

Thank you for your retirement inquiry. Please request a pension projection directly from the Massachusetts State Board of Retirement (SBR) by calling either their Boston or Springfield office. Once the SBR has provided you with a projection please share a copy with Human Resources. A copy will be placed in your personnel file for future reference.

Additional information on the retirement process is available on the SBR website, www.mass.gov/retirement.

State Board of Retirement – Boston Office

One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
 7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
 Phone: 617-367-7770 or 1-800-392-6014 (Mass only)
 Fax: 617-723-1438

State Board of Retirement – Springfield Office

436 Dwight Street, Room 109A, Springfield, MA 01103
 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
 Phone: 413-730-6135
 Fax: 413-730-6139

Applying to retire from the MA State Employees’ Retirement System

A UMass Amherst Human Resources representative is pleased to assist you in completing an application to retire from the MA State Employees’ Retirement System. You may complete a retirement application at any time within the 120 calendar days prior to your retirement. You must obtain and bring a current SBR Retirement pension projection with you to that meeting; the following documents are also required:

State Board of Retirement Required Forms			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retirement Application	All retirement options Pension Options A, B, C	State Board of Retirement or Human Resources can provide these forms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retirement Option Form		
<input type="checkbox"/>	W-4 P Tax Form		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Deposit Authorization Form		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bank Account Information for Direct Deposit <i>and</i> , if using a checking account, a voided check	All retirement options Pension Options A, B, C	You must provide these items.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Birth Certificate or Passport – Employee		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse’s Signature to Witness Retirement Option (if married)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	If divorced, a copy of any Domestic Relations Order resulting from that divorce		
<input type="checkbox"/>	DD214 – Honorable Military Discharge	All retirement options (to qualify for Veterans Premium)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Birth Certificate or Passport for your Option C beneficiary	Retirement Option C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage Certificate (<i>if</i> naming your spouse as beneficiary)	Retirement Option C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beneficiary Information Social Security Number, Address & Date of Birth	Retirement options B & C	

Notes:

This document is intended to provide general information. The University cannot provide you legal advice or recommendations regarding your retirement and/or GIC retirement benefits. Where this document differs from a legal or plan document, the latter prevails.

Important things to consider as you approach retirement:

If you are not yet drawing your Massachusetts pension (MSERS) but you are:

- 65 years of age and eligible for Medicare (or providing GIC health insurance coverage to someone who is Medicare eligible): while you are still working in a benefitted position for the Commonwealth you (and your GIC-covered spouse, if applicable) should NOT enroll in Medicare Part B. You (and your covered spouse) may enroll in Medicare Part A at age 65. If you do, Medicare Part A will be secondary to your GIC health insurance coverage until you retire.

As you approach retirement ask if your health care provider(s) accepts Medicare or, if no, what health care provider(s) they trust who do accept Medicare in case you need to change providers.

Additional information on turning 65 is available at:

www.mass.gov/anf/employee-insurance-and-retirement-benefits/status-changes/turning-age-65.html

- Eligible for social security, full social security retirement age* and still working, you may be able to draw your Social Security benefits now (in addition to your University salary). Your Social Security will *not* be reduced by your current earnings or because you are an employee of the Commonwealth.

Your Social Security income may be reduced under the federal Windfall Elimination Provision and/or Government Pension Offset *once you begin drawing your Massachusetts pension.*

A Social Security representative can help you evaluate when it is most beneficial to begin drawing your Social Security income. Social Security telephone: 1-800-772-1213 / TTY 1-800-325-0778

*Full Social Security Retirement Age:

Year of Birth	Full Social Security Retirement Age
1940	65 years and 6 months
1941	65 years and 8 months
1942	65 years and 10 months
1943-54	66 years
1955	66 years and 2 months
1956	66 years and 4 months
1957	66 years and 6 months
1958	66 years and 8 months
1959	66 years and 10 months
1960 or later	67 years

Planning for retirement:

- Your first pension payment may take up to three full calendar months before it is issued. Your first pension payment will be retroactive to your date of retirement. Thereafter pension payments are made once a month at the end of the month.

Federal taxes and GIC insurance will be deducted from your pension payments (deduction of GIC premiums may not begin until your second or third pension payment).

Immediately following retirement the GIC will begin billing you for your insurance premium contributions and you will need to make timely payments in order to secure coverage until the premiums are deducted from your monthly pension payment.

- If Medicare eligible you (and your GIC-covered spouse, if applicable) must enroll in Medicare Parts A&B *when you (the insured) retire* in order to continue health insurance coverage through the GIC.

After retirement Medicare Parts A&B are your primary health insurance coverage; the GIC will offer you a Medicare supplement plan at the retiree rate. Your GIC Medicare supplement plan provides prescription coverage so *you are not required* to enroll in Medicare Part D. Medicare and your GIC plan will only provide coverage if you are seeing a health care provider who accepts Medicare.