UMass Planning
Our Planning Strategy

The University of Massachusetts’ approach to planning begins with the system’s mission statement and goals developed and approved by the Board of Trustees, which provide the foundation for specific plans designed by each of the five campuses.

Each year the Board and the University president consult with and provide guidance to the campuses on updating their plans, based on data from a variety of sources, including:

- Campus strategic plans
- Peer groups
- Master plans
- Enrollment plans
- Budget (operating and capital)
- Programs
- Annual performance goals

Annually each campus provides an updated description of itself, detailing the attributes that distinguish it from other campuses in the UMass system. This is determined based on performance data and comparisons to their peers nationally. These updates include a projection of how the campuses — and therefore the system — will change over the next five years in several key areas.

In addition, an annual accountability report, UMass Performance, is used to gauge progress in key areas related to the Board’s goals. The report is widely circulated, both on and off the campuses, to enhance communication and understanding of where the campuses are going and what progress they are making in achieving their stated goals.

The Board of Trustees’ Strategic Priorities

1. Improve the student learning experience
2. Strengthen research and development
3. Renew the faculty
4. Continue a focus on diversity and positive climate
5. Maintain and improve access and affordability
6. Develop a leadership role in public service
7. Increase the endowment
8. Improve administrative and Information Technology services
9. Develop a first-rate infrastructure
10. Position the University effectively in the higher education marketplace

OUR MISSION

The University’s mission is to provide an affordable and accessible education of high quality and to conduct programs of research and public service that advance knowledge and improve the lives of the people of the Commonwealth, the nation and the world.
The University of Massachusetts is a five-campus system of national and international repute, based on the quality of its academic programs and the scope and excellence of the research conducted by its faculty.

From Nobel Prize-winning gene-silencing research to research in areas including renewable energy, nanotechnology, cybersecurity, life sciences and marine science, the University of Massachusetts is expanding the boundaries of knowledge and opening doors of discovery. UMass students have amassed an enviable record when it comes to claiming prestigious scholarships, winning Fulbright, Truman, Goldwater, Marshall and Gates Cambridge awards.

While it has assumed its place of prominence on the national and international stage, UMass has retained a strong focus on Massachusetts, as befits its heritage as a land-grant institution. Nearly 80 percent of the University’s students are Massachusetts residents, and a large percentage of those students remain in the state after graduating. UMass campuses are responsible for discoveries that drive regional economies as well as the state’s innovation economy: A recent study indicates that the University is responsible for $6.1 billion in annual economic activity in Massachusetts.

As a result of conducting nearly $600 million in research annually and generating licensing income placing it in the Top 15 annually in national surveys conducted by the Association of University Technology Managers, the University of Massachusetts is a social and economic engine for the state, with more than 250,000 of its graduates living and working in Massachusetts. UMass has been the leading recipient of biotechnology patents in Massachusetts over the past four years, according to the Boston Business Journal’s analysis of data from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. The University is home to one of the nation’s most respected and successful distance-education programs, UMassOnline.

In existence for more than 150 years, the University of Massachusetts can boast an impressive list of successes, attributes and accomplishments. UMass has undertaken an unprecedented $2.4 billion building program over the past decade, adding signature buildings on all five campuses. The University’s Board of Trustees recently authorized additional spending of up to $3.8 billion on construction and renovation over a period that spans Fiscal Years 2014-2018. Students are benefitting from new classroom, recreation, campus center and dormitory facilities, adding to an experience already enhanced by campus locations ranging from Amherst, which has been called one of the best college towns in America, to the region’s economic and cultural center in Boston. The system’s newest campuses are located in Dartmouth, on the state’s scenic South Coast, and Lowell, a city rich in history and tradition. UMass Medical School is located in Worcester, the state’s second-largest city and a burgeoning health and biomedical research center.

These and other factors have combined to send systemwide enrollment soaring from 58,000 students a decade ago to the current population of 72,000. The University of Massachusetts boasts an extraordinary roster of successful and accomplished graduates, a list that includes basketball great Julius Erving, entertainer Bill Cosby, NASA astronaut Cady Coleman, U.S. poet laureate Natasha Trethewey, fashion industry titan Joseph Abboud and former Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.
The University of Massachusetts Amherst is the original and largest campus of the University, and the most comprehensive in terms of the breadth and depth of its academic programs. The flagship of the system, UMass Amherst, is home to Commonwealth Honors College, which has taken its place alongside the finest public honors colleges in the nation and has opened its own residential and classroom complex located in the heart of the Amherst campus. Even as the campus incorporates modern teaching methods involving new communication and information technology, it remains an immersive, residential campus serving predominantly full-time students who learn from peers as well as their professors. UMass Amherst delivers outstanding value to students and families from across Massachusetts, the nation and the globe. The campus currently serves more than 22,000 undergraduates and more than 6,300 graduate students across a comprehensive array of academic programs.

True to its land-grant roots, the campus is engaged in research and creative work in all fields. It is the only campus in the system designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching as among its “Research Universities with Very High Activity” classification, based on research expenditures supported by federal agencies and private sources in a wide variety of basic as well as applied research and development projects. Total R&D annual expenditures exceed $190 million, with major areas of emphasis in climate science, food science, alternative energy, nanomanufacturing, polymer science, computer science and linguistics.

Together, students and faculty are deeply engaged in collaboration with communities — both regional and international — to improve their social and economic conditions.

The University of Massachusetts Boston is nationally recognized as a model of excellence among urban public research universities. Located on Boston Harbor, it is the metropolitan area’s only public research university. UMass Boston’s most distinguished intellectual contributions are in the social sciences, education, health and wellness, and the exact sciences, with faculty earning national and international recognition in biology; environmental, earth, and ocean sciences; cancer research; brain sciences; green chemistry; and disability studies. The university’s innovative projects and programs consistently involve multiple disciplines. Among the newest initiatives are the Center for Governance and Sustainability, the Center for Personalized Cancer Therapy, the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, and the School for the Environment.

UMass Boston attracts a diverse population, with more than 12,000 undergraduate and nearly 4,000 graduate students currently enrolled. These students have roots in more than 140 countries and speak more than 90 different languages. Many are of modest-income backgrounds and are first-generation college students. They benefit from the university’s urban location that provides a wealth of experiential and career opportunities.

In 2014, UMass Boston celebrates its 50th anniversary — and a half-century of commitment to providing superior education, standing with and serving Massachusetts’ capital city, and making a difference. Its faculty members, who represent diverse academic and cultural backgrounds, pursue deeply engaged teaching and research, conducting more than $60 million in research expenditures annually, with major areas of focus in urban health and public policy, science and math education, learning research, computational sciences, analysis and modeling, and transnational cultural and community studies.
Located on the scenic and historic South Coast of Massachusetts, UMass Dartmouth distinguishes itself as a vibrant, public research university dedicated to engaged learning and innovative research, resulting in the lifelong success of its more than 9,100 students and 50,000 alumni. The University serves as an intellectual catalyst for global, national and regional economic, social and cultural transformation.

Highly ranked among national peers by *Washington Monthly* for improving the social mobility of its students, UMass Dartmouth offers more than 80 undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs, including 11 at the doctoral level, the only public law school in Massachusetts, and a growing portfolio of online offerings.

UMass Dartmouth is rated among the top 1 percent of universities and colleges nationwide on the President’s National Higher Education Honor Roll for Community Service, with its students contributing nearly 200,000 hours of service to the region. Two-thirds of UMass Dartmouth students now graduate with a service learning experience that embeds their engagement activity in their coursework.

As the only Massachusetts research university located south of Boston, UMass Dartmouth focuses its $23 million research enterprise on regional needs and aspirations while creating national and global impact related to sustainable fisheries, coastal environmental protection, ocean modeling, clean energy, public policy, scientific computing, community health, and Portuguese-American culture. The University has established advanced manufacturing and bio-manufacturing centers in the city of Fall River and has located its School of Marine Science and Technology and its College of Visual and Performing Arts in the city of New Bedford to directly connect teaching and research to the advancement of nearby urban centers.

The University of Massachusetts Lowell, a nationally recognized doctoral research university, is the fastest-growing of the five campuses. Since 2007, UMass Lowell has achieved enrollment growth of 45 percent while simultaneously increasing the academic qualifications and diversity of its student body. National recognition of the campus is on the rise. UMass Lowell’s three-year, 25-spot gain in the *U.S. News & World Report* national universities rankings is the second-fastest in the nation.

UMass Lowell programs support workforce and economic development through innovation, entrepreneurship and public-private partnerships. The university prepares its 17,000 students to be work ready, life ready and world ready, emphasizing experiential learning through cooperative education, service and research. It offers 120 bachelor’s, 36 master’s and 26 doctoral degrees in business, education, engineering, fine arts, health, humanities, sciences and social sciences.

UMass Lowell is recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a “high research university.” Annual research expenditures exceed $63 million, with a major emphasis on nanomanufacturing, robotics, biomanufacturing and wind energy. The university has emphasized inter-campus and inter-disciplinary Ph.D. programs and has cultivated external partnerships to provide opportunities for research by faculty and students.

UMass Lowell’s alumni earn the top starting and mid-career salaries of graduates of New England’s public research universities and receive the 10th best return on education investment among all public institutions in the nation, according to a report released by PayScale Inc.

The President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll has recognized the campus’s engagement for each of the last four years, including twice “With Distinction.” As of 2013, all of UMass Lowell’s sports programs compete in Division I. To support its growth, the campus opened six new buildings from 2012 to 2013.
The University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS), the Commonwealth’s only public medical school, founded in 1962 and situated in Worcester, serves as the University’s Nobel-Prize winning health sciences campus. Perennially ranked in the top 10 percent for primary care training, UMMS has remained true to its founding mission while also becoming globally recognized in biomedical research. Today, UMMS shares a tripartite mission focused on education, research and health care delivery with its clinical partner, UMass Memorial Health Care.

UMMS is home to approximately 1,100 graduate students spread among the School of Medicine, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Graduate School of Nursing, almost 600 residents and fellows, and renowned faculty, including a Nobel Laureate, a Lasker Award recipient, seven Howard Hughes Investigators and five National Academy Members. UMMS’s burgeoning research enterprise, recognized for its world-class RNA-based gene-silencing expertise, attracts more than $250 million in annual research awards. UMMS’s research prominence has anchored the University’s impressive growth in research and development over the past decade and consistently positions the UMass system as a national leader in generating licensing revenue.

Unique among all medical schools, UMMS is also home to Commonwealth Medicine, a health care consulting division that partners with Massachusetts and other states in delivering health services to vulnerable populations, and MassBiologics, the only university-based and publicly owned FDA-licensed manufacturer of vaccines and other biologic products in the United States.

Given its specialized mission, internationally renowned faculty, and state-of-the-art infrastructure, UMMS is committed to leveraging its strengths and expertise to contribute to the University’s strategic growth.

### Worcester Campus

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