The Engaged Community

All students at UMass Dartmouth participate in the Engaged Community, a nested and integrated set of learning experiences that provides a liberal education and fulfills the UMass Dartmouth Commitment to Student Learning, defined by the following statement:

A University of Massachusetts Dartmouth education is a foundation from which graduates continually engage and impact their community, both locally and globally. In all aspects of their lives, UMass Dartmouth graduates skillfully locate, analyze, synthesize and evaluate information and can communicate their knowledge effectively and creatively. They have depth in a field of study and broad knowledge across many areas of inquiry, and they continue after graduation to explore and to acquire understanding within and beyond their field of study. UMass Dartmouth graduates think critically and possess the confidence to integrate and apply their learning to solving complex problems. They have excellent interpersonal skills and a sense of purpose. Guided by empathy and integrity, UMass Dartmouth graduates respond constructively to changing personal, professional and societal challenges in a diverse world.

The Engaged Community consists of four major components:

**University Studies** – Courses that impart knowledge, competencies and skills in areas that are critical to intellectual, professional and personal development. These courses form a vital part of a liberal education, because they transform students into university-educated citizens with the capacities to engage in the various professional, social, economic, cultural and political communities in which they will be a part for the rest of their lives.

**College Studies** – A key part of liberal education is in-depth study in a particular field. Toward that end, students in each of the University’s Colleges and Schools will take specialized courses that relate to the special demands and competencies of those broad areas of study.

**Major Studies** – The capacity for comprehensive and integrated learning is a critical part of a liberal education. All students will develop this capacity by completing a sequence of courses that forms a Major area of study. These Majors are designed by faculty in the various academic departments to foster the development of general and specialized skills as well as in-depth knowledge in a particular field.

**Engagement Beyond the Classroom** – The experiences that develop engaged citizens, with the skills, knowledge and characteristics promised in the UMD Commitment to Student Learning, are not developed only in the classroom. Co-curricular activities and other campus events are integral to student development. While at UMD, students will have ample opportunities to engage beyond the classroom in meaningful activities that foster their intellectual and personal development.