Greetings from the Office of Parent Services (OPS)!

As our students race toward final exams, Commencement, and summer break, they might reach out to you for support and encouragement. This email includes final exam tips, summer “to dos,” important dates, and topics for discussion.

Thank you for your generous contributions

A huge thank you to all who donated during UMassGives, especially to the Student Care Emergency Response Fund (SCERF) and the Family-to-Family Fund. This year, SCERF raised $23,127 from 311 gifts and came in second for the Power Hour. In addition, we raised $6,385 for the Family-to-Family Fund from 79 donors. This fund will help students and families transition to college and achieve academic and career success. We are grateful for your support.

Final Exam Tips

Final exams can be stressful. Help them get through it by providing understanding, encouragement, and a bit of support from home:

- Send an E-postcard to brighten their day and remind them of the end goal.
- Make time to listen if they are feeling stressed.
• Remind them to get rest, organize their time, get help studying, and stay focused.
• Encourage them to find quiet study spaces in the W. E. B. Du Bois and Science & Engineering libraries, reserve a group study room, or study in the CMASS Cultural Centers or the off-campus student lounge, and to take breaks between study sessions to improve attention span and productivity.
• Help them concentrate on studying by not interrupting with issues from home if you are able.

Services to help your student succeed:

• Center for Counseling and Psychological Health (CCPH): Stress GPS workshops, “Let’s Talk” sessions, online peer support, self-directed tools, and 24/7 crisis services.
• W. E. B. Du Bois Library: open 8 a.m. – midnight May 9 through May 12. Students can ask questions and contact the librarian for their major.
• Learning Resource Center: tutoring by appointment.
• Writing Center: one-on-one sessions for help with written assignments.
• Student Success: self-guided Success Toolkit Workshops help with organization, test-taking, and study skills.

Final Preparation for Move-Out

On Campus

• Residence halls close 8 p.m. Thursday, May 12. Students must remove their belongings, return furniture to its original position, broom clean their room, and return their room key to their Residential Service Desk before halls close.
• Expect heavy traffic and long wait times for bins and hall access on Wednesday, May 11 and Thursday May 12.
• Traffic pattern changes will be in place during Move-Out.
• All students received directions to their residence hall’s loading area in a May 4 email. Have your student forward you this email if you are picking them up.
• Loading areas near the residence hall have a 20-minute time limit. Your student should be fully packed and ready to go before you park in a loading space.
• If your student isn’t ready when you get to campus, park in a designated lot until they are ready to load, then move to the loading area outside their hall.
• Return the room key to their Residential Service Desk (RSD). Failing to return their room key will result in an additional fee. Avoid this by completing check-out at their RSD.

Review the Move-Out website for additional details including RSD hours, donation options, and bin access.

Off Campus

To help your student prepare to move out of their apartment, remind them to:

• Check their lease for move out date.
• Pack ahead of time and determine how many trips they might need.
• Set aside anything they would like to donate to off-campus move-out.
• Clean the apartment before leaving, take pictures, and schedule an inspection for security deposit refund.
• Contact utility companies to disconnect or transfer services.
• Turn in keys to landlord or property management.

Visit the Move-out resources page for more information.

Finals week parking options

Students without campus parking permits may pay to park in the Campus Center Parking Garage, use coin-operated meters or pay by cellphone using ParkMobile. They may also purchase one-day Click, Print, Park (CPP) permits.

Summer “to do” preview

Students and families should complete these summer “to do” items:

• Log in to SPIRE and check university email regularly for important messages.
• Complete financial aid “to dos” and submit required documents by deadlines; take care of business, including accepting or declining financial aid awards.
Fall semester bills will be available through SPIRE and QuikPay in July and are due in August. Visit the Bursar’s website throughout the summer for details. To pay your bill in installments, enroll in UPay.

Once bills have posted, students with eligible health insurance who wish to waive the Student Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) should complete the waiver through their SPIRE account. A new waiver must be submitted each year.

**Summer expectations and tips**

Your student may soon return home for summer. As you prepare to welcome them, anticipate potential challenges as they reenter family routines after living apart. Here are a few things to consider:

- Your student has changed over the past few months, and your family dynamic may have changed as well. Balance expectations and work together in a cooperative, collaborative way.
- Be clear about which house rules are non-negotiable. Communicate this early, before it becomes an issue.
- Be patient! Your student will likely come home exhausted from the last few weeks. They may need to catch up on sleep and may not immediately feel like talking about their life at college.
- Encourage your student to talk by listening well. Make space for good conversation; talk less and listen more.
- Use the summer to reflect on the successes and challenges of the past school year and to establish realistic fall goals.
- Most importantly, enjoy the summer with each other.

For more tips, refer to the Family to Family blog post, “Re-Entry to Family Life: Talking to Your Student When They Come Home from College,” by former Parent Advisory Council Chair, Melissa Goldman.
Apply for Parent Advisory Council membership

All families of our full-time undergraduate students are encouraged to apply for Advisory Council membership. We are now accepting new members for the 2022-2023 term. Decisions are made in early September and February.

Families of new students

Welcome and congratulations on your student’s enrollment at UMass Amherst! We’re happy that you have found our newsletter. As the parent or family member of a new student, you will receive communications throughout the summer to help you and your student prepare for university life. Watch for emails about the orientation experience from New Student Orientation and Transitions (NSOT) and encourage your student to do the same. Visit the NSOT website to learn more about Guide to the U, Ready for the U, and Welcome to the U, and how to reserve overnight accommodations.

Class of 2022 family members: congratulations and thank you!

Your college student is graduating! Congratulations on their well-earned success. They’ve worked hard to reach this major milestone in their life and your support was integral. We hope your graduate will stay connected through our Alumni Association.

It has been an honor working with you during your student’s time at UMass Amherst, and we appreciate your support and dedication. Best wishes to you and your student in your next adventure. As students transition to life away from campus, many families stay connected by following UMass social media or the News Office.

Families of graduates are not automatically removed from our mailing list – you are welcome to stay on, or visit our subscription center to unsubscribe or change your message preferences.
From the Dean of Libraries: Savoring spring, planning for fall

Over the course of the spring semester for 2022, the UMass Amherst Libraries have met the research and scholarly needs of our students, and we have also engaged with more than 400 students through our Outreach Series. [Read more.]

Enjoy your summer!

This is our last scheduled e-newsletter of the spring semester. We hope you and your student have a wonderful summer break. In the meantime, please visit our website and Facebook page to stay informed.

May Poll Question

If your student is graduating in May, what are their plans after UMass? Participate in the poll and view previous results on the OPS website.

Important Dates

- **May 6:** Final examinations begin
- **May 9:** The [Big Chill](#) study break
- **May 12:** Last day of final examinations
- **May 12:** Residence halls close at 8 p.m.
- **May 13-14:** Commencement Ceremonies
- **May 19:** First day of classes, Online Summer Session I
- **July 11:** First day of classes, Online Summer Session II

Links to UMass Amherst Websites

- [Commencement 2022](#)
- [Financial Aid Services](#)
- [UMass Amherst Alumni Association](#)
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 get in touch with us, Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. We’re more than happy to assist you.

Sincerely,

Rose M. Boulay, Director
Office of Parent Services
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In case of a campus emergency, visit the university’s homepage at umass.edu. The site will display a distinctly colored banner at the top containing status updates and emergency information.

Email: umassparents@umass.edu • Phone: (413) 577-4444 • Fax: (413) 545-9631 • Office of Parent Services • UMass Amherst Parents: Facebook • UMass Amherst Family to Family blog, fund, and Facebook group

Treating Our Parents as Partners