



**EDUC 391R – UMass Amherst Residential Life
CORE: Creating Opportunities for Residents to Engage
Spring 2026 CORE Frequently Asked Questions
Last Updated: October 18, 2025**

About the Course

Who is required to take this class?

All RAs and PMs are required to take the class by the Spring 2026 semester to start the position in Fall 2026. RA/PM alternates are also required to take the course by the Spring 2026 semester to remain eligible to be hired for any vacancies that may arise during the 2026-2027 academic year.

I am an alternate but don't want to take the course unless I am offered the position. Can I take the course in the Fall if I am offered a position over the summer?

No, EDUC 391R (CORE) must be taken before starting the position and cannot be taken during the first semester as an RA/PM. If you do not take and pass the class by the Spring 2026 semester, you are no longer eligible to be an alternate or be hired for the 2026-2027 academic year.

I've taken this course before and passed. Do I need to take it again?

No. If you have already taken the course and received a passing grade, you do not have to take it again. However, you must still complete the Enrollment and Availability Form (which will be sent to eligible students via email in January 2026).

When does the course start and end?

This is a 1-credit, 8-week Pass/Fail course that meets once a week for two hours per week. The first class will be the week of March 2, 2026. The last class will be the week of May 4, 2026.

Enrolling in CORE would put me at 20+ credits. How do I get a credit overload?

The process varies for each College. See below for links depending on your major. Please do this ASAP! This is the biggest hurdle we experience in getting students enrolled in SPIRE. You will need to submit confirmation of approval in the CORE Enrollment and Availability Form, which is due Sunday, February 1st. If your credit overload is not approved by that date, you will not be enrolled and will be removed from the RA/PM selection process.

- [Credit Overload Form: Isenberg School of Management](#)
- [Credit Overload Petition | College of Natural Sciences](#)
- [Overload Petition Form: Manning College of Information and Computer Sciences](#)
- [Petition for Overload of Credit: School of Social and Behavioral Sciences](#)
- [Petition for Overload of Credit: College of Humanities & Fine Arts](#)
- [Petition for Overload of Credits: College of Education](#)
- [PHS Advising Forms: School of Public Health & Health Sciences](#)

Submitting Enrollment Information
(via the CORE Enrollment and Availability Form due Sun February 1st)

Help! I don't have access to submit the CORE Enrollment and Availability form!

Make sure you are logged into your UMass email account.

The form is asking me for documentation of my credit overload approval, but I don't have it yet so I can't complete the form. What do I do?

We have communicated the importance of starting this process early all throughout the RA/PM selection process. You will need to submit **confirmation of approval** in the CORE Enrollment and Availability Form, which is due Sunday, February 1st. If your credit overload is not approved by that date, you will not be enrolled and will be removed from the RA/PM selection process.

I've submitted the CORE Enrollment and Availability Information form! How do I enroll in SPIRE?

Once you submit the form, the CORE Course Coordinator will work to get you enrolled. You do not need to enroll in SPIRE.

Submitting Availability Information
(via the CORE Enrollment and Availability Form due Sun February 1st)

I have reviewed all the days and times the course is offered. What if I can't attend any of the class sections listed?

We will offer 20-25 sections of the course at a variety of times throughout the week. In the past, every student was able to be placed in a course that does not conflict with their class schedule. If you indicate you are not available for any sections, the Course Coordinator will request a copy of your academic schedule. Due to the number of students needing to be enrolled, we are not able to consider non-academic commitments such as extracurricular activities or other employment.

I'm waitlisted for a class and I don't know if I'll get in. Can I change my CORE section if my schedule changes and there's a conflict later?

No. Section assignments will be based on the information provided in this form. Students are responsible for submitting accurate availability that reflects their Spring course schedule. When indicating section availability, students should also consider any courses they are waitlisted for that may be added later. We are managing the enrollment for over 400 students in this course. All section assignments will be FINAL and will not be changed under any circumstances, including changes to your course schedule after the Add/Drop period.

I have a class on Wednesdays from 4pm-5:30pm, but attendance is optional. Can I enroll in one of the Wednesday 4pm-6pm sections?

No, you should not enroll you in a section if there are SPIRE conflicts for any duration of time. When filling out the form, please indicate you are "Not Available" for any sections that conflict

with your Spring schedule (including potentially waitlisted classes that may be added at a later date).

I have a class that ends at 4pm. Can I enroll in a class that starts at 4pm?

No, you should not. You must be able to attend each section on time and stay for the entire class in order to be marked as present, which is essential to passing the class. Please consider travel time to and from the CORE sections you indicate you are available for.

I'm studying abroad/doing an internship that is not on-campus. Is the course offered remotely and/or asynchronously?

No, all sections are offered in person and meet synchronously. Students are required to attend the class in person to successfully complete the course. The course is only offered in the Spring; there is not a Summer or Winter session option.

When will we find out what section we're in?

Students will receive their section information on Tuesday, February 3rd by the end of the day.

SPIRE Enrollment

When will we be enrolled in SPIRE?

The Course Coordinator will send all student information to the College of Education for enrollment by Thursday, February 5th.

Add/Drop is here and I still don't see the class in SPIRE! Why am I not enrolled?

If you submitted the Enrollment and Availability form on time, the Course Coordinator sent your information to the Registrar for processing. Note that it may take a few days after your information is sent to the Registrar before you see yourself enrolled in SPIRE. However, be assured that you will be enrolled, and if there are issues to your enrollment, the Course Coordinator will reach out to you directly.

I was not enrolled in the course due to a credit overload limit, SPIRE hold, etc. What now?

If the CORE Leadership Team is unable to enroll you when enrollment information is submitted to the College of Education (e.g., due to credit overload restrictions, SPIRE holds, or other issues), you will not be enrolled in the course and will be removed from the RA/PM selection process. It is your responsibility to ensure that there are no enrollment barriers prior to this enrollment deadline.

I'm enrolled in SPIRE but the class doesn't specify the specific section. Why?

All students are enrolled in one big class section on SPIRE. You will receive your specific section information via email.

I no longer want to take the class. How do I withdraw?

Once enrolled in the course, you are responsible for dropping the course yourself in SPIRE if you no longer wish to take the course. Withdrawals made after the Add/Drop deadline will result in a "W" on your transcript. If you wish to have the "W" removed, you must submit a petition through your academic college and follow the college's established process.

Important CORE Enrollment Process Dates

Offers go out to candidates	Friday 1/23
DEADLINE for candidates to accept/decline position for Fall 2026	Tuesday 1/27
CORE Enrollment/Section Availability Form emailed to students Note about Section Availability: Section assignments will be based on the information provided in this form. Students are responsible for submitting accurate availability that reflects their Spring course schedule. When indicating section availability, students should also consider any courses they are waitlisted for that may be added later. All section assignments will be FINAL and will not be changed under any circumstances, including changes to your course schedule after the Add/Drop period. Note Regarding Course Overloads (19 or more credits): Students planning to enroll in 19+ credits must complete the Course Overload approval process for their respective academic college as early as possible. Confirmation of this approval must be uploaded with the form. If the CORE Leadership Team is unable to enroll a student due to credit restrictions at the time enrollment information is submitted to the College of Education (by Thursday, February 5 th), that student will not be enrolled in the course and will be removed from the RA/PM selection process.	Wednesday 1/28
DEADLINE to submit the CORE Enrollment/Section Availability Form	Sunday 2/1
Students receive their assigned EDUC 391R CORE section, including section day, time, and classroom location Note about Section Assignments: All section assignments are FINAL and will not be changed under any circumstances, including changes to students' course schedule after the Add/Drop period.	Tuesday 2/3
Student information sent to the College of Education for enrollment Note Regarding Enrollment Issues: If the CORE Leadership Team is unable to enroll a student when enrollment information is submitted to the College of Education (e.g., due to credit overload restrictions, SPIRE holds, or other issues), the student will not be enrolled in the course and will be removed from the RA/PM selection process. It is students' responsibility to ensure that there are no enrollment barriers prior to the enrollment deadline.	By Thursday 2/5
Last day of Add/Drop Note about Withdrawing from the Course: Once enrolled in the course, students are responsible for dropping the course themselves in SPIRE if they no longer wish to take the course. Withdrawals made after the Add/Drop deadline will result in a "W" on the student's transcript. If a student wishes to have the "W" removed, they must submit a petition through their academic college and follow the college's established process.	Wednesday 2/11
First week of CORE	Week of 3/2