



Registering for Classes Fall 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

1. When is academic advising and preregistration? Each semester, students can select courses for the *following* semester. Academic advising and registration for the Fall 2020 semester courses will be April 1- 11, 2020.

Registration Schedule

Seniors (87 credits and above)	Monday, March 30 & Tuesday, March 31, 2020
Juniors (57 – 86 credits)	Thursday, April 2 & Friday, April 3, 2020
Sophomores (27 – 56 credits)	Monday, April 6 & Tuesday, April 7, 2020
Freshmen (26 credits and below)	Thursday, April 9, 2020

2. Who is my advisor? Your academic advisor is listed at the lower right of your SPIRE student center. Contact [Lisa West](#) if you need an academic advisor assigned.

3. What do I need to do before registering for classes? All AnSci and Pre-Vet majors are assigned an academic faculty advisor and must meet with their advisor prior to the start of registration. All students receive an email reminder and instructions to sign up for a 20-30 minute advising appointment one week prior to advising week. Students should review their Academic Requirements Report (ARR) in SPIRE (dropdown menu under “Other Academic” left side of student center) prior to the advising appointment. The ARR details your academic progress toward university and graduation requirements. Students should bring a list of their proposed course schedule to their advising appointment along with any academic or career planning questions. Your advisor will remove your registration hold after you meet with them.

4. Why should I register as soon as my enrollment appointment opens? Prompt registration is the best way to ensure that you get the courses that you want. Every semester, many courses fill up early, especially classes that can’t be expanded, such as labs. On the other side of the coin, some less popular courses may be canceled if too few people register. A good strategy is to place your courses in your shopping cart before your enrollment appointment starts, so that you can register as soon as your appointment opens.

5. What is the date and time that I can register? Check your enrollment date and time by clicking the “Enrollment Dates” menu located below your “To Do” list on the right side of your student center. Click on Enrollment Appointment > More details.

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Class designations/levels are based on total number of credits earned, including those being earned in the current semester, not upon years at UMass Amherst. If you fail to register as soon as possible, you may find that you cannot get in your required courses or preferred sections.

6. When will the Fall 2020 course guide be available on SPIRE? Fall 2020 course guide will open Monday, March 16.

7. Why can't I register? 🚫 Check your Holds status on the right hand side of your SPIRE student center. All AnSci and Pre-Vet majors have an EN-1 hold meaning you must meet with your advisor to have the EN-1 hold removed to register for classes. Your advisor should remove your EN-1 advising requirement hold after you meet, but there are also other holds that can block registration that may be on your account that were placed on your account by the academic dean's office, health services, parking services or the bursar's office. You will have to contact the office responsible for the hold in order to have it removed.

8. I can't register for Chem 261 because it is full. What should I do?

There are two ways to register for Chem 261:

- 1) Wait until the grades are released and frequently check SPIRE for seats opening up when Chemistry ejects those students who have earned grades less than C- in Chem 112.
- 2) Attend the section of your choice during add/drop this spring and ask the instructor if you can be manually enrolled. You can try emailing the instructor now and asking very nicely if you could be manually enrolled now. Don't forget to include your SPIRE ID # so that the instructor can simply forward your email to the administrator.

9. Why can't I register for some courses using SPIRE?

- You haven't met the prerequisites and/or eligibility for the course you're trying to register for or you've met the prerequisites, but SPIRE doesn't recognize it.
- You need instructor permission for the course.
- The course is restricted to RAP/TAP groups, other majors, or upper classmen.

For all of the above situations, contact the instructor listed for the class via email. Include your name, SPIRE ID number, five digit class number for the lecture and discussion/lab section, if applicable, and reason why you cannot register for the class. If your prerequisite class is not recognized by SPIRE, explain that in your email. If the section you need is closed, explain why you must get into that section to the Instructor. If the course is restricted to other groups, explain why you have to take the class/lab/discussion or that particular section is particularly important to you (e.g. class required by vet school; or it won't fit into your schedule in any other semester). The instructor may request that you be enrolled if there is space available after the priority group has completed registration. Registration may be delayed until as late as the beginning of the next semester. Very Important: Make sure that there is space available for the class in your schedule and that you have enough credits available for manual registration in it.

Special cases:

ANIMLSCI 366 - Veterinary Microbiology is offered both semesters. Students who cannot fit ANIMLSCI 366 into their schedules and are interested in applying to Veterinary Colleges that require a 2 credit lab should speak with the ANIMLSCI 366 instructor, or email [Erika Hamilton](#) to request enrollment in any remaining available seats in Micro 312 (3 credits).

MICROBIO 265: Students interested in Microbio 265 (1 credit) must [apply](#) to the Microbiology Department. The Department of Veterinary and Animal Sciences offers a 2 credit Microbiology Lab -

BIOCHEM 423/424: Students who wish to take Biochem I and II to strengthen their vet/grad school application and who have taken ANIMLSCI 200/285 should email Dr. [Janice Telfer](#), who will send a list of qualified students to Biochem to be registered.

CHEM 269: Enrollment is initially restricted to seniors, but will open to juniors and possibly sophomores; keep checking.

COMM 260: Enrollment is restricted to COMM majors, email Prof. [Stephen Gencarella](#). You may have to wait until the add/drop period to be enrolled.

CHEM 112/261/262/269; BIOLOGY 152/153: If you can't get into the only lecture or laboratory section that fits into your schedule, check SPIRE at least once daily after final grades for the last semester are released for seats that open up. Students who have previously registered will lose their seats if they earn below the minimum grade required to progress (i.e. C or C-).

There are two ways to get into Chem 261:

- 1) Wait until the grades are released and frequently check SPIRE for seats opening up when Chemistry ejects those students who have earned grades less than C- in Chem 112.
- 2) Attend the section of your choice during add/drop this spring and ask the instructor if you can be manually enrolled. You can try emailing the instructor now and asking very nicely if you could be manually enrolled now. Don't forget to include your SPIRE ID # so that the instructor can simply forward your email to the administrator.

MATH 127: Attend the first lecture and speak to the instructor in person about enrollment.

10. What are my University General Education (Gen Ed) requirements? Most AnSci/Pre-Vet majors who started in the Fall of 2010 or later as freshmen will have to choose classes to fulfill the following Gen Ed requirements:

- 1 (4 credit) AL or AT Arts and Literature
- 1 (4 credit) HS History
- 1 (4 credit) SB Social & Behavioral Sciences

In order to minimize the number of Gen Ed classes taken, two of the three Gen Ed classes above should also have the DU (Diversity/United States) and DG (Diversity/Global) diversity designation, so that two Gen Ed requirements can be fulfilled with one class (e.g. ALG fulfills AL and G requirements).

-ANIMLSCI 260 Animal Care and Welfare is a 4 credit SI Gen Ed and is also a graduation requirement for AnSci and Pre-Vet students.

-ENGLWRIT 112 fulfills the College Writing (CW) requirement.

-R1, R2, BS, and PS are fulfilled by classes already required for AnSci and Pre-Vet graduation requirements.

-NATSCI 387 fulfills the Junior Writing requirement. If you want to fulfill this requirement with another class, your advisor can approve of its substitution because it is a major requirement.

-1 Integrative Experience (IE)

The IE GenEd is specific to each major. You can check your requirements by looking in your Academic Requirements Report - ARR, available on the top of the menu at the center left of your SPIRE student center. The IE requirement is listed just after the Diversity "U" and "G" section of your Academic Requirements Report. If you are a freshman or sophomore, you should wait. Most seniors do not have the IE requirement. If you are graduating early and can't fulfill the IE requirement, you

will need to apply to the academic dean for a waiver. If you are a junior or a transfer student, you have three options. You only need to take one of these options to fulfill the IE requirement:

1) If you are in Commonwealth Honors College, wait until the fall of your senior year, when you are taking 499Y (first semester of your honors thesis). Sign up for both 499T (second semester of the honors thesis) and the 1 credit AnSci 494 TI. The combination of 499Y+499T+AnSci 494 TI will fulfill your AnSci/Pre-Vet IE requirement; you do not need to take any other class.

OR

If you are not in Commonwealth Honors College and you are a junior or senior who needs to fulfill the IE GenEd requirement, you can choose from two different classes. You do not need to take both. There are no other classes from other departments that will fulfill AnSci/Pre-Vet IE requirement. If you are a double major or double degree student, consult with your advisor.

2) AnSci 494 GI Good Intentions, offered in the Spring semester.

3) AnSci 494 PI – Problem-based Learning in Advanced Animal Health and Management, offered in the Fall semester.

11. How do you find General Education courses on SPIRE? If you need a Gen Ed course in a particular category, go to SPIRE “Main Menu”, then “Course Guide”, then “Search for Classes” page. Leave the “Subject” box blank, set the “Course Number” to “greater to or equal to 100” and change the “Session:” box to “*University”. Then scroll down to the “Gen Ed Category” box and choose the category you need (e.g., HS for History GenEds that include HS, HSU and HSG courses or HSU for only History, diversity United States courses). Make sure you consider the credits of the course you choose, since 3 credits Gen Ed course are still offered, but will not fulfill 4 credit Gen Ed requirements. There are no 1 or 2 credit Gen Ed courses.

12. What are some electives offered in the Fall of 2020?

Suggested and related electives are listed below.

Students should be sure to check [SPIRE](#) for availability and pre-requisites.

Suggested Electives Fall 2020

ANIMLSCI 231—Dorset Sheep Management I - Tuesday 4:00PM - 6:00PM

ANIMLSCI 232—Belted Galloway Management I – Monday 4:00PM - 6:00PM

ANIMLSCI 233—Boer Goat Management I - Monday 4:00PM - 6:00PM

ANIMLSCI 234—Poultry Management I - Tuesday 4:00PM - 6:00PM

ANIMLSCI 236 – Equine Management – Monday 4:00PM - 6:00PM

ANIMLSCI 296T P-Intro to Teaching ANSCI

ANIMLSCI 297DC– Dairy Calf Management I

ANIMLSCI 365 – Fundamentals in Veterinary and Biomedical Laboratory Techniques – (required course for Biotech subplan) Lab LL Tu 1:00- 4:00PM, Lab LM Th 1:00-4:00PM

ANIMLSCI 386 – Veterinary Oncology, Lab LL We 9:05-11:50AM, Lab LM 8:30-11:15AM

ANIMLSCI – special topics Clinical Animal Behavior, TuTh 10:00PM - 11:15AM to be teleconferenced from UMass Mt. Ida campus

ANIMLSCI 396T P-Advanced Teaching in ANSCI

ANIMLSCI 397E - Veterinary Medical Terminology, Th 4:00-4:50PM

ANIMLSCI 455 - Research Animal Management I – (required course for Biotech subplan)

Lec - MoWeFr 10:10AM - 11:00AM

Lab L Tu 8:30AM - 11:15AM

Lab M Th 8:30AM - 11:15AM

ANIMLSCI 497 - Clinical Animal Behavior – TuTh 10:00-11:15AM
 ANIMLSCI 581H – Cancer Biology –TuTh 1:00-2:15PM
 ANIMLSCI 697G – Cancer & Chemoprevention - held at Bay State Medical Center, Fr 4:00PM - 5:00PM
 ANIMLSCI 219C, 291M, 391C, 391M, 491C, 491M Biotechnology Research Experience –and Practica courses are also suggested.
 ANTHRO 317 - Primate Behavior MoWe 4:00PM - 5:15PM, students will need instructor consent
 BIOLOGY 280 – Evolution – Diversity of Life through Time, Lec 1 MoWeFr 12:20PM - 1:10PM, Lec 2 MoWe 2:30PM - 3:45PM
 BIOLOGY 287 – Introduction to Ecology, TuTh 1:00PM - 2:15PM
 BIOLOGY 542 – Ichthyology, Lec MoWeFr 12:20PM - 1:10PM
 Lab L We 1:25PM - 4:25PM, Lab M Th 8:15AM - 11:15AM
 BIOLOGY 550 – Animal Behavior, Students need instructor consent. Lec 1 TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM Lab 01LL Mo 1:25PM - 4:25PM Lab 01LM, We 1:25-4:25 pm: Lec 2 MoWe 2:30PM - 3:45PM, Lab 02LL Tu 1:00PM - 4:00PM, Lab 02LM Th 1:00PM - 4:00PM
 BIOLOGY 551 – Animal Communication, TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM
 prereq BIOLOGY 280 or instructor permission
 BIOLOGY 580 – Developmental Biology, TuTh 8:30AM - 9:45AM
 prerequisite: BIOLOGY 285, BIOCHEM 275/285, or ANIMLSCI 200/285 with a grade of C or better.
 BIOLOGY 582 - DNA to Diversity TuTh 2:30PM-3:45PM, Lab 01LL Mo 1:25PM - 4:25PM, Lab 01LM We 1:25PM - 4:25PM prereq BIOLOGY 280 or instructor permission
 BIOLOGY 597GE - ST-Evolutionary Genetics, Mo 9:05AM - 12:05PM, Disc 01AA We 11:15AM - 12:05PM, prereq BIOLOGY 280 or instructor permission
 COMM 260 Public Speaking - prerequisite for some vet schools (instructor permission during add/drop required) Lec 4 MoWeFr 11:15AM - 12:05PM
 ECON 103 Introduction to Microeconomics Gen Ed SB, good introduction to business, 8 lecture sections with many discussion sections
 FOODSCI 265 – Survey of Food Science, TuTh 4:00PM - 5:15PM
 FOODSCI 270 – Biology of Food in Human Health, TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM, prerequisite BIOLOGY 151
 HUMDEV 270 - Child Development – students interested in teaching, Lec 1TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM, Lec 3 MoWe 10:10AM - 11:25AM
 NRC 214 – ST – Fish Sampling and Identification, Lab 2 We 1:25PM - 5:15PM, instructor consent required
 NRC 260 - Fish Conservation & Management, TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM
 NRC 564 – Wildlife Habitat Management – students will need instructor consent, Lec TuTh 1:00PM - 2:15PM, Lab LL Tu 2:30PM - 5:15PM, Lab LM Th 2:30PM - 5:15PM
 Prerequisite: NRC 261
 NRC 565 –Dynamics and Management of Wildlife Population - students will need instructor consent, Lec MoWeFr 10:10AM - 11:00AM, Lab LL Mo 1:25PM - 3:20PM, Prerequisite: NRC 290B, RES-ECON 211 or 212, or STATISTC 240, 111, or 501.
 NRC 590M – Marine Ecology – TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM, prerequisite: one semester of biology (BIOLOGY 110, 151, or 152) and one semester of ecology (NRC 252, ENVISCI 214, or BIOLOGY 287)
 RESECON 102 - Intro Resource Econ/ ECON 103 Introduction to Microeconomics (both Gen Ed SB,

good introduction to business), Lec 1TuTh 10:00AM - 11:15AM

PSYCH 350 - Developmental Psychology - students interested in teaching, MoWe 2:30PM - 3:45PM, online Prerequisite: PSYCH 100 or 110, This class is open to Psychology majors or Seniors in any major. If there are 10 or more vacant seats, this class MAY open to minors and other non-majors on or shortly after April 21.

STOCKSCH 106 – Soil Science and Management - online

STOCKSCH 350 - Sustainable Soil & Crop Management Lecture - MoWeFr 9:05AM - 9:55AM, Lab We 10:10AM - 11:00AM, Pre Requisite: STOCKSCH 105 or instructor permission

13. Can I change my schedule, even after the semester starts? Once the registration period begins, you can change your schedule any time, from any computer with internet access, until the end of add/drop which is about two weeks after the beginning of the semester. Attend the lectures and keep up with the material and any assignments or quizzes during this period. If you are unable to make a desired change because a course is full, keep trying. Students continually add and drop classes, so seats can open up briefly at any time. Persistence often pays off. Always add before you drop. Or better yet, use the “swap” function to replace one class with another or the “edit” function to change labs while remaining in the same lecture. The moment you drop a course, someone else can take your spot; thus, make sure you’re in the course you want before you drop anything. If you drop the lab section of a course with a lab component, you’ll automatically be dropped from the lecture, too. If the course is full, you may be unable to get back in.

14. How do I register for Biotechnology Research Experience ('91 C/M courses)? Independent research projects are a great opportunity to learn scientific reasoning and techniques and to work closely with a faculty sponsor. During your freshman or sophomore years, you should start thinking about what type of research you would like to start doing as a junior since most faculty members will not take students starting independent study projects as seniors. You can discuss this with your advisor and look at faculty research interests on the VASCI and UMass websites. During the semester before that in which you want to start, email faculty members to ask if they have space available for an undergraduate and to arrange a meeting to discuss how you might fit into their research projects. To register for ANIMLSCI 291C, 291M, 391C, 391M, 491C, 491M, obtain a Biotechnology Research Experience Contract form, available outside ISB 427X or at <https://www.vasci.umass.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-forms>. The sponsoring faculty and the student decide the course number that is appropriate, as well as composing a project title and description of project goals and expectations. One credit is equivalent to three hours of work per week x 13 weeks per semester so a student signing up for three credits should be working on the independent study nine hours per week (in lab or barn and reading) for the entire semester. An abstract or poster/oral presentation detailing the results of the research project is required by Science Day in April of the year in which the student is registered for the independent study project. The faculty sponsor may email the electronic version of the contract to mschneider@vasci.umass.edu or the student may bring the original to Mary Schneider in ISB 427Z before the end of add/drop to be registered.

15. How do I register for an Internship or Practicum (298, 398, 498 courses)? The Veterinary and Animal Sciences Department strongly encourages students to participate in internships in order to achieve the diverse veterinary medical related experience required for a competitive veterinary medical school or graduate school application and to explore alternative career options. The 298, 398, and 498 practicum courses are a mechanism for students to earn credit for these internship experiences. Each

course is graded pass/fail and can be taken for 1-18 credits, the total amount of credits applied toward the 120 credits required for graduation is limited to 18 credits. Students interested in working in a Massachusetts life sciences company may pursue the Life Sciences Internship Challenge (<http://www.masslifesciences.com/programs/internship/>) from the end of their sophomore year to one year after their graduation with a B.S. or M.S. degree. The Life Sciences Internship Challenge is a workforce development program focused on enhancing the talent pipeline for life sciences companies in Massachusetts and offers part- or full-time paid internships all year long.

In order to enroll in a '98 practicum course, students should first identify an internship sponsor and then a faculty sponsor. The student and sponsoring faculty member discuss the project, the appropriate number of credits (1 credit=minimum 45 hours), and the required academic product to be produced, which is usually a journal documenting the hours worked and what was learned, or a paper on a related topic.

Join [Handshake](https://umass.joinhandshake.com/) (<https://umass.joinhandshake.com/>), UMass Amherst's comprehensive database of internships and jobs, and where you will learn about all career-related events on campus. In Handshake, you can search for internships that interest you.

To register:

1. Go to Handshake: <https://umass.joinhandshake.com/> (Contact Mary Lysakowski in Career Services, 510 Goodell, or 413-545-6265 with questions)
2. Fill out internship form with internship sponsor information, number of credits and class number 298, 398, or 498, faculty sponsor, 1-3 learning objectives and academic product component (this is required).
3. Career Services will email your faculty sponsor for contract approval and will send the pdf to our staff member who will enroll you in the internship/practicum.
4. Enjoy your internship!
5. Submit the agreed upon academic project to your faculty sponsor at end of the semester, or at the end of the second summer session, in time for the faculty sponsor to assign the final grade.

16. How do I register for an Independent Study? ANIMLSCI 496 or ANIMLSCI 596 courses may be taken under the direct supervision of a UMass faculty sponsor and may be used for literature or data review and analysis or other projects of that do not fit in the '91 Biotechnology Research course structure. A letter grade and course title "Independent study" is listed on the student's transcript. ANIMLSCI 596 is a graduate-level course; generally this level is used by upper level undergraduates but can be used by beginning graduate students. Products to be generated in the '96 courses are determined by the sponsoring faculty and agreed to by the student. Examples of appropriate independent study outputs include: papers, posters, oral reports or a portfolio of work. A 1 credit independent study course averages 3 hours of work per week over 15 weeks of the fall or spring semester, or 45 hours total per semester. Credits may vary from 1 credit (3 hours of work per week) to 6 credits (18 hours of work per week). The faculty sponsor may email the electronic version of the contract to mschneider@vasci.umass.edu or the student may bring the original to Mary Schneider in ISB 427Z before the end of add/drop to be registered.

17. How do I register to be a Teaching Assistant? Instructors send the list of TA's to the Undergraduate Program Office to add the course to the student's schedule.

ANIML SCI 296T – Intro, Intermediate and Advance Teaching in Animal Science
Students gain experience in teaching all aspects of Animal Science courses. Students will be expected to have taken the class, demonstrate specific competencies related to labs and assisting students; and

lead review sessions. No contract required. Instructors register TA's directly through the Department. Undergraduate Teaching Assistants must complete FERPA for Moodle access.

a. Complete the online FERPA training at https://owl.oit.umass.edu/owl-c/user/loginpage.cgi?UserType=Student&Server=owl-umaoit&_ga=2.55072744.2112026221.1584026891-460070122.1584026891

b. Go to SPIRE > Main Menu > Student Home > TA Ferpa Agreement and then click the button. The student needs to renew this agreement every semester, even if they have done it before.

Undergraduate TA's are registered as follows:

AnSci 296T 1-2 credits. Repeatable once for credit.

After completing the AnSci 296T level twice, Undergrad TA's are next registered in:

AnSci 396T, 1-2 credits. Repeatable once for credit.

After completing the AnSci 396T level twice, Undergrad TA's are next registered in:

AnSci 496T, 1-2 credits. Repeatable once for credit

18. Can I add a class after the registration period is over? Once the registration period ends, it's no longer possible to change your schedule using SPIRE. You can still add courses, but you must use a "course change" form, which must be signed by the course instructor and by your academic dean (located in the Undergraduate Deans Office, 220 Morrill, 545-1969).

19. Can I add a course if I've reached my credit limit of 19 credits? If you want to take more than 19 credits per semester, you will need to submit a credit overload petition, which you can access at <https://secure.cns.umass.edu/webforms/credit-overload-petition>

It can take up to five working days or longer to process, so it is in your interest to start the process well before the beginning of the semester. Applications are evaluated based on the total number of credits requested and the GPA of the applicant.

20. How can I withdraw from a course after the registration period is over? If you need to withdraw from a course during the semester you may drop the course in [SPIRE](#), with no record, during the add/drop period. After the add/drop period and until the mid-semester date, "[W" drops](#) are accepted and can be done in [SPIRE](#). After the mid-semester date, you must petition your [Academic Dean](#). You can withdraw from a course through the mid-semester "W" date, which is noted on the academic calendar for each semester. A "W" will show up on your transcript indicating that you were enrolled in the course after the add/drop period. Important - be sure you remain a full time student with at least 12 credits, so that your financial aid and housing are not affected.

21. I am not doing well in a class. Can I withdraw from it after the mid-semester "W" date? You can withdraw from a class by the "W" date for academic reasons, but withdrawal from a course after the mid-semester date is possible only with verifiable and extenuating circumstances (e.g. extended illness, family emergency, work schedule change). You should discuss your situation with your academic advisor. If you decide to petition for a late withdrawal use the [Late Withdrawal Petition](#) form. Your petition will be reviewed by the CNS Advising Committee and you will be notified of the decision.

Another option if you encounter a crisis that keeps you from taking an exam or handing in an assignment at the end of a course is to ask the professor if you can take an Incomplete (INC). Be prepared to present documentation to the professor to verify your statements. An INC on your transcript will be counted as an F in your GPA. The work necessary to change an INC to a grade must

be completed by the end of the next semester; otherwise, an INC will automatically convert to an F.

Students can withdraw from a course until the mid-semester date and have a “W” show up on their transcript. The W will stay on the transcript even if the student repeats the course. However, a bad grade, even if it is replaced in the UMass GPA by a better grade from a course repeat, also stays on the transcript. Tufts/Cummings Veterinary College uses both grades when they recalculate student GPAs. Thus, withdrawing from a course because the student is overloaded with credits that semester can be a better option than taking a bad grade. It is a better strategy to focus on getting good grades in the major required courses and withdraw from GenEd or elective courses. If the student is planning to apply to veterinary or graduate school, they do not want to give the impression that they can’t handle multiple challenging science courses (e.g. taking a W in Organic Chemistry and retaking it in the summer). Students can obtain the course change form from outside 427Z ISB, the Registrar’s office, or at the CNS Advising Center 220 Morrill II, have their instructor sign it, and return it to the Registrar by the mid-semester date. Students wishing to withdraw after the mid-semester date must petition the CNS Advising Committee using the [Late Withdrawal Petition Form](#). Instructors don’t have the power to grant late withdrawals.

22. How does the pass/fail option work? The pass/fail option is designed to let you take challenging courses without worrying about their impact on your GPA. However, you can’t take a course required for your major or a general education course pass/fail. Only one elective course per semester can be taken pass/fail—if two or more pass/fail options are taken in one semester, SPIRE will convert one of them back to a letter grade basis without informing you. You must choose the pass/fail option by the mid-semester “W” date. The professor will still assign you a grade. If you get a good grade in the course that will improve your GPA; the grade will appear on your transcript. If the grade does not increase your GPA, it will not be used in computing your GPA and a P or F will appear on your transcript.

23. How do I change my major? Make an appointment to discuss the requirements with the Chief Undergraduate Advisor in the department you are interested in transferring to. If you decide to change majors the Chief Undergraduate Advisor in the new department will assist you. It is appreciated if you let your VASCI academic advisor know you have changed majors.

24. What happens if my GPA goes below a 2.0? To be in academic good standing you must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. If you go below a 2.0 you will be placed on academic probation and will need to see the Academic Dean in 220 Morrill II Science Center *and* your academic advisor to develop a strategy to improve your academic performance. If in any subsequent semester, your cumulative GPA falls below 2.0, you will be suspended for a semester but then allowed to return to the University. If your GPA is below a 2.0 for a third semester, you will be dismissed from the university.

25. What do I need to graduate from UMass? You must earn 120 credits; complete your general education, college and major requirements, and earn a 2.0 GPA in your major and a 2.0 GPA overall. You can track these requirements in your Academic Requirements Report (left side of SPIRE student center). Click “Expand all” at the top to see all of the details.

26. Can I take a course at another school and have it count towards my graduation requirements? Yes, but you must first complete a [Prior Approval for Transfer Work](#) or [Prior](#)

[Approval for Senior Year in Absentia](#) form. If you wish the course you are taking to fulfill a university requirement or a major requirement taught by another department, you should submit the form to the Registrar's Office in Whitmore. In many cases, the course will have been previously approved as the equivalent of a UMass Amherst course. If it has not been previously approved, you will have to submit documentation such as a course description or syllabus to your advisor. In some cases, the course will not be considered to be the equivalent of a UMass Amherst course, but the credits will transfer in as a generic transfer course. If your advisor approves, generic transfer courses can be directed to substitute for a major requirement, either before or after they are transferred to UMass Amherst. You must earn a "C-" or above for a course to be transferred – remember your grade will not be factored into your GPA nor will a transferred course grade replace a grade of C- or below in a UMass Amherst course.

27. Should I repeat a course? If you are planning to apply to veterinary medical college and you have a grade of C or C+ in a freshman or sophomore class, unless the vet school to which you plan to apply has a requirement for a minimum grade in all prerequisite classes, it is better to focus on getting high grades in upper level classes rather than retaking earlier classes.

You can repeat a course to replace a grade of C- or below once. However, if you wish to retake it another time, even if the grade is a C- or below, you must request permission from the academic dean. It is now likely that permission to take a course a third time will be denied. If you have failed a course required for graduation or can't progress in a Biology or Chemistry series because you don't have the minimum grade required, then you should consider changing your major.

28. Where do I go for help in writing my resume or getting ready for an interview?

The College of Natural Sciences Career Center is now on Handshake, the leading career platform. Handshake allows you to find internships, jobs and co-ops, and to get personal recommendations of opportunities based on your interests, skills, major, location preferences, and search history. In addition, Handshake will tell you about all UMass Amherst recruiting events, career fairs, workshops and other helpful career resources.

To Join Handshake, [log in and complete your profile now.](#)

Use these [Handshake Tips](#) when setting up your profile.

[CNS Career Services](#) includes Career Coaching, Walk-In Resume Reviews with Career Peer Advisors, Career Guides, Big Interview Training System, Mock Interviews, UMass & CNS Job/Internship Database, Career Fairs, Networking Opportunities, CNS Career & Professional Development Workshops and more! Walk-in to meet with a Career Peer Advisors, 10-5, M-F (during Academic Year), CNS Career Center, Morrill III, Room 215. No appointment necessary!

Nessim Watson is the career advisor for VASCI majors, and can help you with your résumé and cover letters. Appointments can be made online to see him in the [CNS Career Center](#) in room 321 of Morrill II.

Dr. Sue Marston is also available by appointment, to assist students with finding internships and with résumé and cover letter review. You can also access <http://www.studentdoctor.net>
<https://www.vasci.umass.edu/undergraduate/career-information>
<https://www.vasci.umass.edu/undergraduate/opportunities>

29. How can I appeal a suspension or a dismissal? If you have been suspended or dismissed from the university, you may appeal your case to the Committee on Admissions and Records. Appeals are accepted in writing only and must go through a CNS Academic Dean first. [Download this pdf for more information.](#)

30. Can my advisor talk with my parents or others about my academic record? Federal privacy laws only allow advisors to speak to the individual student about that student's academic records. If you would like your parents (or other individuals you designate) to have access to your academic record, then you must complete the [academic information release form](#). The signed academic information release form must be on file with your advisor before your advisor can speak to anyone other than the student about academic information.

31. How do I study abroad? *National Student Exchange for UMass Students* – The on-campus UMass-Amherst Domestic Exchange is part of the National Student Exchange of about 160 colleges across the United States. With the assistance of your academic advisor, courses can be selected to meet Veterinary & Animal Sciences and University requirements so that you graduate with your class. You may also find courses not offered in UMass-Amherst that would enhance your educational experience. Students normally select an exchange for their junior year. Applicants must be in good standing (GPA of 2.5) and make application for an exchange through the UMass-Amherst Domestic Exchange Office, 614 Goodell (413-545-5351) in the year prior to the exchange. Exchanges can be for one or two semesters at the same or different schools. The National Student Exchange web site is <http://www.nse.org>. Prior approval is required for students wishing to take credits at another institution and transfer them to UMass to meet degree requirements. The Prior Approval for Transfer Course Work Form is found at <http://www.umass.edu/registrar/>.

International Student Exchange for UMass students – International exchange programs through UMass-Amherst can be arranged throughout the world. Exchanges involve over 80 college programs in 25 countries. International exchanges most often occur in the junior year. A grade point average of 3.0 and foreign language proficiency (in non-English speaking countries) is desired. Most courses taken (but not the grades) are transferable to our program and count towards residency credit requirements. Apply at the W.S. Clark International Center, Hills South, 4th floor (413-545-2710) and see www.UMass.edu/ipo/ Prior approval is required for students wishing to take credits at another institution and transfer them to UMass to meet degree requirements. The Prior Approval for Transfer Course Work Form is found at <http://www.umass.edu/registrar/>.