December 4, 2018

Dear Enku,
With final exams just a couple of weeks away, I am writing with important information for students who may be staying in Amherst during Winter Break.

**On-Campus Students in Residence Halls**
Most residence halls will close for Winter Break at 10 a.m. Friday, December 21, 2018. Only **Break Housing** residence halls will remain open during Winter Break.

**Students who do not live in Break Housing and need housing during the Winter Break** are strongly encouraged to contact Residential Life Student Services at (413) 545-2100 to discuss options. Temporary accommodations are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis. Students may also discuss a permanent reassignment to an available space in a Break Housing hall.

**Emergency Funding for Undergraduate Students**
For students who may experience financial hardship over the Winter Break, the Dean of Students Office administers two types of emergency funding:

- **Emergency microgrants** are available to undergraduate students in good standing for unexpected financial emergencies, hardship, and/or unforeseen personal/family emergencies. Grants are awarded on a case-by-case basis. A student may be awarded only once per academic year. The maximum amount for a grant is $500. For more information and to apply for a microgrant, please see the [Microgrant Application](#). Applications should be dropped off at the Dean of Students Main Office in Whitmore 227.

- **Short-term loans** are available to undergraduate students in good standing for unexpected financial emergencies, hardship, and/or unforeseen personal/family emergencies. To apply for a Short Term Loan, complete the [Short Term Loan Application](#). Applications should be dropped off at the Dean of Students Main Office in Whitmore 227. The maximum amount for a loan is $500. All loans are distributed and collected by the Bursar’s office.

**Additional Resources for Students**

- **Living@UMass365** offers a comprehensive look at what UMass has to offer when school is not in session.

- The **Dean of Students Office** assists students with personal and academic challenges. They respond to individual student needs, advocate on behalf of students, and connect students and their families to appropriate resources. Stop by the Dean of Students Main Office at 227 Whitmore Administration Building, call at (413) 545-2684, or complete an online [Contact Form](#).

- **Single Stop Resources** provides information for students in need of housing, food, legal advice, employment, academic help, transportation, health care and more.

- **Student Care Supply Closets** are located at various locations on campus and provide free toiletries and household items to students who are facing economic insecurity and/or an unexpected financial emergency.
If you are remaining in Amherst during the Winter Break and anticipate possible hardship of any kind, please take the time to review the resources available to you and reach out for assistance before the end of the semester.

Sincerely,
Cara Appel-Silbaugh, Ph.D.
“Dean Cara”
Dean of Students

Dean of Students Office
227 Whitmore Administration Building
University of Massachusetts Amherst
181 Presidents Drive
Amherst, MA 01003
Ph: 413-545-2684 • Fax: 413-545-9704

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