



SPRING CONNECTIONS – 2008

CONNECTIONS is designed to assist students in defraying educational costs. If you are unable to continue your UMass Dartmouth education due to increased costs, Connections may be able to assist you. The Connections program provides a \$400 fee waiver for 40 hours of community service or research per semester. Connections can also be used to further your career goals. When choosing a project take into consideration your major and what it is you want to do after graduation.

To apply, simply read the back of this form, complete the questions below and return to the Financial Aid Office **PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER IN WHICH YOU WISH TO WORK**. Eligibility will be noted on this form and forwarded to the Student Employment Office for notification of eligibility. Availability of projects depends on available program funding and open positions. At the end of the program, if you have not fulfilled your commitment the waiver may be rescinded.

Name _____ UMD ID _____

Local Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

1. Describe any prior community service or research experience you have had.

2. Why do you wish to take part in the Connections Program?

3. Have you completed a 2007-2008 FAFSA?

If you are an international student (not eligible to file the FAFSA), please attach a letter outlining your specific financial circumstances.

By signing below, I certify that have read the commonly the back of this application and understand and accept the requirements.

Signature

Date

OFFICE USE ONLY
Eligibility Index:

Term(s) of Service:

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awarded a graduate assistantship after receiving a Connections waiver can expect to have the Connections award rescinded.)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 2007-2008 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. 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.