

UMass Dartmouth

Education and Economic Impact Statement

The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth serves a vital role in helping our diverse student body achieve access to economic opportunity. Nearly a third of our currently enrolled students are students of color—just over 40% are first generation college students, and 45% receive Pell Grants, which means that the expected family contribution towards their college education is zero dollars. The university recently ranked #76 nationwide and #2 in Massachusetts for social mobility in [U.S. News & World Report](#) rankings, and ranks #4 among Massachusetts public colleges and universities for best value for in-state students according to [PayScale](#).

The university also plays a critical role in helping address economic inequality in the surrounding community by providing access to a quality, affordable college education as well as academic support programs and research for area K-12 schools. UMass Dartmouth is located in between two economically challenged gateway cities, Fall River and New Bedford, within Bristol County, Massachusetts. Based on statistics from the 2020 census, Fall River has a 25% high school dropout rate, compared to 9% statewide, and only a 15.4% college degreed population, compared to a state average of 44% with a bachelor's degree or higher. New Bedford has a 24% high school dropout rate, and 17% of the population has a bachelor's degree or higher. Median household income for Fall River and New Bedford fall at \$43,503 and \$46,321 respectively compared to a statewide average of \$81,215. Approximately 20% of each city's population lives below the poverty line, compared to 10% statewide.