view until Tuesday, January 15, the start of Preview Week. If it’s after January 15 and you still can’t see your classes, they probably just aren’t loaded into the system yet. New course registrations are uploaded into Blackboard once a day.

Dropping a class

Life happens and sometimes students need to drop a class. Before you drop, talk with your advisor to discuss your options. If you drop a course on or before Monday, February 4, the course will not appear on your transcript and you will receive a 100% refund of class charges and fees. If you drop a class after February 4 but no later than March 19 (the end of the withdrawal period), the course will appear
on your transcript as a “W” and you will receive a 50% refund of class charges and fees. After March 19, it will be extremely difficult to withdraw from a class and no refunds will be issued. Keep in touch with your advisor, keep your eye on the academic calendar, and read up before you drop a class.

Help with registration

If you have any trouble with the registration process, contact the CPE registration office at 413-545-3653 or by email. Or feel free to contact the UWW office at 413-545-1378 or by email and we’ll be happy to walk you through the process. Occasionally, students are unable to register for classes because a “hold” has been placed on their account. If this happens, contact the office that placed the hold to find out what you need to do to have it removed.

Accessing your online classes – blackboard learn

You will access your online and blended classes through a course delivery system called Blackboard Learn. You can log in to your classes, view your syllabi and contact your instructors during Preview Week, which starts Tuesday, January 15. Classes start Tuesday, January 22. A few “dynamically-dated” courses start later. To log into your classes, go to the Blackboard Learn login page and enter your SPIRE NetID and password. You can also access Blackboard from the UWW Student Center.

We understand that for many of you, this is the first time you’ll be taking an online course. Don’t worry. Your first classes will be taught by patient UWW faculty who are there to help you. The Blackboard Learn Orientation provides an online tutorial and resources to help you figure it all out. And 24/7 technical support is available via live text chat, email, or phone at 1-855-757-7055.

Paying for your classes

Billing

The UMass Bursar's Office will send an email to your UMass email address notifying you when a bill is ready to be viewed in SPIRE. If you are receiving financial aid, your financial aid will be applied against your bill, and you will be responsible for paying the remainder. Learn more about how to pay your bill in SPIRE.

Payment plan

UMass Amherst offers a payment plan option called UPay to make it easier for you to pay for your college education.

Refunds

- Courses dropped by February 4 (end of add/drop) 100% refund
- Courses dropped from February 5 to March 19 (end of withdrawal period) 50% refund
- Courses dropped after March 19 NO REFUND

Computer requirements

To take your courses online, you’ll need high-speed internet and a computer robust enough to run a current operating system and browser. You will also need a recent version of Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. Microsoft Works is not adequate. You will not be able to use the iPad or other mobile devices for your online classes. Learn more about recommended computer requirements for being a UMass Amherst student.
(Mac requirements; Windows requirements), as well as what kind of basic operating system and web browser (refer to the “Popular Questions” section) you'll need to take online and blended classes. If your computer does not meet basic requirements, you will need to invest in a new one. After you have received your financial aid award, you may submit an appeal to Financial Aid Services requesting a loan to purchase a new computer. Such appeals take up to six weeks to process.

**Microsoft office 365**

Office 365 Education, the Microsoft 365 Office suite, is available to UMass Amherst undergraduate and graduate students at no cost. Learn more about its features and access a link to download Office 365 Education on the UMass IT website.

**Technical support**

Having technical trouble? Help is available!

**Information technology (IT) help center**

UMass Information Technology (IT) Help Center is available Monday through Friday 8:30am-5pm EST to help with problems with your SPIRE and UMass email accounts. They are also the folks to contact if you are unable to get into Blackboard Learn using your SPIRE NetID and password. They can help you receive your student email on your smart phone. Take a look at the IT Guide for Students for an overview of the other services they offer. You can contact them by phone at 413-545-9400, live chat, or submit a help request form. Remember to identify yourself as a UWW student and have your student ID number handy.

**Blackboard Learn technical support**

Help is available 24/7 to provide technical support for your online courses. You can contact them anytime at 1-855-757-7055 or via live text chat. This is the first place you should go if you are having technical problems once you are logged into Blackboard Learn. However, if you are unable to log in to Blackboard Learn, these folks can't help you with that. If your Blackboard Learn login credentials aren't working, you need to contact IT.

**UMass E-Learning**

The UMass Amherst e-Learning team is your second line of defense if you are experiencing technical problems once you are in your online courses. Contact them Monday through Friday 8:30-5pm EST at 413-545-9583 or by email. However, if you are unable to log into Blackboard Learn, these folks can't help you with that. If your Blackboard Learn login credentials aren't working, you need to contact IT.

**Getting your textbooks/ e-books**

There are two places you can look to find out what textbooks/e-books you will need. The first place is SPIRE. On your SPIRE homepage, click on “Textbook Summary.” If you have not yet enrolled in a class and are still shopping, you can search by subject or course name, click on the course section, and you will see a course description as well as information about textbooks. The second place you can find out about your textbooks is in the course itself. Log in to your online course starting January 15 – Preview Week – to view your syllabi and textbooks/e-books.
You can order your textbooks and other course materials through Amazon Course Materials for UMass, or through any new or used bookseller you choose. If you have any questions about the syllabus or required textbooks/materials, feel free to contact the instructor.

**Accessing the library**

UMass Amherst has an outstanding library with extensive online access. You will have access to online research databases, e-books and articles, and you can have UMass Amherst library books and articles mailed to your home through a service called Library Express! And that’s not all... UMass UWW has its own UMass Library webpage and librarian. The [UWW library webpage](#) is a portal that will connect you to everything the library has to offer and provides resources on topics such as how to choose a paper topic, how to conduct a search, and how to find books and journals. You can even live chat with a UMass reference librarian. Your friendly UWW librarian is named Dave. Feel free to call or email him. He’s here to help. For local students, Dave also has reference hours on campus at the UMass Library (this may exclude holidays).

How do I get my UMass Amherst library barcode? If you have a student ID card, it'll be on the back. Or, it's in SPIRE. Main Menu > My Personal Information > UCard Information. On the right side will be your library barcode even if you don’t have a student ID.

**Getting your UMass Student ID**

You’re not required to have a student ID. However, it is handy for getting student discounts when you’re at the movie theater. More importantly, your student ID has your library bar code on the back if you want to check out books. There are two kinds of UMass student IDs. The [UCard](#) is the official UMass Amherst photo ID carried by students and faculty who live and work on campus. You can get one, too, if you are willing and able to visit campus. The [Distance Learning ID Card](#) is for online students who want an ID showing that they are a UMass Amherst student but are unable to visit campus. This ID will be mailed to you. Both cards cost $35.00, and the only semi-meaningful difference between the cards is that one has a photo and one does not. It is important to know that since UWW students do not pay the student activities fee (this was done to keep costs low for our students), UWW students - even those with an ID - do not receive student discounts for attendance at athletic and fine arts events, or the use of recreational facilities. You can still take advantage of events that the university has to offer, but you’ll need to pay full price.

**Health insurance**

In order to be eligible to purchase health insurance through UMass Amherst, you must be a enrolled in six or more credits per semester (fall and spring). The [Student Health Benefit Plan](#) summary provides eligibility and coverage information and instructions on how to enroll.

**Tips for adult students**

Check out our [time-honored tips](#) to help you get through college as an adult.

**Resources**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Web</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UWW Student Center</td>
<td></td>
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<td>UWW Student Handbook</td>
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<td>SPIRE</td>
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<td>Registrar</td>
<td>UWW Student Center</td>
<td>800-922-8211 or 413-545-3653</td>
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<td>413-545-0337 or 413-545-2368</td>
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<td>Scholarship Search</td>
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<td>• Distance Learning Resources</td>
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Diploma and certificate

University Without Walls is a major of UMass Amherst. Students who graduate from this program will receive a diploma that identifies a bachelor’s degree earned in University Without Walls. Students will also receive a certificate indicating they have successfully completed an area of concentration.

UWW Course Descriptions

**UWW 191G Frameworks of Understanding**

*Course Description:* This course, which carries an interdisciplinary (I) general education designation, is designed to develop the skills in critical thinking, analytical and reflective writing, and research necessary for the UWW student to design an individualized, interdisciplinary degree and to develop a prior learning portfolio. It is in this class that you will develop your degree plan. Course assignments include readings about critical thinking and analytical writing across disciplines, as well as exercises and papers designed to apply these skills, particularly to the examination of experience. A portion of the course will be devoted to identifying and evaluating source materials for academic writing and then incorporating and documenting them in papers. *This course satisfies the interdisciplinary (I) general education requirement for the University of Massachusetts.* 4 credits. *Goals:* To help students:

- expand analytical reading and critical thinking skills;
- learn more about how theories are developed, how they are supported by evidence, and how they change (or do not change) in the face of new evidence;
- use different kinds of evidence to clarify thinking and to communicate ideas to others more effectively;
- explore ways to put personal experience in larger social, historical, and theoretical contexts;
- investigate different approaches to research and develop information literacy skills; and
- research and develop individualized degree plans.

**UWW 394A Concepts in Learning Integration**

*Course Description:* Concepts in Learning Integration is the study of how experiential learning theory contributes to the process of designing an academic area of study. Utilizing research skills, self-reflection, critical analysis, and knowledge acquired through previous coursework, students will connect theory and practice by doing research that demonstrates an ability to use primary and secondary sources, solve problems and communicate effectively. Peer and instructor feedback will be integral to the learning process. Students will construct a degree plan that incorporates past coursework and experience. *Goals:* To help students:

- recognize different disciplinary approaches and limitations to addressing complex real-world problems and overarching questions;
- integrate multiple perspectives from experiential and curricular experiences (general education, area of concentration) while exploring a central theme;
- make connections between theory and practice in order to develop alternative solutions to challenges encountered in the workplace and community;
• develop collaborative approaches to learning through community by sharing similar competencies/skills in different areas of interest;
• develop transferable skills such as critical thinking, creative thinking, reflection, and research;
• create an individualized academic degree plan that integrates educational and experiential experiences, and aligns with career and academic goals.

**UWW 310 Experiential Reflections of the Technological World**

In this course students will examine the principles and frameworks of technology as a way to better understand their professional and other life experience. This course satisfies the integrative experience (IE) general education requirement for the University of Massachusetts. 4 credits. **Goals:** To help students:

• to briefly outline human technological advancement from muscle-powered agricultural ways of life up to the present;
• define the meaning of modern “technologies” and seek to understand their ongoing relationship to the natural sciences;
• examine the influence of technologies on social relations, cultural forces, human connectedness and individual practice through the exploration of student experience and practice with technology;
• discuss how technologies may both “include” or “alienate” through an understanding of how humans adapt, embrace, or reject technology; and
• demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on, integrate, and apply his or her learning and experience derived from exposure to the various general education disciplines to his or her area of concentration.

**UWW 320 Experiential Reflections of Leadership**

Students will examine the principles and frameworks of leadership from both the perspective of leaders and those serving leaders within their professional and other life experience. This course satisfies the integrative experience (IE) general education requirement for the University of Massachusetts. 4 credits. **Goals:** To help students:

• reflect upon and write about personal experiences with leading and being led;
• explore the dynamics of leadership in various groups and organizations;
• place personal experiences with leadership in a larger context through the study of leaders and ideas about leadership; and
• demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on, integrate, and apply his or her learning and experience derived from exposure to the various general education disciplines to his or her area of concentration.

**UWW 330 Experiential Reflections of Public Policy**

Students will examine the principles and frameworks of public policy and its impact on their professional and other life experience. This course satisfies the integrative experience (IE) general education requirement for the University of Massachusetts. 4 credits. **Goals:** To help students:

• understand the theoretical framework of public policy-making and the environment within which policy is created and implemented at the national and state levels;
• develop familiarity with the major features of several areas of public policy, such as privatization policy, housing policy, or others;
• identify an area of public policy that has impacted his or her own life, work, or community, and develop, through research and classroom work, an understanding of the main issues that are at play in that area of policy; and
• demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on, integrate, and apply his or her learning and experience derived from exposure to the various general education disciplines to his or her area of concentration.

UWW 340 Experiential Reflections of Organizations

Students will examine the principles and frameworks of organizations as key elements in their professional and other life experience. This course satisfies the integrative experience (IE) general education requirement for the University of Massachusetts. 4 credits. Goals: To help students:

• define the term organization within the context of this course;
• define what we mean by formal and informal organizations in terms of their similarities and differences;
• explain the key features of systems theory as they apply to living systems;
• describe and analyze in detail a familiar organizational system and our role within it;
• define organizational culture and describe the levels that comprise it;
• describe and engage more effectively in the processes through which organizational culture is created and re-created, and how it transmits to organizational members and impacts them;
• describe the culture of a familiar organization and discuss the implications of that culture for organizational members and the organization’s purpose;
• apply the above knowledge to a familiar organization, focusing on an analysis of past collaborative efforts, approaches to conflict management, and organizational and individual experiences with change;
• identify opportunities within that familiar organization for organizational development and cultural renewal; and
• demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on, integrate, and apply his or her learning and experience derived from exposure to the various general education disciplines to his or her area of concentration.

UWW 350 Experiential Reflections on Health

Students will examine the principles and frameworks of health as a way to better understand their professional and other life experience. This course seeks to address and understand varying responses to the questions “What is health?” and “How do we define ‘quality of life’?” These questions will be addressed through the use of reference material housed in the disciplines of public health, sociology, philosophy, anthropology, political science, communication, history, medicine, humanities, education, and economics. This course satisfies the integrative experience (IE) general education requirement for the University of Massachusetts. 4 credits. Goals:

• illustrate how a multidisciplinary approach to understanding “health” and “quality of life” can inform an understanding of public and individual health;
• illustrate how a universal experience like “health” is experienced differently depending on culture, diagnosis, context, history, social determinants, and personal knowledge;
• prepare students for writing about individual experiences for their Prior Learning Portfolio in the University Without Walls program;
• provide a structured, credited context for students to reflect on and integrate their learning and experience from the broad exposure in their general education courses;
• provide the opportunity for students to practice general education learning objectives (collaboration, critical thinking, and interdisciplinary perspective taking) at a more advanced level; and
• offer a shared learning experience for applying prior knowledge and experience to new situations, challenging questions, and real-world problems.

UWW 360 Experiential Reflections of Learning and Education
Students will explore formal, informal/incidental, and non-formal learning across the life span, beginning with early childhood and continuing into adulthood. Learning is defined as "the way in which individuals or groups acquire, interpret, re-organize, change or assimilate a related cluster of information, skills and feelings. It is also the primary way that people construct meaning in their personal and shared organizational lives" (Marsick, 1987, p. 4). Education is the delivery system for some, though not all, of this learning; much learning is acquired directly or indirectly through experience. Readings for this course will draw on a number of disciplines including education, technology, psychology, anthropology, history and sociology. This course satisfies the integrative experience (IE) general education requirement for the University of Massachusetts. 4 credits. **Goals:**

- deepen our understanding of learning and education across a variety of contexts;
- deepen our understanding of the ways in which formal, informal/incidental and non-formal learning influences our experience and that of others;
- demonstrate the ability to critically reflect on, integrate, and apply our learning derived from exposure to the various approaches to learning and education to our lives;
- describe the similarities and differences among formal, informal/incidental and non-formal learning and education;
- reflect upon and write about personal experiences with learning and education;
- research, analyze and reflect on a specific issue or problem in learning or education in depth;
- work collaboratively with others in the completion of academic assignments; and$
- develop an action plan for lifelong learning.