FAQ’s regarding General Education Requirements:

Question: I'm a transfer student and I did some general education work at my previous school. Do I have to do it all over again?

Answer: Some aspects of the general education program must be done at UMass Boston, including the first-year seminar, the intermediate seminar, the writing proficiency requirement and the capstone. Depending on the number of transfer courses and where you are transferring from, we will try to match up courses into general education areas whenever possible. If you feel that a particular course meets a distribution area, you should bring it to our attention.

Question: I'm a senior and I didn't do my first year courses in my first year. In fact, I still haven't done my quantitative reasoning requirement. What can I do?

Answer: The requirement will need to be completed. You should talk with your advisor about how you may be able to meet this requirement and how you can prepare for it. Most students take the math placement test; we strongly encourage you to try the practice tests first. Depending on your score, you may have to take a developmental math course before you can take a course to meet the requirement. This means that you'll need to do two courses.

Question: I took a course from the Art department but it wasn't labeled as an AR distribution course. Can I still get it to count as a distribution?

Answer: Probably not. Faculty members review their courses to see if they fit the guidelines for distribution. If so, they are encouraged to document this and propose their course for distribution. A committee reviews the proposal, gives feedback, and either approves or denies the request. If the request is approved, the course will then have the appropriate distribution designation.

Question: I took 3 years of Spanish in high school. Admissions told me that this would give me elementary language proficiency. When I got to UMass Boston, I placed into Spanish 101. I took it but then found out that I no longer have elementary language proficiency. Why?

Answer: There are several ways to get elementary language proficiency. One way is to show a transcript from high school that says you have 3 years of the same language. Another way is to take or transfer in a college-level sequence of the same language (such as Spanish 101 and Spanish 102). If you had language proficiency through your high school work, the university considers you “proficient”. If you then take an introductory class in that same language, you are taking a course that covers material you’ve said you already know. The university assumes that you will then take both courses – the 101 and the 102 – and that you will get proficiency that way. Therefore, the proficiency from high school is dropped. You cannot get it back – you must continue on with the language sequence in order to meet elementary language proficiency.

Question: I took 3 years of French in high school. Admissions told me that this would give me elementary language proficiency. When I got to UMass Boston, I placed into French 102. I enrolled in it but then found out that I no longer have elementary language proficiency. Why?

Answer: Once you enroll in French 102, the university assumes that you will be meeting elementary language proficiency through completion of that course. Therefore, the proficiency from high school is dropped. You cannot get it back – you must pass French 102 to get language proficiency.

Question: I transferred in Math 115 but then took the placement test and placed into Math 115. Can I take it again?

Answer: If you take Math 115 after transferring it in, you will lose the transfer credit. This will happen even if you get an F in the new Math 115 course.
Question: I transferred in Math 130 but the placement test result said I had to take Math 115. What happens if I do this?

Answer: If you enroll in Math 115, you will lose transfer credit for Math 130. The math courses are highly sequenced and if you go backwards in the sequence, you will lose credit.