

Supporting Students in Need

During the COVID-19 Remote Instruction Period | Fall 2020

Worried about a student?

The [Dean of Students Office](#) connects undergraduate and graduate students with the support, resources, and referrals they need to succeed at the UMass Amherst. The staff can serve as a single point of contact within the university for students and their families in times of crisis.

Members of the UMass community can refer a student in need or request assistance from the Dean of Students Office by completing the [Student Support Request/Referral Form](#). If you have any questions after completing the report form, feel free to contact the Dean of Students Office at 413-545-2684 or doso@umass.edu.

Examples of key programs and services coordinated for students in need:

▶ Campus Food Security Initiatives

In addition to the UMass Dining Services [Food Security Initiatives](#), the Dean of Students Office supports students experiencing food insecurity. DOSO can connect students to campus and community-based resources.

▶ Microgrants

The University of Massachusetts Amherst Student Care and Emergency Grant Program and the Foster Student Success Fund Grant (Microgrant) provides emergency Microgrants (non-repayable funds up to \$500) to matriculated undergraduate students for unexpected financial emergencies, hardship, and/or unforeseen personal/family emergencies. Students can submit a [Microgrant Application](#) to the Dean of Students Office via email at doso@umass.edu. Applications take up to two weeks for review by the committee.

▶ Short Term Loans

The Dean of Students Office will extend short term, interest free loans to matriculated undergraduate (up to \$500) and graduate students (up to \$1000) for unexpected financial emergencies, hardship, and/or unforeseen personal/family emergencies. All loans are distributed and collected by the Bursar's office.

▶ Student Care Supply Closet

The Dean of Students Office manages [Student Care Supply Closets](#) that provide free toiletries and household items to undergraduate and graduate students who are facing economic insecurity and/or an unexpected financial emergency. Students can fill out a [shopping sheet](#) and they will be contacted by DOSO to schedule an appointment to pick up items.

▶ Connection with SNAP

Students interested in learning more about the eligibility and application process for SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) are invited to attend [drop-in sessions](#) hosted by the [Off Campus Student Center](#) from 1 to 2 p.m. every other Thursday afternoon. Throughout the year, the [Food Bank of Western MA](#) can help students sign up for SNAP. Call 413-992-6204 for assistance.

Want to help?

Anyone can donate directly to the [Student Care and Emergency Response Fund](#) (SCERF) to help fund these critical programs that support UMass Amherst students in need. SCERF is able to combat economic insecurity among our student population due to the generous donations of compassionate members of our community.