Greetings from UMass Amherst Office of Parent Services (OPS)!
The beginning of the very anticipated 2021-2022 in-person academic year is here. We want to take this opportunity to welcome new and returning students and families to campus. This newsletter is largely focused on Move-In and key student and family engagement opportunities for the next six weeks. We look forward to working with you this academic year.

Mask Requirement for Indoor Activities
On August 9, Chancellor Subbaswamy sent an email to the campus community with the most up-to-date information about the fall semester and the university’s indoor face covering requirement. Encourage your student to review the details of the email and be sure to wear a mask if you plan to come to campus to help your student move in.

On-Campus Move-In Information
Move-in Checklist
Visit the Move-In website and complete the Move-In Checklist before making your way to campus for Move-In.

Directions to Check-In
Driving directions to both check-in locations are available on the Move-In website and the My UMass app. Be sure to follow these directions to avoid being rerouted due to road closures. Updates regarding local road construction will also be available prior to Move-In.

Navigating Campus and Parking Information
Be sure that the driver of your student’s vehicle also downloads the My UMass app and reviews Move-In traffic routes from the check-in location through parking. Once the vehicle has been unloaded, the driver will be directed away from the building to park. In most cases, your student will remain with their belongings. The My UMass app has the route the driver will need to take to find the designated parking lot for your student’s residence hall.

Boarding Pass and UCard
Your student will need their boarding pass and UCard to check in to their room. Remind them to print their boarding pass from SPIRE and pack both items in a location that is easily accessible when they arrive on campus for Move-In. If your student is picking up their UCard after arriving on campus, be sure they bring a photo ID for check-in. For questions, contact Residential Life Student Services at 413-545-2100 and the UCard Office at 413-545-0197.

New2U Annual Tag Sale
Due to COVID protocols, we were not able to hold the collection last semester in order to run our annual tag sale. However, we are looking forward to bringing New2U back to the campus for spring and fall 2022. Look for more information in spring.

Reusable Water Bottles
Save space in your student’s room by avoiding plastic water bottles and expensive filters. Bring a reusable water bottle instead! All residence halls and nearly every academic building on campus have filtered hydration stations for refilling reusable bottles.

Some Other Important Move-in Tips to Consider

- Enjoy the Move-In process and the time with your student and let them lead the way.
- Don’t set up your student’s room completely. Help with the big stuff, but leave things for them to do once you leave. This will keep them busy.
• While this is definitely an exciting time for your student, remember that they might also be nervous and overwhelmed. Keep conversation light and don't dwell on the little things.
• Try to leave as soon as your student is settled and keep goodbyes as brief as possible. This will give them the chance to focus on meeting other students.
• Don't forget the siblings! Be sure to take their feelings into consideration—they may also need some help with the separation process.
• Be sure your student knows how to do their own laundry as well as how to take care of themselves.

More tips are available on the Fam to Fam blog page. Finally, first-year families, remember to stop by the Student Union to meet other families and Student Life staff, learn about resources, and write a postcard to your student. We will deliver the card to them within the first two weeks of school.

Off-Campus Move-In and Living
The Off Campus Student Center (OCSC) is a home for off-campus, commuter, and transfer students in 103 Bartlett Hall. The Center’s relaxed space for studying, taking a break, quick access to computers and printers, and social events make this a hidden gem for all students, even those who live on campus. Staff can assist with off-campus housing searches, finding roommates, understanding leases and budgeting, safety, landlord issues, Good Neighbor Registration, and getting to know the local area. Off Campus Student Life is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., with the lounge open 10 a.m.– 2 p.m. in 103 Bartlett Hall. For a list of fall semester opening events, your student can visit the OCSC Facebook page or Campus Pulse, or drop by the Center to learn more.

For some off-campus move-in tips, be sure to read the Off Campus Move-In Tips and Advice on the Fam to Fam blog page.

Fall Welcome Activities for New and Current Students
Fall Welcome
Fall Welcome takes place Friday, August 27 through Monday, September 10. This is your student’s time to get acquainted with university staff, meet other incoming students with similar backgrounds and interests, reconnect with orientation leaders, explore academic and co-curricular opportunities, navigate campus and their residential communities, and learn UMamherst community values and traditions. Encourage your new student (first-year and transfer students) to attend as many activities as possible to get connected to the bigger campus. This year, there will also be special activities for the Class of 2024 (students who entered in fall 2020 and spring 2021). For a list of scheduled activities, visit our website.

40 Days of UMass
Making the transition to college is an exciting time for all students, and events and activities for new and returning students last well beyond Fall Welcome! Throughout the first six weeks of the semester, offices across campus kick off the new academic year with scheduled events and programs to help students engage with each other, the campus, and our community. In addition, university resources will be highlighted during 40 Days of UMass. Encourage your student to get involved and discover ways to make the most of their college experience. They should check out the 40DaysOfUMass website for more information.

RSO EXPO
The Fall Registered Student Organizations (RSO) Expo will take place over 3 days this year and will be organized by council. Dates, times, and location are listed below. Learn about each council and what RSO they represent on the Student Life website. Encourage your student to attend the RSO Expo to learn more, interact with other students, and start getting involved in extracurricular activities. It’s a great way to get to know peers, grow, and develop leadership skills.

• September 3 (Club Sports, Recreation, and Religious/Spiritual), 2 p.m. – 5 p.m., Student Union
• September 4 (Fraternities, Sororities, Cultural Orgs, and Arts and Media), 3 p.m. – 6 p.m., Student Union
• September 5 (Political, Advocacy, Academic, and Service and Engagement), 12 p.m. – 3 p.m., Student Union

Stay Connected to other UMass Amherst Families
The UMass Amherst Parent Advisory Council looks forward to working with new and current UMass Amherst families to improve the college experience for undergraduate students and families. As you begin the new academic year, we encourage you to take advantage of the many opportunities sponsored by the Council to become engaged, connected, and involved.

Connect to other UMass Amherst families by joining the Family to Family Facebook group. Note: Once you click on the link and request to join, you will automatically receive a note from the group admin asking you to
confirm your status as a UMass Amherst family member. Respond to the screening question and add your student’s name and class year as confirmation (e.g. “Yes [Jane Doe, Class of 2025]”). For security reasons, you will not be given access to the group if you do not complete this screening process.

Visit the UMass Amherst Family to Family blog to find insights, advice, and resources, all provided by experienced UMass Amherst families.

**Academic and Events Calendar**

For information and upcoming dates regarding academics (start of semester, add/drop dates, holidays, finals, etc.) review the Academic Calendar. For information about upcoming events, check out the Events and Campus Pulse websites.

**Make Plans to Attend Family Weekend**

Family Weekend is October 1-3. You, your family, and extended family members are invited to join us for a weekend full of fun and happy memories. For first-year and sophomore families, this is a great opportunity to check in on how your student is adjusting to campus and learn about their new life. For returning families, it’s a way to keep the tradition going and spend as much time with your student as possible before they graduate. We offer a variety of events from which to choose and this year’s Family Weekend coincides with a football and two hockey games, adding even more options. For a list of planned activities, hotel room blocks, and other places to stay, visit our website. Online registration will open next week. A more complete schedule will be available on our website in September.

*Just a reminder that we are following CDC, state, local, and UMass Amherst COVID guidelines/requirements when it comes to social gatherings and face covering. We will continue to plan Family Weekend events based on the most up-to-date guidelines and information. Continue to check our website often for the latest Family Weekend updates.*

**Conversation Starters**

Supportive and consistent messages and discussions about college life can play a significant role in a student’s college success and development. Here are some questions to continue meaningful conversations for a deeper relationship with your student.

- What will you do when confronted with difficult choices?
- How do you plan to spend your time outside of the classroom?
- Tell me the things you plan to do to take care of your mental and physical health this fall?
- Tell me about your personal safety plan?
- Is there anything on your mind you’d like to talk about?

**September polling question**

How long do you plan to stay after moving your student into their residence hall? Participate in the poll and view previous results on the OPS website.

**Important dates**

- August 27: First-Year Move-In
- August 27: Last day to complete AlcoholEdu and YIS (Your Intervention Strategies)
- August 27 - September 10: Fall Welcome for first-year, transfer, and sophomore students
- August 28: Transfer and sophomore Move-In
- August 29-September 1: Multi-Year Move-In
- September 1: First day of classes
- September 3-5: RSO Expo
- September 8: Last day to add/drop classes, waive the Student Health Benefit Plan, change meal plan for the fall semester, and submit immunization records.

**Links to UMass Amherst websites**

- Fall Welcome
- Family Weekend
- Office of the Bursar
- Residential Life

We encourage you to look through our sites and become more familiar with campus resources so you can better direct your student to the appropriate office or department as they learn how to handle their questions and concerns.
As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Office of Parent Services, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. We’re more than happy to assist you.

Sincerely,
Rose M. Boulay, Director
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130 Hicks Way, # 280
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Amherst, MA 01003-9269

In case of a campus emergency, always follow the university’s main web page at www.umass.edu. The website will display a distinctly colored stripe at the top containing pertinent status updates and information related to ongoing emergencies.