

**Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Bridgewater State University
&
The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth**

November 4, 2020

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) summarizes an educational partnership agreement between Bridgewater State University (BSU) and the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth (UMassD) to provide graduate study opportunities for students who may attend both institutions in the field of Physics. Both institutions are committed to provide students a unique opportunity to successfully complete their academic goals, an Accelerated Pathway for a BSU undergraduate student to earn a master's degree in Physics at UMassD. This agreement ensures that each institution serves the needs of students by providing them with appropriate guidance and advising information. Specifically, the MOU addresses course transfer as well as articulation agreement.

Goals

The goals of this agreement are to:

- Increase student educational opportunities
- Foster collaboration between institutions
- Increase student interest in each institution
- Establish collegiality and communication among BSU and UMassD faculty and administrators

BSU and UMassD hereby enter into the following agreement:

Provisions of Articulation Agreement

1. The institutions will develop and maintain an expanded articulation crosswalk (see Appendix A).
2. The institutions will develop a degree plan and clearly delineate courses to be taken at BSU and those to be completed at UMassD. This specified plan will be an informal contract between the two institutions and the students who choose to participate. This plan will guarantee to the student that the prescribed courses may be used toward the baccalaureate degree at BSU and master's in Physics at UMassD. This is provided by the crosswalk in Appendix A and will be reviewed yearly for curriculum updates.
3. Students may apply to the accelerated pathway upon achieving classification as juniors with a major in physics (any concentration). Students will 1) have a 3.0 or better GPA overall and in their physics courses, 2) complete a short application to be reviewed by the physics department at UMassD, including unofficial transcripts, and 3) provide one letter of recommendation from a BSU physics faculty member. Students will apply during the fall of their junior year. The BSU Department Chair will be responsible for sending applications to the Graduate Program Director in Physics at UMassD by December 1. Preliminary decisions on conditional admission to the accelerated pathway will be communicated by December 15. As a result of preliminary admission to the accelerated pathway, formal application and matriculation to the physics master's program at UMassD will be expedited. A formal application to the accelerated program will be required. If a formal application is received by

UMassD on or before January 1 of the student's junior year, an official acceptance into the accelerated program will be conveyed to the student no later than January 15 of the same year, sufficient for the student to enroll in a graduate-level course at UMassD beginning in the spring semester (see item 2, Appendix A).

4. UMassD tuition and fees will apply to the graduate-level UMassD course taken prior to student matriculation as a graduate student. Students will be considered undergraduates until the conferral of the undergraduate degree and will be billed for any UMassD credits at the undergraduate rate during this time. BSU may consider counting the graduate level course taken at UMassD toward their BS degree to further incentivize participation (see item 2, Appendix A).
5. The institutions will engage in joint marketing efforts to promote the articulation partnership. Promotional efforts will include, but are not limited to, links on respective websites, information in institutional catalogs, and information in other university publications.
6. The institutions will strive to meet annually with the discipline faculty and administrators.

Terms

This agreement shall be effective on _____, 2020 and shall continue until terminated by either party giving one year written notice to the other party in order to protect all students transitioning between institutions. Any changes to this Memorandum of Understanding must be in writing.

Notice

In witness whereof, the authorized representatives of the parties have executed this agreement on the ____ day of _____, 2020.

Bridgewater State University

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth



Karim Ismaili
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Appendix A

This appendix specifies course equivalency for the accelerated pathway, and defines the terms and conditions of the graduate level UMassD courses to be taken during the student's junior and senior years.

Accelerated Pathway:

1. BSU and UMassD agree that BSU students who complete two of the courses below with a grade of B or better can apply six credits to the MS in Physics at UMassD.

BSU PHYS 433 Thermal Physics → UMassD PHY 441 Statistical Thermodynamics

BSU PHYS 438 Electricity and Magnetism → UMassD PHY 411 Electric and Magnetic Fields I

BSU PHYS 458 Advanced Electricity and Magnetism → UMassD PHY 412 Electric and Magnetic Fields II

2. A BSU student may opt to take one graduate-level PHY course at UMassD during their junior or senior year at BSU. The course should be chosen in consultation with the MS physics graduate program director.

Provided that the student meets the grade requirements for the two courses selected under (1) and completes the course under (2) with a B or better grade, the student will have 9 credits invested toward the 30 credits required for the PHY MS degree.