A Learning Commons is a central place that brings together services and facilities to support learning and teaching in a university. Learning Commons come in different sizes, scales and operation models; nevertheless, they are most often characterized by the following:

- A technology-rich environment
- An integrated hub of student services provided by different university units
- A variety of space designs for collaborative learning
- Space for meetings, seminars, tutorials
- Presentation support services and facilities
- Venues for electronic learning and teaching
- Social areas

The Learning Commons at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library supports the mission of the University of Massachusetts Amherst to provide a place for transformative learning experiences that inspire students to embrace challenge, engage in critical inquiry and creative thought, and grow in their chosen academic pursuits.

The Learning Commons provides high quality services responsive to the constantly changing research, and informational needs of our campus community as well as functional, flexible, inviting, safe, technology-equipped learning spaces.

**SPACE**

- Established in September 2005
- Over 30,000 square feet, Lower Level of Du Bois Library
- 18 group study rooms with white boards and computers; 12 with PCs, 6 with Macs, each accommodates up to 10 people
- 400 seats in a mix of configurations for groups of up to 10 (comfortable chairs; individual tables; tables for 1-3; tables for 6 plus much more)
- Free-form Microclimate area featuring several types of individual and group seating arrangements to meet the needs of various sized groups and functions. All group seating in the Microclimate have power outlets.
- State-of-the-art computer classroom for teaching and learning information and technology literacy, along with other workshops
- State-of-the-art Team Based Learning Center (TBLC) for larger group based instruction
- 11,000 square foot outdoor courtyard garden with seating space

library.umass.edu/learningcommons
STAFFED BY
- Library staff including Librarians
- Information Technologies Office (IT) personnel
- International Programs Office (IPO) Study Abroad staff
- Student assistants
- Peer tutors

RESOURCES
- 163 multipurpose workstations (127 PCs and 36 Macs); 40 PCs for public use
- Wireless access throughout building including the courtyard garden
- 40 Laptop PCs for student loan at Circulation/Reserves, Lower Level
- Multimedia equipment: video cameras, tripods, microphones, audio recorders (Circulation/Reserves, Lower Level and Digital Media Lab, Floor 3)
- Copying, printing (B&W and Color), faxing, scanning, UCard transfer station
- Access to online lecture notes, course materials, and online and hard copy reserve materials
- Access to the Libraries’ physical and online collections and services
- Quick Print stations

SERVICES, ACTIVITIES, AND POLICIES
- **24/5 HOURS** (Sun. 11 am-Friday 9 pm; Sat. 9 am-9 pm during academic year)
- Encourage collaboration and group work on projects
- Apple TV large screen projection equipment for viewing group presentations and webinars in Microclimate area
- All-purpose meeting spaces plus exhibits and event space
- Circulation/Reserves/Interlibrary Loan Desk
- “Ask a Librarian” Desk
- Writing Center open during the academic year for students needing assistance with college level writing skills
- Food and drink welcome; Procrastination Station Café, Entrance Level
- No reservations needed for computers or group study rooms
- Service-rich environment with both Technical Support and Circulation/Reserves staff on duty during all open hours
- Cell phone friendly with two sound proof privacy booths
- Academic support: information, library, writing, tutoring, field internships, and study abroad
- Research using the Library collections – print and electronic – and the Internet
- Technology resources and support: software, hardware, adaptive technologies, multimedia projects
- Microforms Room equipped with the latest in electronic viewing and printing capabilities for multiple sizes of both microfilm and microfiche
- Assistive Technologies Center (ATC) with computers and equipment designed to provide accessibility to resources regardless of ability
- Poster printing available by appointment

SOFTWARE AVAILABLE
- Public PCs: Web browsers, Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat
- Authenticated Workstations: Full suite of software licensed by UMass Amherst
- Complete list of software: it.umass.edu/classrooms/software

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