New Student Guide
Fall 2017

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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 UWW Student Center by going to www.umass.edu/uww/student-center. You can also 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, August 26 from 2-4pm at UMass Amherst. Please RSVP to admissions@uww.umass.edu. This orientation is a great place to meet fellow UWW students, faculty and staff, as well as your own faculty advisor. 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 - webinars

For those of you who are unable to attend the in-person New Student Orientation, we will be hosting new student orientation webinars on Wednesday, August 23 from 7-8pm (EST) and Sunday, August 27 from 1-2pm (EST). Participating is easy and you don’t have to RSVP. Click here for log-in information and instructions.

Your support team

Your UWW support team consists of faculty, academic advisors, a student support coordinator, 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 at uww@uww.umass.edu.

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 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.
Tuition and fees

Here is an overview of tuition and 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.

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 6 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) at www.fafsa.ed.gov (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 these opportunities in SPIRE.
about scholarship opportunities in the "announcements" section of the UWW Student Center. The UMass Financial Aid Services website also provides information about scholarship opportunities.

Accessing your student record- SPIRE

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. If they haven’t already, Information Technology (IT) will soon send you your NetID and temporary password to the email address provided on your application. With this information, you can access SPIRE and activate your student email address. Login to SPIRE here. You can also access SPIRE from the UWW Student Center. If you have any problems with your SPIRE account, contact IT at 413-545-9400.

Your student email address

You will receive an email from Information Technology (IT) with instructions on how to activate your student email account. Your student email address will be your NetID @ umass.edu. For example, if your NetID was Iskywalker, your email address will be Iskywalker@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 at 413-545-9400 x2.

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.” We encourage you to forward your student email to your personal email account. Visit Google Support for instructions on how to do this. IT can also help you connect your student email address to your smartphone.

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 email addresses of your advisor and instructors. And add these two: online course technical support - amherstsupport@umassonline.net; course registration office - regoff@cpe.umass.edu

Academic calendar

You can find the university’s academic calendar here. The academic calendar is also available at the UWW Student Center. UMass Amherst has two main semesters - fall and spring - and each are about 14 weeks long. There are also two 5-6 week long summer sessions and one 4 week long winter session. You can log into your fall classes, check out the syllabi and contact your instructors beginning Tuesday, August 29 during what’s called Preview Week. Classes start Tuesday, September 5.
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.

Blended
Blended courses are online courses that include 4-7 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.

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) or
UWW 394A Concepts in Learning Integration

4 cr

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 your advising team 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. The instructor of your

Can I take all my classes blended? No. Only the 4 required UWW courses are offered in this format.
course will be your faculty advisor until you complete UWW 370 Writing About Experience. At that point, you will work with UWW’s Academic Advisors, who will support you until you achieve the end goal: your diploma! Here are the course descriptions. Also, want to learn more about our advisors? You can read their bios here.

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

In these courses, you will discuss contemporary issues, drawing on your own work and life experience. In addition, these courses will help prepare you for when you write your prior learning portfolio - the set of essays reflecting on your experience that you will write in your second semester for academic credit. Here are the course descriptions.

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 30 UMass Amherst credits. The average UWW student earns 15 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, June 5 and continues until the end of the Add/Drop period on Monday, September 18.
Your enrollment appointment
Although fall registration begins on Monday, June 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 into 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 June 5). If you do not receive an appointment within this timeframe, contact Continuing and Professional Education Registration at 413-545-3653 or regoff@cpe.umass.edu.

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. We have also created a visual step-by-step guide to registering for classes.

- Login to SPIRE.
- Check to make sure your enrollment appointment has started.
- From your SPIRE homepage, click the green box on the right side of your screen that says “Search for Classes.”
- Select the correct “Term” (Fall 2017).
- Under “Course Subject,” select the appropriate option. To register for UWW designated courses, choose “University Without Walls.”
- All UWW designated classes are offered online or blended.
- Under “Mode of Instruction,” choose Online or Blended
- You will see a list of courses. A green circle next to “Status” indicates that the course is open.
- Click on the course number next to where it says “Section” to read a course description.
- To select a class, click "select class” (green button).
- Then click “Next” (green button). Doing this will add the class to your shopping cart.
- Now click on your shopping cart. Select the course(s) you want and click "Enroll” (green button).
- 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.”
- For more help refer to our step by step guide to registering for classes, or visit Information Technology.

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, September 18, 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 September 18 but no later than October 9 (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 October 9, it will be extremely difficult to withdraw from a course.
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.

Help with registration
If you have any trouble with the registration process, contact the CPE registration office at 413-545-3653, regoff@cpe.umass.edu. Or feel free to contact the UWW office at 413-545-1378 or uww@uww.umass.edu 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 into your classes, view your syllabi and contact your instructors during Preview Week, which starts Tuesday, August 29. Classes start Tuesday, September 5. 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.

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

Refunds
Courses dropped by September 18 (end of add/drop) 100% refund
Courses dropped from September 19 to October 9 (end of withdrawal period) 50% refund
Courses dropped after October 9 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 device 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 6 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-Friday 8:30-5pm 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. And they can help you sync your student email to your smart phone. 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 any time 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 elearning@cpe.umass.edu. 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. In the left margin, click on “Student Home”, “Class Schedule”, and then “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 August 29 – Preview Week – to view your syllabi and textbooks/e-books.
You can order your textbooks and other course materials through Amazon CourseMaterials 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 Monday nights from 6-8pm on campus at the UMass Library (this may exclude holidays).

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 $30.00, 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 success

Check out our time-honored tips to help you get through college as an adult.
Resources

- **UWW Student Center**: The place to find the information you need. Log in with your NetID & password.
- **UWW Student Handbook**
- **SPIRE**
- **Continuing & Professional Education**
  - Registration 800-922-8211 or 413-545-3653 regoff@cpe.umass.edu
  - CPE Bursar’s Office 413-545-0337 lrice@admin.umass.edu
- **Financial Aid Office** 413-545-0801 www.umass.edu/umfa
- **Scholarship Search**
- **Bursar’s Office** 413-545-2368 bursar@admin.umass.edu
- **Technical Support**
  - OIT Help Desk 413-545-9400 help@oit.umass.edu
  - Blackboard Learn Support 1-855-757-7055 UMassOnline technical support
elearning@cpe.umass.edu
- **Blackboard Learn online course login**
- **UMass Amherst Libraries** 413-577-1982 maccourt@library.umass.edu
  - Distance Learning Resources
  - UWW Library Page
- **Writing Tutoring**
- **PeopleFinder** Look up professors, staff, students
- **UCard student ID office** 413- 545-0197 ucard@admin.umass.edu
- **Career Services** 413-545-2224 ccnhelp@acad.umass.edu
- **Veteran Services** 413-545-0939
- **Veterans Benefits** 413-545-5792 vetbenefits@umass.edu
- **Veterans Resource Center** 413-545-0939 veteranservices@sacl.umass.edu
- **Disability Services** 413-545-0892 Contact form
- **First Generation Student Group**
- **Ombud’s Office** 413-545-0867 info@ombuds.umass.edu
- **Center for Women and Community** 413-545-0883 cwc@umass.edu
- **Stonewall Center LGBTQ Resource Center** 413-545-4824 stonewall@umass.edu
- **Early Childhood Educators Scholarships** 617-391-6070 osfa@osfa.mass.edu
- **Student Legal Services Office (SLSO)**: UWW students are not eligible for SLSO services because they do not pay the Student Activities Fee. That being said, if you have a legal issue, SLSO may be able to refer you to legal services that can help you.
- **Office of Family Resources**: UWW students are not eligible for the UMass Amherst Childcare Tuition Assistance Program because they do not pay the Student Activities Fee. If a UWW student has a state childcare voucher, however, s/he can use that voucher for childcare at the UMass Childcare Center. Contact the Office of Family Resources for assistance with this process.
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, 413-545-1378  uww@uww.umass.edu  www.umass.edu/uww
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.

How do I tell the difference between a 100% online course and a blended (online plus in-person) course in SPIRE?

An online course in SPIRE will look something like this.

![Online Course Example](image)

A blended (online plus in-person) course in SPIRE will look something like this.

![Blended Course Example](image)