

# PASSPORT TO SUCCESS

for parents & families  
2024-2025 Calendar







# AUGUST

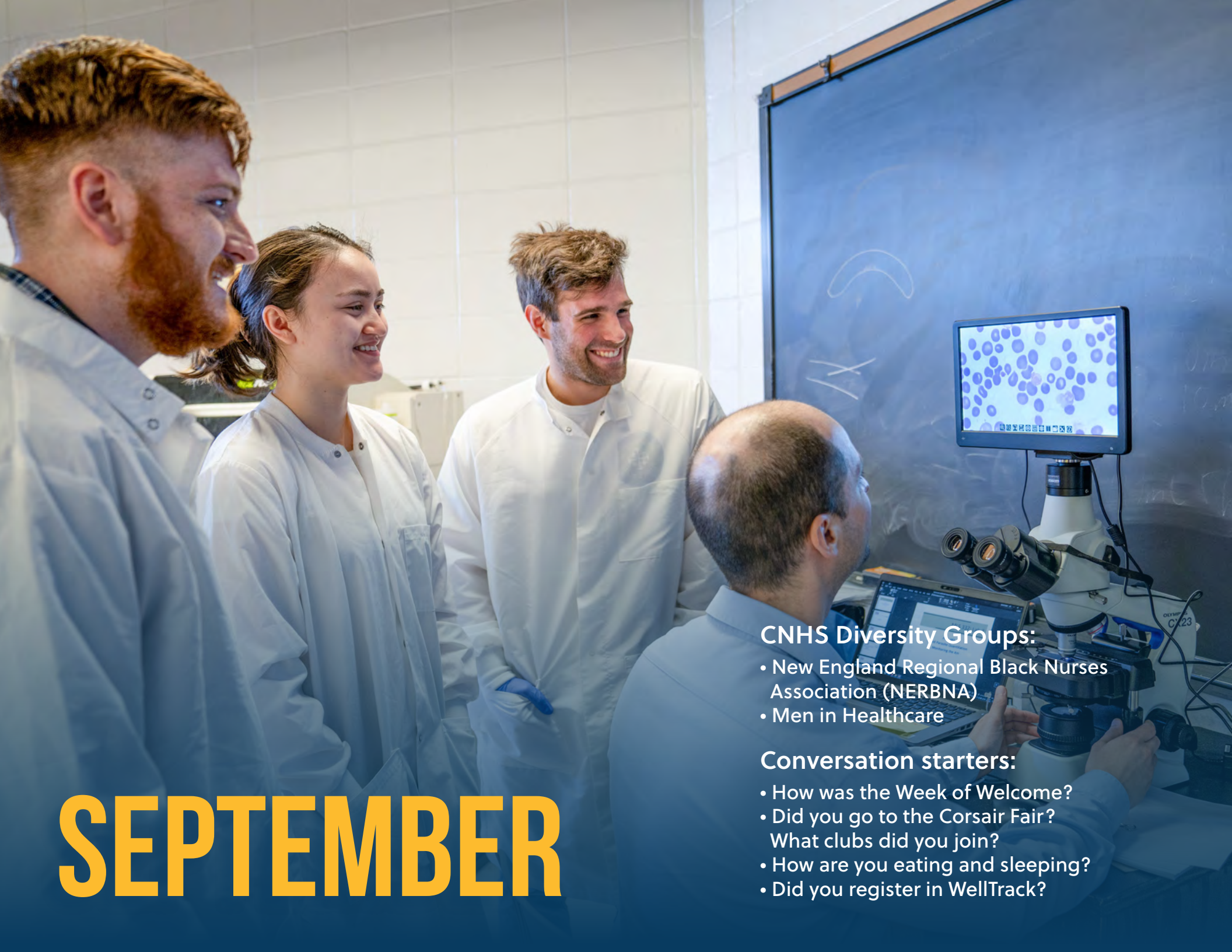
### Conversation starters:

- Do you have a list of what you'll need for college?
- Have you set aside some days for packing?
- Is there anywhere you'd like to go before school begins?
- How do you feel about this change?
- Are you excited to make a fresh start and new friends?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Notes:** Facilitated Group Study Sessions are held weekly in the Academic Advising and Support Office. All students are encouraged to attend. ■ [umassd.edu/studentsuccess](https://umassd.edu/studentsuccess)





# SEPTEMBER

### CNHS Diversity Groups:

- New England Regional Black Nurses Association (NERBNA)
- Men in Healthcare

### Conversation starters:

- How was the Week of Welcome?
- Did you go to the Corsair Fair? What clubs did you join?
- How are you eating and sleeping?
- Did you register in WellTrack?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Move in Day for first year students	2 Labor Day No classes	3 Convocation	4 First day of classes	5 STEP Up BBQ 3pm	6	7 STEP Up Events 8am
8	9 FY Study Groups begin	10	11 Last day to add or drop classes	12 Study Abroad Fair Lunch 12pm	13	14
15	16	17 CNHS Community-Building Event	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Mindfulness Campus Trail Walk	26 Affinity Group Support, NERBNA Welcome Event	27 Affinity Group Support, Men in Healthcare	28
29	30					

**Notes:** September 6-14: First Year Advising Cohort Meetings  
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# OCTOBER

### Conversation starters:

- Are you enjoying your classes?
- Did you meet your academic advisor?
- Were you happy with your first exam grades?
- Was the progress report helpful?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Apple Picking and Bonfire	5
6	7	8	9 5-week progress reports Pass/fail deadline	10	11	12
13	14 Indigenous People's Day No classes	15	16 Follow Monday's Schedule	17 Mindfulness Campus Trail Walk	18	19
20	21 Academic advising for spring begins	22 Fall Pre-Advising Night 5-7pm	23	24	25	26 Blue and Gold Family Weekend <i>(see website for more information)</i>
27	28	29 Follow Wednesday class schedule	30 Mental Health Day No classes	31		

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# NOVEMBER

### Conversation starters:

- Did you attend any club meetings?
- How is your roommate?
- Do you have tests, papers, and projects due before Thanksgiving?
- How was your 10-week progress report?
- Are you looking forward to the Thanksgiving break? What would you like to do?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Registration begins for Spring 2025 term	5	6	7 Affinity Group, Men in Healthcare	8	9
10	11 Veteran's Day No classes	12	13 10-week progress reports	14	15 Last day to withdraw from classes	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 NERBNA Game Night	26	27 Thanksgiving recess begins after last class or lab	28 Thanksgiving	29 Thanksgiving recess	30

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# DECEMBER

### Conversation starters:

- When are your final exams?
- Take a break if you need to.
- Are you looking forward to coming home for the holidays?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Classes resume	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Last day of classes	11 Study Day CNHS Leadership Dinner	12 Final exams begin	13	14
15	16	17	18 Final exams end	19 Winter Break begins	20	21
22	23 Academic Progression Improvement Planning	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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# JANUARY

## Conversation starters:

- How does it feel to be back on campus?
- How were your first semester grades?
- Any goals for this semester?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No classes	21 Spring classes begin STEP Up to spring kickoff	22	23	24 Affinity Group, Men in Healthcare	25
26	27	28 Last day to add/ drop classes	29	30 SLA Info Session	31	

**Notes:** January 23-30th: First Year Advising Cohort Meetings  
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# FEBRUARY

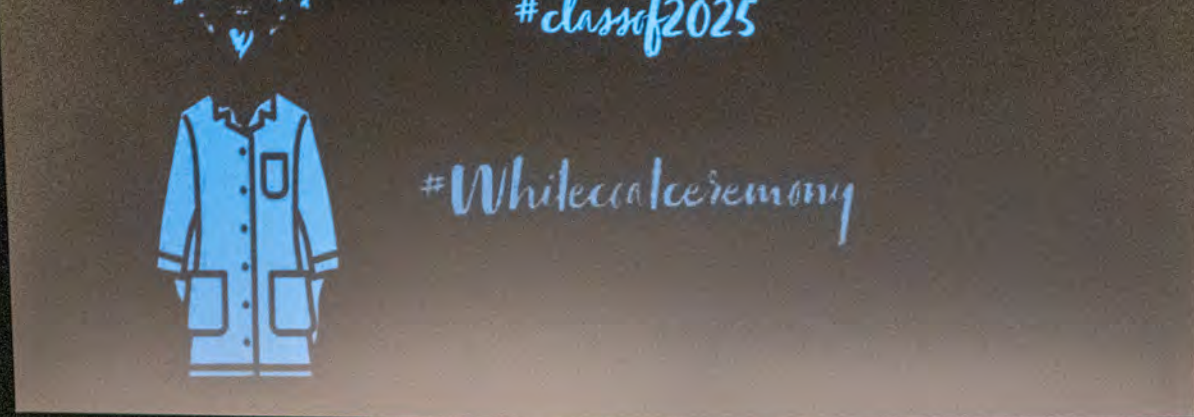
### Conversation starters:

- How are you feeling with the winter weather?
- How was your 5-week progress report?
- Did you apply for any scholarships?
- Have you filed your FAFSA?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Scholarship Application Night with NERBNA	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Study Abroad Fair 11am-1pm The Grove	12	13	14	15
16	17 President's Day No Classes	18 Follow Monday's class schedule	19	20 Black History Month Speaker	21	22
23	24	25 5-week progress reports	26 Last day to file pass/fail	27	28	

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# MARCH

**Conversation starters:**

- Do you have a study partner for midterms?
- Any plans for spring break?
- What are you thinking about for summer employment or internships?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Affinity Group, Men in Healthcare	5	6	7 Spring Recess begins after last class	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Spring classes resume	18	19 Women's History Month Speaker	20	21 Study Abroad in Seville – Application deadline	22
23	24	25 Spring Pre-Advising Night	26	27	28 Student Leader application due	29
30	31					

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# APRIL

### Conversation starters:

- Enjoy the spring weather!
- Are you excited about your classes for next year? What are you taking?
- Are you using any academic resources?
- Will you be involved in any leadership or campus organizations next year?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10-week progress Reports	2 Student Leader recruitment interview	3	4	5
6	7 Registration for Fall 2025 begins	8	9 Clinical Education Readiness Seminar	10 Clinical Education Readiness Seminar CPR Training	11 Last day to withdraw from a class	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Patriots' Day No classes	22	23 Follow Monday's class schedule	24	25 NERBNA Annual Spring Conference	26
27	28 New & Returning Leaders team building activity	29	30 Last day of Spring classes			

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# MAY

### Conversation starters:

- Good luck on finals!
- When do you want to come home?
- Any summer plans?
- Want to get ahead with summer classes?
- What would you change for next year?
- Congratulations - you finished your first year of college!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Study Day, no classes SLA Leadership Dinner	2 Final exams begin Rest & Resilience Activity	3
4	5	6	7	8 Final exams end	9 Summer break begins	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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# Glossary of Terms

**Academic Advising and Support Office** – Professional advising staff assists students in achieving their academic, career, and personal goals and preparing students to grow and succeed both at UMass Dartmouth and beyond. Visit [umassd.edu/nursing/support](https://umassd.edu/nursing/support) for more information.

**Academic Advisor** – The purpose of academic advising is to help students reach their educational goals. Advisors are responsible for collaborating with students to ensure that they meet the requirements to graduate with a degree in their field. Our advising team is here to help students stay on track. At UMass Dartmouth, students must consult their academic advisor each semester to enroll in classes.

**Academic Coaching** – Coaches are available to meet with students on a weekly or biweekly basis to assist students in understanding course material and to develop study and test taking skills throughout the semester. Coaching is available for nursing students of all academic abilities, and sessions are tailored to meet the needs of students in specific high-risk courses.

**Add/Drop Deadline** – Time frame when students can drop or add courses to their course load *without* consequences, including incomplete marks on their transcript.

**Blackboard Learning Management System** – Blackboard is the platform UMass Dartmouth uses to host classes. Students will use Blackboard to complete assignments, connect with instructors and check their grades! *\*Students will not be able to see their courses in Blackboard until the instructor makes it visible. This may not be until the first day of the semester.*

**Corsair Fair** – Annual showcase of the student clubs and organizations at UMassD! Opportunity for students to check out the clubs and stay for the giveaways, etc.

**COIN (Corsairs Online Information Network)** – Students manage information such as class schedules and course registration through COIN. COIN is located in the myUMassD portal.

**Degree Requirements** – Non-negotiable requirements a student must meet to earn a degree.

**Electives** – Classes students choose to fulfill a general education requirement or just because they're interested in a topic outside of their major's core courses.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1976: FERPA** – FERPA guarantees the privacy of a student's educational records. When a student

enters college, the access rights to educational records previously held by parents/guardians are now transferred to the student. FERPA requires, in most instances, prior consent from the student, for disclosure of educational records to third parties (parents/guardians). The consent must be in writing, signed and dated by the student and must specify records to be released, reason for release, and the names of the parties to whom such records shall be released.

**Handbooks** – The handbooks for Nursing and MLS are available on the CNHS website at [umassd.edu/nursing/student-handbooks](https://umassd.edu/nursing/student-handbooks).

**Office Hours** – Times when a student can meet with their professor to discuss the material being presented in class or other related issues or concerns.

**Office of Student Accessibility Services** – Provides a full range of services to students who have different learning abilities. OSA goals are to ensure equal access and full participation for all persons in post-secondary education as outlined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. UMass Dartmouth

uses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a guide to define disability. A condition that substantially limits a major life activity (such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, and learning) and is covered under the ADA makes a student eligible for services from OAS. Services can be provided to students who are deaf or hard of hearing, students with learning disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, chronic health conditions (such as diabetes, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS, psychiatric disabilities, etc.), mobility, visual, speech, and coordination impairments. Email [access\\_success@umassd.edu](mailto:access_success@umassd.edu).

**Prerequisite** – Courses required to be successfully completed in order to take more advanced courses or apply to a program.

**Professional Advisors** – Professional advisors support students to reach their academic goals while identifying and advocating for their individual needs. All first-year students in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences (CNHS) will be assigned to a professional advisor in the Academic Advising and Support Office.

**Progression in Major** – Students' ability to progress in their major is defined by faculty and is different for each major. Please refer to the program handbook (Nursing or MLS) for a complete explanation of the progression policy.

**Progress Reports** – In an effort to improve students' performance and increase retention through early intervention, progress reports will be provided at weeks 5 and 10 of the academic semester.

**Registration** – The process through which students sign up for their classes each term.

**Study Day** – At the end of each fall and spring semester, the day prior to the beginning of the final examination period is designated as a Study Day. Classes do not meet during a Study Day. Students use this day to review for exams, hold study groups, or meet with faculty or tutors to review.

**Syllabus** – The guide to a course and what will be expected of a student in the course. Generally, it will include course policies, required texts, and a schedule of assignments. The instructor's contact information is also on the syllabus.

**Tutoring** – The goal of the tutoring program is to provide the resources to help strengthen knowledge and understanding of the material in college classes. It also promotes the processes of active learning, independence, and motivation. UMass Dartmouth's STEM Learning Lab has a full staff of tutors for many different subject areas and offers both virtual and in-person tutoring! Visit [umassd.edu/arc/stem-learning-lab](https://umassd.edu/arc/stem-learning-lab) to see current availability.

**University Studies** – The University Studies component of the Engaged Community is defined by a set of required courses in various areas outside of the academic major. These areas are constructed so that students will be exposed to academic experiences that will help them achieve the outcomes in the UMass Dartmouth Commitment to Student Learning. There are five clusters in the University Studies Curriculum, and each cluster has a set of required courses.

**Week of Welcome (WOW!)** – Filled with activities and opportunities to meet new people, including Convocation, it's a chance to settle into life as a Corsair, and get to know the UMass Dartmouth campus, programs, services, clubs, and organizations. WOW2023 is from Sunday, 9/1/2023 - Sunday, 9/17/2023.

**Withdraw** – To drop a class after the add/drop grace period. Withdrawing often means receiving a W on your transcript.

**Remember that your student's transition to college life may be difficult. Reach out in whatever way you can to reassure your student that he or she is in your thoughts.**

**Here are some tips for parents to do just that:**

- **Send a care package** of goodies to brighten their day and remind them of your support.
- **Text or call often.** Even if your student does not write back immediately, just drop a note to say 'hi' and let them know what's happening at home. Feelings of homesickness are natural, but regular communication from loved ones can help!
- **Ask questions** (but not too many). Show interest in this new, independent chapter of your student's life.
- **Be supportive and encouraging.** College is a time of new challenges. If your student is struggling with grades, be supportive while encouraging them to do their best. Help them reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, and remind them of the campus resources available to promote their success.
- **Visit** (but not too often). Join us for events like Family Weekend! Occasional visits will give you and your student quality time to look forward to.





Dear Family,

The faculty, staff, and administration are excited to welcome your student to the nursing program at UMass Dartmouth. We know and appreciate the vital role parents and family members play in the lives of our students. We also acknowledge the sacrifices you have made—and the emotional adjustment it takes—to send your student to a new home-away-from-home. We truly believe that your student will have the best college experience if we partner to support them. This calendar of student activities and semester timelines is designed to make the transition to college just a little bit easier for you and your student.

When students come to college, they often experience challenges as they make new friends, adjust to new academic expectations, and encounter periods of growth, self-reflection, and independence. Our programs and services are designed to support holistic wellbeing, foster an inclusive and dynamic community, and complement the university's commitment to academic excellence.

We hope this calendar will be a valuable resource for you and your student—one that helps you adjust to changes in your student's life, provides a sense of comfort and support, and informs you of the services available to your students as they begin their college experience. It's only the beginning of our connection with you. We encourage you to visit the campus, attend athletic and arts events, and participate in Blue & Gold Weekend for families and alumni.

In addition to the paper calendar enclosed, a link to the calendar can be found on our website at [umassd.edu/nursing/support](https://umassd.edu/nursing/support). Please look for a survey in the spring as we seek feedback on your experience and how the calendar has helped you.

Thank you for choosing nursing at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. We look forward to working with you and providing your student with a truly memorable learning experience.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Christopher'.

Kimberly Christopher, PhD  
Dean and Professor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Barnett'.

Karen Barnett, DNP, RN  
Assistant Dean, Undergraduate Studies, Nursing





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