
Interdisciplinary and Special Programs

The university offers a variety of certificate programs of interest to students who have completed bachelor's degrees. Some are programs that only accept students with an earned baccalaureate degree; others also accept current undergraduate and non-degree students.

Certificate Programs within Departments

UMass Dartmouth offers an expanding list of graduate certificate programs within departments. Please review the appropriate sections of this Catalogue for information. Each of the programs listed in this column require an earned baccalaureate degree in an appropriate field.

Business —

Graduate Certificates in

- Accounting
- Management (pre-MBA)

Electrical and Computer Engineering —

Graduate Certificates in

- Acoustics
- Communications
- Computer Systems Engineering
- Digital Signal Processing
- Electrical Engineering Systems

Computer Science —

Graduate Certificates in

- Computer Networks and Distributed Systems
- Computer Science
- Software Development and Design

Nursing —

- Post-MS ANP Certificate
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Leadership/Management
- Graduate Certificate in Nursing Education

Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer and Information Sciences —

- Graduate Certificate in Computer Systems

Individualized Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

- An opportunity for holders of the bachelor's degree to create an individually-designed certificate program based in studies in one or more departments. This program is described on the following page.

Interdisciplinary Certificate Programs

The programs listed below welcome students who have completed bachelor's degrees and also current undergraduate and non-degree students. Each is described at length in the UMass Dartmouth *General Catalogue*.

- **Gerontology**
- **International Marketing/French**
- **Labor Studies**

- **Pre-Law Preparation**

Pre-law is an advisory program rather than a major. Working with the advisor, students evaluate their previous academic preparation and work to strengthen abilities and fill in gaps through a combination of additional coursework, review, and practice for entrance examinations. Students who have completed a bachelor's degree are welcome to attend as non-degree students to enhance their preparation for law school. Contact Kenneth Manning, Professor of Political Science (508 999-8366).

- **Pre-Medical Preparation**

Pre-medical (which includes preparation for medical, dental, or veterinary careers) is an advisory program rather than a major. Working with the advisor, students evaluate their previous academic preparation and work to strengthen abilities and fill in gaps through a combination of additional coursework, review, and practice for entrance examinations.

Students who have completed a bachelor's degree are welcome to attend as non-degree students to enhance their preparation for law school, and UMass Dartmouth offers a special version of the Individualized Post-Baccalaureate Certificate to help meet their needs—described on the following page. Contact Eileen Carreiro, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, 508 999-8213 or by email (ecarreiro@umassd.edu).

Certification for Initial and Professional Teaching Licensure

Often individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree consider returning to the university to seek certification for elementary or secondary teaching licensure. If you are such a person, UMass Dartmouth offers a number of programs you will wish to consider.

You may be interested in pursuing a program of **courses to become eligible for an Initial License for teaching**. The Department of Education offers two **post-baccalaureate certificates**, the 42-credit program leading to eligibility to apply for an Elementary Education Initial License and the 36-credit programs leading to Middle or Secondary School Education Initial Licensure. These are described in the Education chapter. To learn specifically about opportunities for teaching licensure in Music, consult the Music section in the *General Catalogue* and contact the UMass Dartmouth Music Department, 508 999-8568.

If you are interested in **teaching and also earning a graduate degree**, two avenues are open to you at UMass Dartmouth:

- If interested specifically in teaching elementary education or, at the secondary level, biology, chemistry, English, French, general science, history, mathematics, physics, political science/political philosophy, Portuguese, or Spanish, you may pursue the graduate MAT program, leading to the **Master of Arts in Teaching**. This program is intended for those who already hold the Initial License for teaching, and will qualify one for Professional Licensure. See the MAT section of this catalogue.
- If interested in **art teaching**, you may pursue the graduate Art Education program, leading to the **MAE degree**. This program, which leads to Professional Licensure, is open to those who already hold the Initial License for teaching and also offers an option for concurrent preparation for Initial and Professional Licensure. See the Art Education section of this catalogue.

Individualized Post-Baccalaureate Certificate

Individualized study for those who already hold a bachelor's degree

UMass Dartmouth offers those who already hold a bachelor's degree the opportunity to meet new career or work demands or satisfy personal goals through an Individualized Post-Baccalaureate Program (IPBC). In Special Student status, these students pursue non-degree study leading to a certificate without receiving formal admission to a master's degree program. The IPBC candidate receives the advantages of program planning with an advisor, a departmental commitment, and favorable timing for class registration. Depending on one's qualifications, courses in an individual's IPBC may be at the graduate or undergraduate levels or combine the two.

After forming general plans about the program of studies desired, the student applies to the academic department in which the principal studies are to be pursued, where her/his needs are discussed and qualifications reviewed and a program of specific courses is selected. An IPBC may be pursued in any academic department of the university that chooses to participate, and interdepartmental programs may also be proposed. Some departments will prepare "packages" of courses designed to meet known needs; others will rely on separate course selections to meet each candidate's needs individually. In the process of formulating a student's IPBC, the advisor must consider the availability of course offerings, in terms of both anticipated scheduling and the likelihood of space being available; when more than one department is involved, the chairperson of the other department will be consulted.

The number of courses in an IPBC is generally more than three but fewer than in a regular undergraduate minor. Students working toward IPBC certification must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0 in the listed courses, and the department is free to establish a higher minimum level of performance. The listing of courses for the IPBC will be maintained in the student's registrar's office file. The department will indicate official completion of the IPBC, which will be recorded on the transcript, and then issue a letter of verification.

The IPBC is not a means of pursuing a formal graduate degree, a second undergraduate major or an undergraduate minor, which are available through the regular admission/re-admission programs of the university.

Those interested may request an IPBC packet at the office of Graduate Admissions, the Registrar, or an academic department. The packet describes the program and enrollment processes, indicates the documentation required from the applicant, and includes all

necessary forms. Officers in Graduate Admissions can provide advice and assistance to those making initial inquiries.

Prospective IPBC students will bring the completed form to the department involved, along with their college/university transcripts showing courses and grades and completion of a baccalaureate degree (departments might require other forms of documentation, at their discretion). If agreement is reached to establish an IPBC for an applicant, its specific courses and requirements will be recorded on a second form and the department chairperson's approval will be obtained (and Dean's if so stipulated for that College). The IPBC thus serves like a contract between the student and department, establishing courses to be completed and other terms for the completion of the program and awarding of the post-baccalaureate certificate.

If an IPBC is not agreed upon, the prospective student can return to the Graduate Studies Office for additional guidance.

IPBC students may register during the previous semester, along with current juniors. As a condition, IPBC students must receive timely departmental approval prior to each registration, to insure that advising and progress-monitoring occur. Without this approval, they must register along with other Special Students just before the beginning of the semester and will receive no priority of access to registration.

IPBC students will pay the fees appropriate for Non Degree status. Those who register the semester before must pay their fees at the time of registration.

Acceptance to an Individualized Post-Baccalaureate Program

Applicants apply for acceptance to an Individualized post-baccalaureate certificate program through the Office of Graduate Studies. Applicants submit a personal statement of intentions and all college/university transcripts showing courses, grades, and completion of a baccalaureate degree. Applicants are not required to submit letters of recommendation or test scores. Graduate Studies staff will assist applicants in contacting appropriate faculty representatives to arrange the details of an IPBC as a part of the application process.

Pre-Medical Preparation

A special version of the Individualized Post-Baccalaureate Program is designed for students who wish to pursue entrance to medical school but lack some or all of the prerequisite pre-medical courses. UMass Dartmouth utilizes an interdepartmental committee (Pre-Medical Committee) consisting of faculty members from the departments of Biology, Chemistry, Medical Laboratory Science, Physics, and Psychology, who oversee the advising and preparation of undergraduate and graduate students for medical school admission independent of their major or previous academic degrees. By enrolling for the Pre-Medical Individualized Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, students avail themselves not only of courses they need but of appropriate academic advising and other UMass Dartmouth pre-medical activities.

Curriculum

The program's curriculum consists of the quantitative, scientific, and technical courses that medical schools expect a candidate to present for admission. The specific selection of courses for the certificate will depend on each student's previous academic record. Qualified post-baccalaureate pre-medical, pre-dental, or pre-veterinary aspirants, after consultation and approval by the pre-medical certificate advisor, select no more than a total of 32 credits. Of these, a maximum of 8 credits can be earned from independent/research study and/or a maximum of 16 credits in science/math elective courses.

Contact

For additional information, contact Eileen Carreiro, Department of Medical Laboratory Science, 508 999-8213 or by email (ecarreiro@umassd.edu).

Note: Regulations indicate that most forms of financial aid are not available for this program, because of its individualized, variable curriculum.