

**UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST**

**N318 Integrative Learning Center
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Communication

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April 1, 2022

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 participate in 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, and with the Communication RAP you have the opportunity to live and study with a small group of your fellow Comm majors, forging friendships and connections that last throughout your four years at UMass and beyond.

In Fall 2022, Comm RAP students will take Communication 122: Introduction to Media Industries & Institutions, taught in the residential area 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.

In my capacity as Director of Undergraduate Advising and Undergraduate Program Director, I will meet with you as a group for an advising workshop in the fall 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 experience, 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.

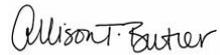
Check out the [Comm RAP page on the RAP website](#) for details about the RAP course and residential location. If you are interested in the RAP, consult the [“How to Join” on the RAP website](#) for important dates. Be sure to read the information carefully so that you have time to take care of the steps necessary to hold a spot.

In addition to the Comm RAP, there are Gen Ed RAP programs available that are open to incoming first-year in any major. These Gen Ed RAPs 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 a Gen Ed RAP that has 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 to a peer advisor and you can drop in to meet with any of our peer advisors in the Comm Undergraduate Advising Office (N323 of the ILC) during most business hours Monday to Thursday during the semester. This advising is available to you in addition to meeting with your regular advisor.

We hope you'll consider joining the Communication Majors Residential Academic Program, and I look forward to meeting you in Fall of 2022!

Sincerely,



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