

UMassAmherst | Student Success

Dear Transfer Students,

Congratulations! You have completed an amazing feat and we are proud of you. Successfully finishing a semester is impressive under even the best of circumstances; managing this experience during a global pandemic has, no doubt, required an additional level of hard work and focus.

For those of you graduating, Student Success wishes you the best on your next steps. Please keep us updated about where your journey leads you. For those of you returning to UMass in the fall, know that we are here to support you regardless of what form the semester takes. If you are interested in supporting future transfer students at UMass through our initiatives, please send us a note and we'll be sure to let you know how you can assist. Thank you for all of your contributions to our community, both now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Carolyn and Laura

Carolyn Bassett

Associate Provost for Student Success

Laura Bourque

New Student Transitions Coordinator

Commencement

For those of you completing your undergraduate academic career, we hope you find ways to celebrate your accomplishments.

On Friday, May 8th, UMass Amherst will host a virtual celebration of the class of 2020. You can also order caps, gowns, and tassels for no charge.

For more information, visit: <https://www.umass.edu/coronavirus/news/celebrating-class-2020>

For those of you who have yet to graduate, please take the time to let your graduating peers know you are proud of them. Send them notes, call them, and find other ways to recognize their hard work.

Reflection

- **In what ways have you grown this year?** How are you a stronger person? How have your struggles and victories helped shape who you are right now?
- **What is the most thought-provoking idea or concept you have thought about this year?** What did you find exciting to talk about, study or learn in class?
- **Who are the people who have most supported you through this year?** Who was there when you needed them? Who was crucial to your success? Go tell them!

Tips

We are all facing many unknowns and future plans might feel uncertain right now. As summer approaches, we suggest trying to be strategic about planning your next steps.

Here are some specific recommendations:

- **Reflect regularly.** Make time to sit with your thoughts and be honest with yourself about what you're feeling. This will help you better understand what you need.
- **Keep up on current events but make time to consume media that lifts your spirits.** A great comedy, an insightful spiritual text or an escapist fiction can all help us center.
- **Check in with your friends and loved ones.** Send texts and make phone calls when it feels appropriate. Schedule times to visit with people on Zoom. Feelings of loneliness are common right now, and intentional outreach can make a big difference.
- **Be sure to check your UMass email regularly.** Whether you're returning in the fall or a soon-to-be-alumni, UMass staff and faculty are working hard every day on ways to keep you connected with our shared community.

Student Success is here to support you. Connect with us at studentsuccess@umass.edu.

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