
Fitchburg State University Today

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Commencement week arrives

The university will hold its spring graduate and undergraduate [commencement exercises](#) this week. The graduate ceremony will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18 at the Athletics and Recreation Center on North Street, with the undergraduate ceremony scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday on the main quadrangle.



Mary Pat Couig '79, program manager in the Office of Nursing Services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, will deliver the commencement address on Saturday, and will also be

presented with an honorary degree. University Trustee Martin F. Connors Jr., the president and chief executive officer of Rollstone Bank & Trust, will also be given an honorary degree on Saturday in recognition of his contributions to the university, including 10 years on the board.

Both ceremonies will be streamed live on Fitchburg Access Television.

[Read more](#)

University going "test optional" for fall 2018 applicants

Starting this fall, Fitchburg State University will no longer require standardized test scores as part of its undergraduate admissions process.

In adopting the "test optional" model, Fitchburg State joins other institutions in acknowledging that standardized tests are often not as accurate in predicting academic success as a student's prior academic record and grade point average. Eliminating the test score requirement is also expected to increase the university's accessibility to a greater population of students, which is in keeping with Fitchburg State's mission and core values.

Director of Admissions Sean Ganas said giving students the option to submit SAT or ACT scores also empowers students and their families. "It puts them more in the driver's seat about how they choose to present themselves to the university," he said. "Students may feel their SAT scores are a good indication of their ability to succeed at the university, or they may not. This will allow them to have more say in how they're presented to the admissions office."



For students who don't feel their scores accurately tell their story, Ganas said, the option not to

submit will be removing a perceived barrier to continuing their education.

The university will still require the tests for certain programs and for determining eligibility for merit-based financial aid.

Post Office comes to campus for students heading abroad

Twenty Fitchburg State students with plans to [study abroad](#) got a head start on their travel plans last week when representatives from the U.S. Post Office downtown came to campus to process their passport applications. The university provided the students with scholarships to cover the application fee.

Fitchburg Postmaster James Mills said he was happy with the partnership between his agency and the university, and the convenience of bringing personnel and equipment to Hammond Hall to make it easier for students who will be traveling abroad to apply for their passports.



The Post Office in downtown Fitchburg processes approximately 50-60 passport applications per week, Mills said.

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