

Connections

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Connections program?

Connections is a grant program designed to assist students in reducing educational costs. Connections is a \$400 fee waiver awarded for 40 hours of community service or research per semester. Students may not combine a Connections position if they are getting paid for the same hours.

How do I qualify?

Connections is open to all UMass Dartmouth students enrolled in a degree program except those students not encumbered with full curriculum support fees. (Students awarded a graduate assistantship after receiving a Connections waiver can expect to have the Connections award rescinded.) Students who have applied for financial aid by completing a 2008-2009 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and have financial need will receive priority consideration. Students who have not applied for financial aid should file the FAFSA as soon as possible. International students should complete a separate statement outlining specific financial concerns, and note that we will review their I-20 and financial documentation submitted in support of their I-20. Due to immigration regulations, international students are restricted to on-campus project assignments. Qualification for future semesters will be determined by financial need and completion of the previous project.

How do I apply?

To apply, simply complete the application and return it to the Financial Aid Office before the beginning of the semester in which you wish to work. Please indicate on your application which semester you are applying for. You must reapply for each semester. The application form may be downloaded from the web at <http://www.umassd.edu/financialaid/awards/grants.cfm>.

Once eligibility is determined you will receive an email from the Student Employment Office notifying you of your eligibility. The projects are listed on-line at <http://www.umassd.edu/financialaid/studentemp/listings/>. Be sure to set the "job type" field to one of the Connections options. Contact the supervisor directly when you find a project that interests you. If you reach an agreement to work on a project the supervisor should then email the Student Employment Office at sbutler@umassd.edu. **It is this email which triggers your \$400 fee waiver.**

How is the fee waiver disbursed?

The Financial Aid Office disburses the fee waiver. The disbursement will appear as a \$400 credit on your UMass Dartmouth account.