

# PASSPORT TO SUCCESS

for parents & families  
2025-2026 Calendar







# AUGUST

- Conversation starters:**
- Do you have a list of what you'll need for college?
  - Have you set aside some days for packing?
  - Is there anywhere you'd like to go before school begins?
  - How do you feel about this change?
  - Are you excited to make a fresh start and new friends?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

**Notes:** First-year study groups will be held throughout the fall semester. All students are encouraged to attend.





# SEPTEMBER

**CNHS Affinity Groups:**

- New England Regional Black Nurses Association (NERBNA)
- Men in Healthcare

**Conversation starters:**

- How was your first week?
- How are you eating and sleeping?
- Tell me about the STEP Up events.
- Did you go to the Corsair Fair? What clubs did you join?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Academic year begins Labor Day No classes	2 Convocation All Campus Picnic Beach Bash	3 First day of classes	4 STEP Up BBQ 3:30–5pm	5	6 STEP Up Summit 8am–1pm
7	8	9	10 Last day to add or drop classes	11	12	13
14	15 Study Abroad Fair	16 CNHS Community Study 5–7pm	17 NERBNA First-Year Welcome 12–1pm	18 SLA Community Building Event 12–1pm	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

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# OCTOBER

- Conversation starters:
- Are you enjoying your classes?
  - Did you meet your academic advisor?
  - Were you happy with your first exam grades?
  - Was the progress report helpful?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 5-week progress reports	8 Last day to file pass/fail Mindfulness Campus Trail Walk	9	10	11
12	13 Indigenous People’s Day No classes	14	15	16	17 Blue and Gold Family Weekend	18 Blue and Gold Family Weekend
19	20 Academic advising for spring begins	21 Spring Pre-Advising Night 4–5:30pm	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Mental Health Day No classes	30	31	

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# NOVEMBER

Conversation starters:

- Did you attend any club meetings?
- How is your roommate?
- Do you have tests, papers, and projects due before Thanksgiving?
- How was your 10-week progress report?
- Are you looking forward to the Thanksgiving break? What would you like to do?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Registration for Spring 2026 begins	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 10-week progress reports NERBNA Scholarship Night 5:15pm	11 Veteran’s Day No classes	12	13 Graduate School Fair	14 Last day to withdraw from classes	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24	25	26 Thanksgiving recess begins after last class or lab	27 Thanksgiving	28 Thanksgiving recess	29

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# DECEMBER

- Conversation starters:
- When are your final exams?
  - Take a break if you need to.
  - Are you looking forward to coming home for the holidays?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Classes resume	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Anatomy & Physiology I Jeopardy	9 Classes end	10 Study Day	11 Final exams begin SLA Leadership Dinner	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Final exams end	19 Winter Break begins	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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# JANUARY

- Conversation starters:
- How does it feel to be back on campus?
  - How were your first semester grades?
  - Any goals for this semester?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Spring classes begin STEP Up to Spring 5–6:30pm	27	28	29	30 SLA Information Session 5–5:45pm	31

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# FEBRUARY

Conversation starters:

- How are you feeling with the winter weather?
- How are your classes going?
- Did you apply for any scholarships?
- Have you filed your FAFSA?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Last day to add/ drop classes	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Scholarship Application Night with NERBNA 5:15pm	10	11	12 Black History Month Speaker	13	14
15	16 Presidents' Day No Classes	17 Follow Monday's class schedule	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

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# MARCH

- Conversation starters:
- Do you have a study partner for midterms?
  - Any plans for spring break?
  - What are your plans for summer employment or internships?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 5-week progress reports	3 Last day to file pass/fail	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Spring Recess begins after last class	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Spring classes resume	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Summer & Fall Pre-Advising Night 5–6:30pm				

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# APRIL

- Conversation starters:**
- Enjoy the spring weather!
  - How was your 10-week progress report?
  - Are you excited about your classes for next year? What are you taking?
  - Will you be involved in any leadership or campus organizations next year?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 10-week progress Reports	7	8 Pre-Clinical Education Readiness Seminar Part I 5–7:30pm	9 Pre-Clinical Education Readiness Seminar Part II 5–7:30pm	10	11
12	13 Registration for Fall 2026 begins	14	15	16	17 Last day to withdraw from classes	18
19	20 Patriots’ Day No classes	21	22	23	24 NERBNA Annual Spring Conference 8am–4pm	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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- Good luck on finals!
- When do you want to come home?
- Any summer plans?
- Want to get ahead with summer classes?
- What would you change for next year?

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# Glossary of Terms

**Academic Advising and Support Office** – Professional advising staff assists students in achieving their academic, career, and personal goals and preparing students to grow and succeed both at UMass Dartmouth and beyond. Visit [umassd.edu/nursing/support](https://umassd.edu/nursing/support) for more information.

**Academic Advisor** – The purpose of academic advising is to help students reach their educational goals. Advisors are responsible for collaborating with students to ensure that they meet the requirements to graduate with a degree in their field. Our advising team is here to help students stay on track. At UMass Dartmouth, students must consult their academic advisor each semester to enroll in classes.

**Academic Coaching** – Coaches are available to meet with students on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to assist students in understanding course material and to develop study and test taking skills throughout the semester. Coaching is available for nursing students of all academic abilities, and sessions are tailored to meet the needs of students in specific high-risk courses.

**Add/Drop Deadline** – Time frame when students can drop or add courses to their course load *without* consequences, including incomplete marks on their transcript.

**CANVAS Learning Management System** – CANVAS is the learning management system UMass Dartmouth uses to host classes. Students will use CANVAS to complete assignments, connect with instructors and check their grades! *\*Students will not be able to see their courses in CANVAS until the instructor makes it visible. This may not be until the first day of the semester*

**Corsair Fair** – Annual showcase of the student clubs and organizations at UMassD! Opportunity for students to check out the clubs and stay for the giveaways, etc.

**COIN (Corsairs Online Information Network)** – Students manage information such as class schedules and course registration through COIN. COIN is located in the myUMassD portal.

**Degree Requirements** – Non-negotiable requirements a student must meet to earn a degree.

**Electives** – Classes students choose to fulfill a general education requirement or just because they’re interested in a topic outside of their major’s core courses.

**Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1976: FERPA** – FERPA guarantees the privacy of a student’s educational records. When a student

enters college, the access rights to educational records previously held by parents/guardians are now transferred to the student. FERPA requires, in most instances, prior consent from the student, for disclosure of educational records to third parties (parents/guardians). The consent must be in writing, signed and dated by the student and must specify records to be released, reason for release, and the names of the parties to whom such records shall be released. For more information, visit [studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa](https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/ferpa)

**Handbooks** – The handbooks for Nursing and MLS are available on the CNHS website at [umassd.edu/nursing/student-handbooks](https://umassd.edu/nursing/student-handbooks).

**Office Hours** – Times when a student can meet with their professor to discuss the material being presented in class or other related issues or concerns.

**Office of Student Accessibility Services** – Provides a full range of services to students who have different learning abilities. OSA goals are to ensure equal access and full participation for all persons in post-secondary education as outlined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

**UMass Dartmouth uses the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as a guide to define disability.** A condition that substantially limits a major life activity (such as walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, and learning) and is covered under the ADA makes a student eligible for services from OAS. Services can be provided to students who are deaf or hard of hearing, students with learning disabilities, traumatic brain injuries, chronic health conditions (such as diabetes, epilepsy, HIV/AIDS, psychiatric disabilities, etc.), mobility, visual, speech, and coordination impairments. Email [access\\_success@umassd.edu](mailto:access_success@umassd.edu).

**Prerequisite** – Courses required to be successfully completed in order to take more advanced courses or apply to a program.

**Professional Advisors** – Professional advisors support students to reach their academic goals while identifying and advocating for their individual needs. All first-year students in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences (CNHS) will be assigned to a professional advisor in the Academic Advising and Support Office.

**Progression in Major** – Students’ ability to progress in their major is defined by faculty and is different for each major. Please refer to the program handbook (Nursing or MLS) for a complete explanation of the progression policy.

**Progress Reports** – In an effort to improve students’ performance and increase retention through early intervention, progress reports will be provided at weeks 5 and 10 of the academic semester.

**Registration** – The process through which students sign up for their classes each term.

**Study Day** – At the end of each fall and spring semester, the day prior to the beginning of the final examination period is designated as a Study Day. Classes do not meet during a Study Day. Students use this day to review for exams, hold study groups, or meet with faculty or tutors to review.

**Syllabus** – The guide to a course and what will be expected of a student in the course. Generally, it will include course policies, required texts, and a schedule of assignments. The instructor’s contact information is also on the syllabus.

**Tutoring** – The goal of the tutoring program is to provide the resources to help strengthen knowledge and understanding of the material in college classes. It also promotes the processes of active learning, independence, and motivation. UMass Dartmouth’s STEM Learning Lab has a full staff of tutors for many different subject areas and offers both virtual and in-person tutoring! Visit [umassd.edu/arc/stem-learning-lab](https://umassd.edu/arc/stem-learning-lab) to see current availability.

**University Studies** – The University Studies component of the Engaged Community is defined by a set of required courses in various areas outside

of the academic major. These areas are constructed so that students will be exposed to academic experiences that will help them achieve the outcomes in the UMass Dartmouth Commitment to Student Learning. There are five clusters in the University Studies Curriculum, and each cluster has a set of required courses. You can find additional information at [umassd.edu/universitystudies/how-it-works](https://umassd.edu/universitystudies/how-it-works)

**Week of Welcome (WOW!)** – Filled with activities and opportunities to meet new people, including Convocation, it’s a chance to settle into life as a Corsair and get to know the UMass Dartmouth campus, programs, services, clubs, and organizations. **WOW2025 is from Sunday, 8/31/2025 - Saturday, 9/20/2025.**

**Withdraw** – To drop a class after the add/drop grace period. Withdrawing often means receiving a W on your transcript.

Remember that your student’s transition to college life may be difficult. Reach out in whatever way you can to reassure your student that they are in your thoughts.

Here are some tips for parents to do just that:

- **Send a care package** of goodies to brighten their day and remind them of your support.
- **Do not ask if they are homesick.** The first few weeks of school are packed with welcoming activities, decorating residence hall rooms, going to classes, and other social events. This may take up the majority of your student’s time, and feelings of homesickness may not arise unless asked about it specifically. But trust us; they do miss you!
- **Text or call often.** Even if your student does not write back immediately, just drop a note to say ‘hi’ and let them know what’s happening at home. Feelings of homesickness are natural, but regular communication from loved ones can help!
- **Ask questions (but not too many).** Show interest in this new, independent chapter of your student’s life.
- **Be supportive (but do not smother).** College is a time of new challenges. If your student is struggling with grades, be supportive while encouraging them to do their best. Help them reflect on their strengths and weaknesses, and remind them of the campus resources available to promote their success.
- **Visit (but not too often).** Take advantage of weekend events, such as Family Weekend, to give you an excuse to visit your student. Occasional visits will give your student something to look forward to (and an opportunity to squeeze in some shopping for things they need).