

A Guide to Student Ceremonies at UMass Medical School



White Coat Ceremony - First-year Students

In the presence of family, guests and faculty members, incoming first-year medical students are welcomed into the medical community and presented with their white coats by their Learning Community mentors along with another individual chosen by the student. The event emphasizes the importance of both scientific excellence and compassionate care for the patient.

Educational Recognition Awards/Class Oath - Second-year Students

The Educational Recognition Awards/Class Oath Ceremony marks the transition of medical education from largely classroom instruction to the clinical years. The event is characterized by recognition of educational excellence in all three schools, a celebration of the collaboration between the three schools and pride in the dedication, passion and creativity of faculty. *The Last Lecture* is presented by the recipient of the Chancellor's Medal for Distinguished Teaching. Second-year students close the program by reciting the oath they have written.



Match Day - Fourth-year Students

Match Day, when soon-to-graduate medical students find out where they will begin their careers as physicians, occurs on the same day, at the same time, at every medical school in the country. Beginning a little before noon, students are called one by one to receive envelopes containing information about their match. Once the clock strikes noon, members of the class open their envelopes as a group and learn where they will complete their residency.

Commencement - Fourth-year Students

UMass Worcester (UMW) awards master's degrees and doctorates in nursing, biomedical sciences and medicine. Students from the Graduate School of Nursing, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and School of Medicine are hooded by representatives of their chosen profession and receive diplomas from the dean of their respective school. The border of the hood indicates the academic discipline in which the degree is earned: apricot for nursing, blue for philosophy and green for medicine. The event is held annually on the first Sunday in June.



*For more information on these events, visit
www.umassmed.edu/UniversityEvents*