

September 2024 Newsletter

Student Parent Programs News and Events

Child Care Tuition Assistance Scholarship – Our child care tuition assistance (CCTA) application is open! This program allows approved student parent applicants to receive reimbursement for part of their child care costs - visit this webpage to fill out your application for the 2024-2025 Academic Year: [Assistance with Child Care Expenses | Student Parent Programs](#)

Student Parent Programs Open House – Join us on **September 27th any time from 4:30pm to 6pm at the University Village Community Center** for an introduction to Student Parent Programs and the benefits that we offer to UMass families. We'll also be joined by representatives of the Jones Library, Head Start Early Learning, and Round the World Women and will have light refreshments for all. We can't wait to see you there!

Other News

Key Academic Dates

- **UWW Fall 2024** – [Click here to access the UWW Academic Calendar](#)
 - Add/Drop Ends (Undergraduate & Non-Degree Students) – **Monday, September 9**
 - Add/Drop Ends (Matriculated Graduate Students) - **Monday, September 16**
 - Last Day for 100% Class Fee Refund – **Monday, September 16**
 - Holiday - Indigenous Peoples Day – **Monday, October 14**
 - Monday class schedule will be followed – **Tuesday, October 15**
 - **University Fall 2024** – [Click here to access the UMass Academic Calendar](#)
 - Last day of add/drop (Undergraduate Students) – **Monday, September 9**
 - Last day of add/drop (Graduate Students) – **Monday, September 16**
 - Homecoming – **Friday & Saturday, September 20 & 21**
 - Holiday - Indigenous Peoples Day – **Monday, October 14**
 - Monday class schedule will be followed – **Tuesday, October 15**
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Campus Resource Highlights

UMass Amherst Writing Center – [The Writing Center](#) provides academic writing help to undergrad, graduate, post-doc, faculty, and staff writers at any stage of the writing process: brainstorming and outlining, first-draft feedback, developing revision strategies, copy editing, and more! [45 minute 1:1 tutoring sessions are free with a reservation](#) and can be accessed either in-person or online. Visit the Writing Center in the northwest corner of the W.E.B. DuBois Library's Learning Commons or reach out by email at writingcenter@acad.umass.edu.

Learning Resource Center – [UMass Amherst's LRC](#) offers [Course-Based Peer Tutoring](#) (drop-in and by appointment), Study Skills Tutoring, and group review sessions or [Supplemental Instruction](#) (SI). LRC is completely free for UMass undergraduates! LRC academic support services will have a staggered start beginning on **Monday, September 9**. Full services begin on **Monday, September 16**. Undergraduate research support via the [Office of Undergraduate Research and Studies \(OURS\)](#) begins **Tuesday, September 3**.

Student Success Toolkit Workshops – [Join staff from Student Success](#) to **discover** your strengths, **learn** about strategies, tools and resources, and **reflect** on your personal toolkit for success with free in-person or self-guided workshops. In-person sessions are available throughout the semester for topics including:

- [Active Learning & Study Strategies](#)
- [Time Management & Prioritization](#)
- [Reading & Notetaking Strategies](#)
- [Preparing for Finals](#)

FREE LinkedIn Learning - UMass Amherst students, faculty, and staff have unlimited access to LinkedIn Learning's online library of over 15,000 in-depth courses. Explore on-demand courses and career development paths at a time and pace that fits your schedule. This service is provided free of charge to all UMass Amherst students, faculty, and staff. Log in with your UMass Amherst account - [LinkedIn Learning : UMass Amherst Information Technology : UMass Amherst](#)

Statistical Consultation and Collaboration Services - [SCCS](#) provides statistical consulting and collaboration to researchers at UMass through individual meetings and support for interdisciplinary research projects. SCCS can help with all phases of statistical analysis, including study design and analysis plans, performing data analysis, interpreting results, and preparing grants and publications

Community Resource Highlights

Food Bank of Western Massachusetts – The [Food Bank of Western Mass](#) provides donated and locally grown food to community members in Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden and Hampshire counties. Their [Food Assistance Network search tool](#) is an excellent resource for Massachusetts residents to find both in-person and delivery food assistance programs nearby. If you are eligible, their SNAP coordinators can also help you apply for SNAP benefits over the phone - **reach out to a SNAP Coordinator at 413-992-6204**.

Amherst Survival Center – [ASC is a hub for services of all kinds in Franklin & Hampshire Counties](#). Below is a schedule of their services for Fall 2024:

Daily Programs & Services

- Hot Lunch – **On-site from 12-2:30pm and to-go from 12-3pm**
- Food Pantry - **Monday & Friday 12-3pm and Tuesday & Thursday 12-7pm**. Free groceries available twice each month - Curbside pickup and delivery available
- Fresh Food Distribution - **Monday & Friday from 12-3pm and Tuesday & Thursday from 12-7pm**
- Information and Referral – **Daily from 12-3pm**
- Showers & Lockers - **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 12-3PM**
- Laundry - **Monday & Friday from 12-3PM and Tuesday & Thursday from 12-5PM**

Weekly Programs and Services

- Free Health Clinic - **Mondays 12-2pm**
 - Wildflower Alliance - **Tuesdays from 12-2pm**
 - Health Insurance Navigator – **Assistance with Mass Health paperwork, Tuesdays from 12-3pm**
 - Housing Help – **Thursdays from 12-2pm**
 - SNAP - **by appointment, sign up in the front office**
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Family Friendly Activities

- **Seasonal Family Fun**
 - [Amherst Chamber of Commerce Block Party](#) (Amherst, MA) – September 19, 2024
 - [Franklin County Fair](#) (Greenfield, MA) – September 5 - 8, 2024
 - [Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory & Gardens](#) (South Deerfield, MA)
 - [Mike's Maze](#) – (Sunderland, MA) Opens September 6th, Fridays from 11am – 5pm. Saturdays, Sundays, and Columbus Day from 9am – 5pm
 - [McCray's Farm](#) (South Hadley, MA)
 - [Apex Orchards](#) (Shelburne Falls, MA)
 - [Clarkdale Fruit Farms](#) (Deerfield, MA)
 - **Farmers Market and Farm Stands (usually open on Saturdays)**
 - [Amherst Farmers' Market](#) (Amherst, MA)
 - [Greenfield Farmers' Market](#) (Greenfield, MA)
 - [Grow Food Northampton Farmers Markets](#) (Downtown Northampton, MA)
*Tuesdays, 1:30 - 6:30 pm
 - [Farmers Market at Forest Park](#) (Springfield, MA)
 - [Great Barrington Farmers Market](#) (Great Barrington, MA)
 - [Outlook Farm Barn & Eatery](#) (Westhampton, MA)
 - [Farmer's Market of Keene](#) (Keene, NH)
 - [Brattleboro Outdoor/Summer Farmer's Market](#) (Brattleboro, VT)
 - **Museums & Educational Activities**
 - [Eric Carle Museum](#) (Amherst, MA)
 - [Emily Dickinson Museum](#) (Amherst, MA)
 - [The Botanic Garden of Smith College](#) (Northampton, MA)
 - [The New England Peace Pagoda](#) (Leverett, MA)
 - [The Amazing World of Dr. Seuss](#) (Springfield, MA)
 - [Springfield Science Museum](#) (Springfield, MA)
 - [Energy Park](#) (Greenfield, MA)
 - [Hadley Farm Museum](#) (Hadley, MA)
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Student Spotlight

Name: Kerrie M Collette

Your area of study: Interdisciplinary - Business Studies

How did you choose this area of study? I chose this area because I have worked in the business/finance world my entire working career. I worked at a retail bank for 6 years and then got into research administration. I think my degree will really nurture and compliment my existing experience.

Tell us about your family! I have 2 wonderful children, Bekett age 3, and Mia who is about to be 1. I live with both of them, and my husband Andrew, (who is also UMass student!) I love to just experience new things as a family. Going to a new zoo, trying out a new park, anything that gets us all out!

What excites you about pursuing your degree right now? What excites me is being able to show my kids, that you can do hard things! Both my husband and I are first generation, so it just adds to that feeling of incredible accomplishment.

What is challenging about pursuing your degree right now? Honestly, just juggling it all. I work full time, take a full-time course load, take care of my kids & play domestic engineer! It's a lot.

If you could study something completely different than what you are studying now, what would it be? Probably something in nursing. I love the idea of

helping people and having an impact. I work in grant management now which is a lot of business, but I support the research work of some incredible scientists.

What is parenting like for you right now? What feels good and what is challenging? Parenting over the last year has been a whole new ball game, going from 0-1 is one transition & then 1-2 was something totally new. It's been helpful to find a routine and stick to it fast. Having a toddler that still needs me while also navigating an infant that also, really needs me, has been the biggest challenge -- splitting my time between them & their unique needs.

What can you tell other student-parents about what helps you do your best as a parent AND a student? I think what helps me most is leaning on my husband as both a life partner & co-parent. We both work, we're both students, we both know the commitment that's needed to make all those pieces come together and succeed in each one. I also really try and get into a consistent routine where my time is managed from the moment I wake up, to the moment I go to bed. It's also important to acknowledge when you need help or even a break, you can't pour from an empty cup!

If you had to choose 3 words to describe being a student-parent, what would they be? Rewarding, inspirational, strenuous

If you do not live near the university and would like information about family resources in your area, please reach out and we will help connect you to resources in your community.

*Don't hesitate to reach out if you need support or have questions.
We're here for you!*

studentparent@umass.edu

(413) 545-9319

UMass Amherst

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