



University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Facilities Operations and Construction Flag Policy

Policy Number	FOC-003
Effective Date	March 22, 2017
Responsible Office/Person	Office of the Chancellor
Related Policies	None
Additional History	This policy supersedes the 10/1/16 Flag Policy

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to assure compliance with all state and federal laws, regulations and codes related to the presentation of the flags of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the University of Massachusetts at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth facilities and on its grounds, as well as to provide guidance for the display of flags on the UMass Dartmouth campus not addressed by existing laws, regulations, and codes.

Per the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth policy on Public Forum Use of University Facilities (FOC-002)⁹, the university recognizes the rights of members of the university community and visitors to the community to freedom of assembly and speech, and strongly endorses the free exchange of ideas at the University. Members of the university community and its visitors may exercise such rights in appropriate public forums without seeking sponsorship or permission of the University. Refer to the policy on Public Forum Use of University Facilities (FOC-002) for a description of the public forum space and additional details.

The flag poles located at the Old Westport Road university entrance are not located in the public forum space, and are non-forums reserved for university speech. Therefore, flags may be flown on these poles at the discretion of the university.

II. PROCEDURES

Display of U.S., POW/MIA, Commonwealth, and University flags at the main entrance

When facing the flagpoles from Old Westport Road, the United States flag shall fly on the pole farthest to the left; the Commonwealth of Massachusetts flag shall fly on the center pole and the University of Massachusetts flag shall fly on the pole farthest to the right.

The U.S. and Commonwealth flags shall fly at full staff unless otherwise ordered by the Governor of Massachusetts in accordance with state and federal laws, regulations, and traditions.^{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7}
(Also see Massachusetts Flag Status)

The University of Massachusetts flag shall be flown at full staff unless otherwise ordered by the Chancellor of the university. In the case of the death of a current faculty member, staff member, or student, the university flag may be lowered to half-staff for the day of the person's funeral.

In accordance with U.S. Public Law 101-355, the POW/MIA flag shall be flown on the same pole as the U.S. flag and under the U.S. flag. This flag shall be flown, at a minimum, on the third Friday of September (National POW/MIA Recognition Day), Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day and Veterans Day.⁵

Display of other flags at the main entrance

- A representative of the Graduate Student Senate.
- A representative of the Faculty Senate.
- A College Dean designated by the Provost.
- A staff member appointed by the Chancellor, who will serve as the Chair of this committee.

Upon approval by the Chancellor, the sponsoring organization/department will provide the flag to the Director of Campus Facilities or his/her designee to arrange for the flag raising and flag lowering on the approved date(s).

III. REFERENCES

¹[MGL Chapter 2, Section 6](#)

²[MGL Chapter 264, Sections 5-8.](#)

³[Title 4 U.S. Code Chapter 1, Sections 6-7](#)

⁴[U.S. Flag Guide](#)

⁵[U.S. Public Law 101-355](#)

⁶[POW/MIA Flag Guide](#)

⁷[Bureau of the State House Policy Manual](#)

⁸[Public Forum Use of Public Facilities](#)

Approved:  Date: April 7, 2017
Peyton R. Helm
Interim Chancellor