



**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST**

Communication

**Integrative Learning Center
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March 21, 2019

Dear Prospective UMass Comm Major,

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Communication major at UMass Amherst! We are writing to let you know about a unique opportunity for your freshman year.

You have the opportunity to apply for the Communication Major Residential Academic Program, otherwise known as the "Comm RAP". This academic experience integrates your studies in the major with your residential living experience during your first semester. Communication is one of the larger majors on campus, but with the Communication RAP you have the opportunity to live and study with a small group of around thirty of your fellow Comm majors, forging friendships and connections that will likely last throughout your four years at UMass and beyond.

In Fall 2019, Comm RAP students will take Communication 118: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication and Culture, taught in the dormitory building as a small class limited to the 30 students in the RAP. This course is normally taught only in a large lecture format.

In addition to the classroom elements of the RAP, you will receive special departmental advising. Professor Allison Butler, the Chief Undergraduate Advisor for Communication, will meet with you as a group for an advising workshop each semester. And every RAP student will be assigned to a peer advisor – a junior or senior Comm major – who focuses exclusively on advising RAP students.

We believe that the smaller classroom experiences, the specialized advising, and the camaraderie that you will develop in the dorm with your fellow Comm RAP students will make your first year a memorable one and be an exciting start to a great four years in the Communication major.

If you want to join the Comm RAP, or are interested in further information, consult "How to Join" on the UMass Amherst RAP webpage: www.umass.edu/rap. Be sure to read the information on the website so that you have time to take care of the steps necessary to hold a spot.

In addition to the Comm RAP, there are other RAP programs available that are open to students of any major. These RAP programs also have the benefit of living and learning with a small group of students, which can provide a small school experience in the context of the large university with all

its opportunities. You are welcome to join other RAP programs that have space available instead of joining the Comm RAP, even if you are a Communication major.

If the RAP experience doesn't sound right for you, keep in mind that all first year Comm majors are assigned their own personal peer advisor and can drop in to meet with any of our peer advisors in the Comm Undergraduate Advising Office (N323 ILC) during most business hours Monday to Friday during the semester. This advising is available to you in addition to meeting with your regular faculty advisor.

We hope you'll consider applying to the Communication Majors Residential Academic Program, and we hope to meet you in Fall of 2019!

Sincerely,

Professor Benjamin Bailey
Undergraduate Program Director
bbailey@comm.umass.edu

Professor Allison Butler
Chief Undergraduate Advisor
abutler@comm.umass.edu