

What? Why? How? So What?

UMass Amherst

Faculty Perspective

Alexandrina Deschamps Ed.D

Associate Dean, Commonwealth Honors College

[afd@wost.umass.edu](mailto:afd@wost.umass.edu)

---

# UMass Amherst – Tier 1 University

---

## Research – All Disciplines (Innovative, Inventions, Creative, Literary)

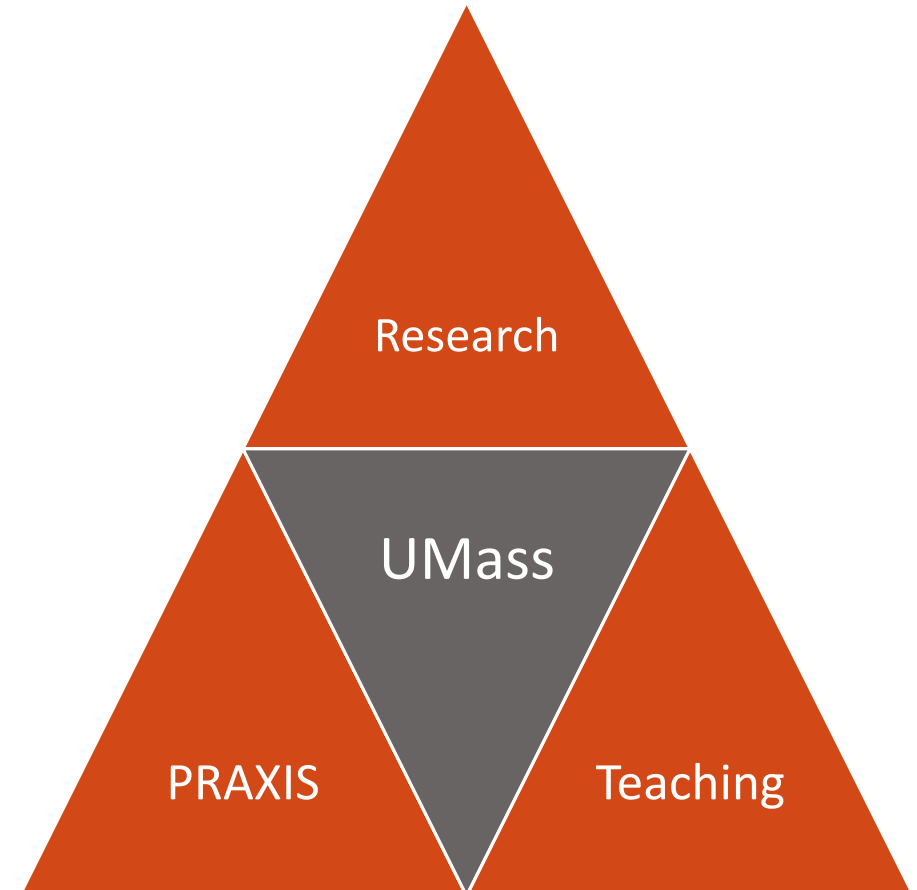
- Creating and adding on to existing knowledge, working with dedicated and recognized faculty, and guiding our students on their intellectual journey.

## Community Engaged Scholarship

- Building on their passions to do community work and linking theory to practice – “PRAXIS”.

## Teaching – Pedagogy of Engagement

- Critical Analysis, Creating an Immersive Education Experience, Listening Skills, General Education Requirements, Communication Etiquette.



# Employers Strongly Endorse Several High-Impact Practices (AAC&U)

---

- Communication – Oral, Writing, Technology
- Internships, Community Engaged Scholarship
- Senior Thesis/Project, Capstone Work, Integrative Experience
- Field Work in Diverse Communities
- Service Learning, Collaborative Research Project
- Creative and Interdisciplinary Work
- General Educational Learning – Breadth of Interdisciplinary Scholarship

# Defining Student Success – It's All About Our Students

---

Success Defined as Persistence/Progress/ completion. Learning Outcomes are key, Success Defined in Terms of Capabilities Need for a Complex World – for Work, Life, for navigating the global world in which we live. Faculty and Student Life Professionals working in tandem to combine practices that work both to improve persistence and deepen learning. (AAC&U)

What and Why? - Goals and Outcomes

How and When? – Intentional Curriculum

So What? – Benefits Beyond the Academy – Workplace and graduate School

Global Community, Civil Society, Students' Own Lives.

Bring Creative Imagination and Trained Intelligence to the Solution of Problems

Social problems, Global Problems, Workplace Problems

Study Abroad – Opportunities to study geopolitical, social structures, cultural environments

Intentional Planning that helps them discover the purpose of learning is to build their capacity to work that matter to them and that prepare them for the workplace and beyond.



# How We Do What We Do? Academic and Student Life

---

- Faculty Interaction and Office Hours in concert with Advising in Departments and Colleges – High Priority
- First Year Seminars and Experiences – Transitions, Campus Resources, Support Services, Exploring Academic Opportunities
- Common Intellectual Experiences, Diverse and Global Learning, Learning Communities
- Writing- Intensive Courses, Collaborative Assignments and Projects
- Opportunities to work with faculty - Service Learning, Community-Based Learning, Internships, Capstone Courses and Projects (Integrative Experiences and Signature Work)
- Intentional Connections between Learning and Students Residence Life

# How You Can Partner With Us

## Gentle Reminders for Parents & Students

---

- Keep Calendar of Important Dates (Office of Parent Services)
- Faculty Interaction is key to success – References, Ideas, Referrals, Connections
- Advising, Advising, Advising – Check their Academic Requirements and Credits (ARR),
- Use all Resources – Writing, Office Hours, Support Services, Office of Disability Services
- Attend Co-curricular Events, Alumni Events, and Career Events – *These are no longer soft skills*
- Let us know What's Going on (not at the end of the semester). Talk to us.
- Respect and Communication Etiquette
- Due Diligence – Pay attention to Detail, Embrace and Seek Feedback
- Check College and Departmental websites for Faculty Research and Interests



We look forward to supporting your children during one of the most exciting times in their life.