



124TH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

School of Health and Natural Sciences

VIRTUAL WINTER CEREMONY



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to Fitchburg State University and the winter ceremony of our 124th commencement. The celebration today is the second of two commencements we are conducting this week for the Class of 2020. The traditional undergraduate and graduate spring commencements were postponed to yesterday and were also held virtually, because the pandemic restrictions made it impossible to gather in person last May.

Unfortunately, global conditions have not improved this winter, so we must celebrate student accomplishments virtually.

Your ceremony may be virtual, but I know the hard work and sacrifices made to get to this day were very real. This is your day to shine!

Our graduates exemplify the university motto, *perseverantia*—perseverance. Commencement signals the successful completion of an important goal, as well as the beginning of new chapters and challenges. I encourage graduates to savor their accomplishments and their memories of life spent in this academic community.

The graduates have not reached this milestone on their own. Let us also recognize the spouses, parents, family members, friends and loved ones who have provided the support and encouragement that made the graduates' success possible. If you are one of these participants today, I hope these exceptional students are inspiring a great deal of joy and family pride.

Graduates, the diploma you earn tonight represents your completion of a course of study, as well as your commitment to pursuing your personal and career goals. Your story is just beginning and we are honored that Fitchburg State will forever stand as a key chapter.

In the years to come, I hope you will remain actively engaged with the university and help to shape the direction for future generations to come. As alumni, you are now part of our extended family worldwide. In times of crisis and times of triumph, we will find a way to be together, to be stronger despite any physical distances. Fitchburg State will always be your home.

Richard S. Lapidus
President

124TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Virtual Winter Ceremony

Fitchburg State University Chamber Choir

“America the Beautiful”

This song was composed by the Canadian-American Black composer
R. Nathaniel Dett in 1918, during the midst of another pandemic.

Words by Katherine Lee Bates (1893); Conducted by Dr. Jonathan Harvey

Welcome to Convene the Ceremony

Dr. Alberto J.F. Cardelle

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Commencement Remarks

Dr. Richard S. Lapidus

Undergraduate Valedictorian

Ms. Caroline Anderson

B.S., Environmental & Earth Science, Minor in Chemistry

Graduate Student Leadership Award

Ms. Michelle A. Tilden

Master of Occupational Education

Congratulations and Well Wishes

Students, faculty, staff and alumni

Congratulations from the Board of Trustees

Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Chair

Message from the Deans

Dr. Margaret Hoey

Dean of the School of Health and Natural Sciences

Dr. Becky Copper-Glenz

Dean of the School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education

Congratulations and Well Wishes

Department and Program Chairs

Acknowledgement of Degree Recipients

Congratulations and Welcome to the Alumni Family

Mr. James Walsh, Class of 1975

124TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Virtual Winter Ceremony

Fitchburg State University Board of Trustees

Ms. C. Deborah Phillips, Chair
Ms. Lynn M. Barrieau, Vice Chair
Mr. David C. Tiernan, Clerk
Mr. Donald R. Irving
Ms. Martha Nicholson
Ms. Delfi L. Nieto
Mr. Frank M. O'Donnell
Mr. Steven Olson, Student Trustee
Ms. Karen Spinelli
Ms. Carolyn E. Crowley Stimpson

2020 Honors Theses / Performances

Kurtis M. Kendall
The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Journalists
Rebecca Ann Rouleau
The Benefits of Hands-on Learning

The following list of graduating students was prepared before final grades were reported and inclusion herein does not constitute evidence of graduation. Conversely, the absence of a student's name from this list does not mean that the person will not be awarded a degree.

GRADUATE DEGREES

Master of Arts

BIOLOGY

Karen A. DiStasio
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Science

FORENSIC NURSING

Wendy S. Bardwell
GREENFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
Elizabeth Susanne Blum
GALION, OHIO

Stacy Theresa Collins
HANOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Cochrane Murph
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Jennifer Dawn Tine
HOPKINTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Bachelor of Arts

BIOLOGY

Christian E. Caban
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Goncalves Fernandes
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Madison Shaye Koneczny
DUDLEY, MASSACHUSETTS

Christina Maria Rodriguez ★
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Kristina Ruhnau
ASHBY, MASSACHUSETTS

Symantha Marie Vallee
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Bachelor of Science

BIOLOGY

Malachi Appiah
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Krushauna Cora Bartkus
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Victoria Berko
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sylvia Serwaa Boateng
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Julia L. Bonica
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Khianna N. Del Valle
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Katie P. Doughty
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Lindsay Denise Duchnowski ★
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Christine Chizhim Eligwe ★
DELRAY BEACH, FLORIDA

Adeola Augustina Fasan
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Chemari D. Forde-DeBerry
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Moses Gomez
GARDNER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ceara Lindsey Hill
NEW IPSWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ashley N. Hudson ★★
❖ *Chemistry*
LAMOINE, MAINE

Kyle William Humphreys ★★★
❖ *Psychological Science*
NORTH DIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Jocelyn Amber Kurtyka
DOUGLAS, MASSACHUSETTS

Jada Marie Newsome
LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Rachel Mary Perrault
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Yvonne Jeannette Bentley Wandless ★★
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

ENVIRONMENTAL AND EARTH SCIENCE

Maeve Helen Ahern
PEPPERELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Caroline Anderson ★★★
LUNENBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Erinn Brittany Melus-Bissonnette ★★
❖ *Mathematics*
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

EXERCISE AND SPORTS SCIENCE

Maame Ama Asantewaa Anane
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jared T. Andy
PEABODY, MASSACHUSETTS

Richard Darin Austin Jr.
WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Sonia Larissa Jackson Boonstra
ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Allissa Marie Carroll ★★
BOXFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Carlington Carlos Clarke
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Karim A. Hassan
SAUGUS, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle D. Hilario ★
FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Tyler R. Joseph
WOBBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle A. Larson-Santeusano
WOBBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Kyle Azevedo Rosa ★
EVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassidy Rose Salvatore
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

William A. Schoolcraft ★★
MILFORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Madison R. Tocci
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Lexus M. Whitney ★
CLINTON, MASSACHUSETTS

GEOGRAPHIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ethan McCaffrey ★
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

MATHEMATICS

Matthew James Foster
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Adrianna Bridget Keefe
SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Erinn Brittany Melus-Bissonnette ★★
❖ *Environmental & Earth Science*
TOWNSEND, MASSACHUSETTS

NURSING

Afua Dakoa Agyakwa ★
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Emmanuella Owusu Agyemang ★
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

★★★ Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

★★ Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

★ Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program

Vanessa Bertolino Garcia Amaral **
SHREWSBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexia Grace Morton Andrews
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Patrick Babineau
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Brenda Bersani **
HINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Lucy M. Bibiu
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Berlinda A. Brampah *
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Sean M. Burke *
MILLBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Brooke Nicole Carbone *
WOBURN, MASSACHUSETTS

Meagan Sullivan Chamberlain
MARLBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarahbeth Ann Churchill
WAREHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Erin Clark
NORTH CHELMSFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Lillian Hadley Clouter
HUDSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Casey Louise Connolly
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Diane Lorelei Cosentino *
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Tracey E. Deyo
ORANGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Meghan Wyse Fogarty
NORWELL, MASSACHUSETTS

Klarafina V. Foster
CHICOPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Allison H. Fusini
WINDSOR, MASSACHUSETTS

ErinAnne L. Gachuma
JEFFERSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Francine Anne Garnier
LEWISTON, MAINE

Jilian Rose Gaucher
DRACUT, MASSACHUSETTS

Paige Marie Gray
SANDISFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Maiya Janelle Hackett
SOUTHBOROUGH, MASSACHUSETTS

Melissa Marshalee Hutchinson
MASHPEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Sarah Elizabeth James
WEST ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

Audrey Joseph *
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Emily Catherine Kelly
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Juthamas Kuldiloke
KEENE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Shellee Ann Kuzyanov
MEDFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Katelynn Zoele Landers
BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS

Stephanie Kaye Levesque
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Kalee Michelle Lord
EAST LONGMEADOW, MASSACHUSETTS

Darlene Marie Lowder
RAYNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Kelsey LouiseFay Martin *
MONSON, MASSACHUSETTS

Laura Marie McGrath
MERRIMACK, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Sonia Fabbie Mendonca *
FRANKLIN, MASSACHUSETTS

Catherine Bakunga Nakirya
RUTLAND, MASSACHUSETTS

Josephine Namubiru
METHUEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Taylor Elizabeth Nelson *
WESTMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Niki Thi Nguyen
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Amanda Carolyn Prifti
WATERTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

Margaret Lois Richardson
ATHOL, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexandrea M. Rodriguez
BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Kara Ryan *
CONSHOHOCKEN, PENNSYLVANIA

Edward Joseph Rzucidlo Jr.
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Paulina A. Sarnik
HARVARD, MASSACHUSETTS

Bridget M. Simmons
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Anneline Abigail Smal
AUBURNDALE, MASSACHUSETTS

Makayla Nicole Walcott
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE

Thomas J. Aho ***
WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

Nicholas Michael Allain ***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Jennifer L. Bourget
HOLDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Glendyuanette Carrasquillo
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Andrew J. Cornacchia
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Anthony M. De Freitas *
GROTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Eric D. Desgroseilliers *
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Sandale A. Douglas *
HARWICH PORT, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley Leanne Goodman *
FITCHBURG, MASSACHUSETTS

Jack A. Halliday **
ASHBURNHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Devan Ramario Harris
CINCINNATI, OHIO

Kyle William Humphreys ***
❖ *Biology*
NORTH DIGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Cassy Jean-Francois
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

Peace Mecha
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Ashley R. Mlodzinski
WHITINSVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

Elise R. Reed *
SOUTH GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Alexa Judith Russo **
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

Marlen Gabriela Sahdala
LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS

Olivia Lee Tonry ***
LEOMINSTER, MASSACHUSETTS

*** Summa cum laude—3.8 or higher

** Magna cum laude—3.5 or higher

* Cum laude—3.2 or higher

❖ Double major

◆ Commonwealth Scholar / Honors Program



VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2020

Caroline Anderson

Caroline Anderson is graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average and a record of significant scholarship and academic achievement at Fitchburg State University.

Anderson's passion for the world around her is reflected in her major of environmental and earth science with a minor in chemistry. She has a deep interest in climate change and its impacts on the ocean.

As an undergraduate, Anderson was among the first cohort of students to participate in a grant-funded summer research program in which she worked with peers and faculty members on projects related to the local environmental and community health. The following summer, Anderson returned to the program as a peer mentor.

She has presented original research at conferences across the U.S. and in Puerto Rico, and interned with Professor Jane Huang on a project for the Worcester County Overdose Death Response Initiative Project, an effort begun by the Worcester District Attorney's Office in response to the opioid crisis.

Anderson was also the valedictorian of her graduating class at St. Bernard's Catholic High School in Fitchburg, where she was awarded the Rensselaer Medal for excellence in math and science.

Following graduation, Anderson is pursuing graduate school to continue her studies in oceanography.



GRADUATE STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD

Michelle A. Tilden

Michelle Tilden is a career educator, having worked with diverse learners for nearly 30 years. Since 2002, she has taught early education at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School in Franklin, where her students are training for employment in the field of human services.

Like many graduate students, Tilden had to balance personal and professional challenges with her scholastic demands. She overcame these hardships to complete her degree and graduates with a Master of Education in Occupational Education.

In being nominated for this award, Tilden's advisor cited numerous contributions to her field, including bringing students to the national SkillsUSA conference where they won 4th place. The experience led her to be one of the lead advisors for many years. She continues to coach individuals and teams of students from the early education program.

At her school, Tilden has shown herself to be a leader through service on numerous committees and training projects. She is the vocational representative for a team of teachers and administrators who work together on improving the educator evaluation process in their district. The vision for this evaluation process is to embrace a collaborative coaching model of evaluation with an emphasis on reflective practices to promote individual and school development and growth, recognizing individual strengths and contributions consistent with continuous school improvement and the school's core values.

2020 FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Award for Excellence in Teaching



Dr. Paul I. Weizer

Dr. Weizer of the Department of Economics, History and Political Science received the Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award, established in 1989 to honor former university President Mara (1976-1995). He founded the Fitchburg State's

Moot Court program that enables students to compete in regional and national Moot Court Competitions where they consistently place at the top alongside students from some of the country's most prominent universities. Weizer has held many senior administrative roles, too, including interim provost, dean, department chair, and graduate program chair.

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award



Dr. Daneen Deptula

Dr. Deptula is a professor in the Psychological Science Department and chair of the Graduate Counseling Program in the Behavioral Sciences Department. Her numerous contributions to the graduate program include curriculum

development, such as developing an accelerated program of study, and the introduction of hybrid courses and certificates. She advises students and teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Her research in the newly emerging field of cyber aggression involves collaborations with both undergraduate and graduate students.

Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship



Dr. Catherine Buell

Dr. Buell is a professor in the Mathematics Department. Her research interests stretch from orbit decompositions of matrix groups, a sub-field of algebraic group theory, to visual stylometry which integrates mathematics, philosophy,

computer science, and art to classify artwork. Other interdisciplinary projects she initiated include creating a statistics course for social justice and writing a computer program to assist her science colleagues and their students studying silver-nanoparticles and their impacts on plants. Her newest research thread studies ethics in math, a controversial new topic in her field.

Faculty Award for Service



Dr. jenn berg

Dr. berg is a professor and former chair of the Mathematics Department. A large investment of her volunteer time has gone to her faculty colleagues, state and national educational administrators, parents and students (at all academic levels) to establish

institutional learning goals and assessing their effectiveness. She also developed “Team Accountability” sessions to help faculty discuss, gather and compose their re-appointment materials and continued making herself available over time as a resource and confidant. berg has held many faculty union positions, too, both on boards and as a member of the bargaining team.

(Her preference is for lower case letters. She is currently on a leave of absence.)

Dr. Vincent J. Mara Excellence in Teaching Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Randy P. Howe
2018	Elizabeth (Beth) R. Walsh
2017	Kelly C. Morgan
2016	Meledath Govindan
2015	Benjamin A. Railton
2014	Sean C. Goodlett
2013	Joshua B. Spero
2012	George F. Bohrer
2011	Howard H. Thomas
2010	Jane A. Fiske
2009	Christine Cosgrove
2008	Peter Laytin
2007	John J. Paul
2006	Eric N. Budd
2005	Gerald M. Higdon
2004	Louis J. Zivic
2003	Barbara S. Cammuso
2002	Thomas Battinelli
2001	Maria M. Jaramillo
2000	Andrea J. Wallen
1999	Edmund B. Thomas
1998	Lee N. Cunningham
1997	Robert F. Champlin
1996	Colin E. Bourn
1995	Pasquale E. Micciche
1994	Rosemarie S. Giovino
1993	Helen O'Flaherty
1992	Caroline A. Murphy
1991	Donald J. Schmidt

Faculty Award for Service

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Eric N. Budd
2018	Megan M. Krell
2017	Elizabeth S. Gordon

Contributions to the Graduate Program Award

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Joseph E. McAloon (awarded posthumously)
2018	John M. Hancock
2017	Chola Chisunka
2016	Nancy L. Murray
2015	Harry Semerjian
2014	Anne M. Howard
2013	Richard J. Spencer
2012	Elaine E. Francis
2011	Michele M. Zide
2010	Rosemarie S. Giovino

Faculty Award for Research and Scholarship

PAST RECIPIENTS

2019	Kisha G. Tracy
2018	Katherine R. Jewell
2017	Teresa Fava Thomas
2016	Eric N. Budd
2015	Jeffrey E. Warmouth
2014	Benjamin A. Railton
2013	Michael B. Hoberman
2012	Susan R. Williams
2011	Joshua B. Spero
2010	Jannette M. McMenamy
2009	Susan M. Wadsworth
2008	Maria M. Jaramillo
2007	Christopher K. Cratsley
2006	Robert J. Wellman
2005	Benjamin D. Lieberman
2004	Paul I. Weizer
2003	Robin D. Dinda
2002	Cynthia Crosson
2001	Nan Wiegersma
2000	Howard H. Thomas

UNIVERSITY SYMBOLS

The university's colors are white, gold and green. White and gold were formally adopted in June 1900, and green was added in 1979. They signify wisdom, inspiration, purity and perfection. The school motto, also adopted in 1900, is Perseverantia. This Latin word was freely translated to mean "achievements brought about by quiet will."



The university flower, the saxifrage, exemplifies the motto. The saxifrage, a small white flower with a golden center, was often found growing through cracks of rocks in early spring. Tiny as the flower is, it appeared to be so strong it could break rocks, through its gentle perseverance, its ability to overcome difficulties in its growth from seed to fruition, from lower to higher, from darkness to light.

These triumphs parallel each individual's growth through education.

In 1900, the saxifrage was adopted as the original college seal. Its white flower petals were surrounded by a golden wreath of saxifrage leaves.

The seal has evolved along with the institution, most recently in 2010 with the attainment of university status. The saxifrage and the motto remain prominent in the design, though they are depicted with a clean, elegant, contemporary look. The current academic logo incorporates a multitude of visual symbols: a shield, a book, an abstract set of wings, and, finally, a subtle "F" in the negative space.

PRESIDENTIAL COLLAR

At formal academic occasions, the president of Fitchburg State University also wears the Presidential Collar. The links in the collar are engraved with the names of Fitchburg State's eleven presidents and years of service. The Presidential Medal, which incorporates the university seal, is suspended from the collar.

Principals / Presidents

2015–Present	Richard S. Lapidus
2003–2015	Robert V. Antonucci
2002–2003	Michael T. Rivard (Interim)
1995–2002	Michael P. Riccards
1975–1995	Vincent J. Mara
1963–1975	James J. Hammond
1953–1963	Ralph F. Weston
1950–1953	Ellis F. White
1945–1950	William J. Sanders
1927–1945	Charles M. Herlihy
1920–1927	William J. Parkinson
1895–1920	John G. Thompson

REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie uncertainly in 13th century England, when Edward III granted a charter to the University of Oxford. A close connection between the university and the church (the chancellor was the bishop's representative) may explain why illustrations depict the members of Oxford wearing gowns resembling clerical cassocks—closed in front and reaching the ground all around. Like the more lavishly trimmed ecclesiastical vestments, costume for advanced degrees was more elaborate.

A more practical reason than religious concurrence may have also prompted the adoption of long gowns. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were cold and often damp, and so robes (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion. The distinctive gown nevertheless set the student apart from his fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costumes for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee's prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown and hood it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree—bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor's or master's degree, gold for a doctor's degree or the governing officers

of educational institutions. A few institutions have soft velvet tams instead.

The gown is normally black, and the gown's cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor's has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor's sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well.

The hood tells the most about the wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college (Fitchburg State University's colors are white, gold, and green). The color of the hood's binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted.

ARTS & SCIENCES

- Communications Media – White
- Criminal Justice – White
- Economics – Copper
- English Studies – White
- Game Design – White
- History – White
- Human Services – White
- Interdisciplinary Studies – White
- Political Science – Light Gold
- Sociology – White

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

- Business Administration – Drab
- Computer Information Systems – Golden Yellow
- Computer Science – Golden Yellow
- Industrial Technology – Golden Yellow
- Occupational/Vocational Education – Light Blue
- Technology Education – Light Blue

EDUCATION

- Education – Light Blue

HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

- Biology – Golden Yellow
- Chemistry – Golden Yellow
- Earth Systems Science – Golden Yellow
- Exercise & Sports Science – Golden Yellow
- Geographic Science & Technology – Golden Yellow
- Mathematics – Golden Yellow
- Nursing – Apricot
- Psychological Science – Golden Yellow

HISTORY

Established in 1894 by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature, the State Normal School in Fitchburg opened in temporary quarters in the old high school building on Academy Street. Principal John G. Thompson, aided by a teaching staff of three, implemented a two-year teacher training program

for women that had forty-six participants. In December 1896, the school expanded into a new building, known as Thompson Hall, and set up the State Schools of Observation and Practice in city buildings on Day Street and Highland Avenue.

In the next decade the school was a trendsetter for programs in Education. The Edgerly School opened, originally as an eighth-grade model and practice school, and then in 1910, it became one of the first junior high schools in the United States. The following year the school initiated the first practical arts teacher training course in the country for men.

In 1930, the State Normal School was authorized to offer a bachelor's degree in practical arts, and in 1932, when it became the State Teachers College at Fitchburg, four-year degrees were offered in all areas of education.

Under the auspices of the State Division of University Extension, summer courses were first offered in 1915, marking the beginning of the college's commitment to Continuing Education programs. In 1935, the college was also authorized to establish graduate programs and in 1954 the first evening courses were offered.

In 1960, the college changed its name and expanded its mission. The State College at Fitchburg diversified its programs to include degrees in disciplines other than education. In 1965, its name was officially changed to Fitchburg State College, which today offers forty-nine undergraduate degree programs in eighteen academic departments, twenty Masters Degree programs, five Certificate of Advanced Graduate Study programs, and seven Graduate Certificate programs. Enrollment is up to 3,100 full-time and 4,000 part-time students, which include 1,100 matriculated graduate students. The campus has expanded from a single structure on High Street to thirty-two buildings on ninety acres, becoming the educational center for the Montachusett region. The college proudly offers traditional and nontraditional programs to serve the educational needs of its students as undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students.

On July 28, 2010, Gov. Deval L. Patrick signed legislation establishing a State University system in Massachusetts, and the institution's current name—Fitchburg State University—was enacted.



