

## Instructions for UMass Amherst GPA Forecast Charts

**GOAL:** These charts are used to *guesstimate* whether a student has the possibility of attaining a cumulative University GPA of 3.200 or higher by their intended graduation date.

**SOURCE:** The GPA charts are based on the total number of *graded residence credits* a student expects to earn at the University, assuming the student takes only 15 credits each semester.

### **CAUTION:**

\*When using these charts, keep in mind that there are many variables that will influence the charts' forecast value! You are making an educated guess, and your guess depends on how you extrapolate data from the charts available to you! This means it is not an exact science!

### **How to correctly read the chart:**

1. Use these charts to make a forecast only after a student has completed at least 12 graded credits at UMass with an overall GPA less than 3.200.
2. Subtract all transfer and test credits awarded upon admission (if any) from the 120 credit total required for University graduation. This will determine the total number of credits the student must earn while at UMass.
3. If the student plans to study abroad, take pass/fail credits, or any other form of study that will not factor into their cumulative GPA, calculate the total number of those credits and subtract them from the result you obtained in step 1.
4. Now you know the approximate number of total *graded residence credits* the student will earn during their UMass Undergraduate career. Use this number to determine which chart best fits this total –
  - 120 graded credits chart,
  - 90 graded credits chart,
  - 60 graded credits chart, or
  - 48 graded credits chart

Example: if the student will earn a total of 70 graded residence credits at the University and usually takes 18 credits per semester, the chart that best fits is the 60 graded credits chart based on an expected 15 credits taken each semester – not an exact fit and thus the need for extrapolation!!!

5. The first column on the left of the chart is where you locate the student's current overall GPA.
6. The first row at the top of the chart is where you locate the number of total graded credits the student has already earned at UMass Amherst to date.
7. Where this row and column intersect (current GPA and total number of credits earned to date), you will find the semester GPA the student must average each remaining semester in order to achieve a 3.200 cumulative GPA for graduation.

\*Anything that influences the total number of *graded residence credits* towards the final University GPA requires extrapolation. Because **these charts do not take into consideration:**

- Pass/Fail courses
- Repeat courses
- Study abroad credits
- An accumulation of more than 120 credits
- And many more variables!

Do not make promises to the student – these charts are marginally better than an outright guess!

Good luck!