

Thank you for your inquiry regarding retirement from the MA State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS). Advance preparation for retirement is important to ensure the transition occurs smoothly – there are a number of resources to assist in the process. The University's website provides an overview of things to consider (www.umass.edu/humres/instructions-all-benefited-employees-2)

A projection of your retirement income (“pension projection”) is important for financial planning purposes - please call the Massachusetts State Board of Retirement (SBR, contact information below) to request that a pension projection be mailed to your home.

State Board of Retirement – Boston Office

One Winter Street, 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02108
7:45 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Phone: 617-367-7770 or 1-800-392-6014 (Mass only)

State Board of Retirement – Springfield Office

436 Dwight Street, Room 109A, Springfield, MA 01103
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday
Phone: 413-730-6135

Applying to retire from the MA State Employees' Retirement System (MSERS)

A UMass Amherst Human Resources (HR) representative is pleased to assist you in completing your MSERS retirement application. You may complete a retirement application at any time within the 120 calendar days prior to your retirement. Note for financial planning: the first pension payment may be issued three or more calendar months following retirement. The first pension payment will be retroactive to your retirement date.

Please bring your MSERS pension projection with you if you are scheduled to meet with a UMass HR representative; the following documents are also required in order to complete a retirement application:

Items required for an MSERS retirement application:			
	Description:	For pension Options:	Who provides these:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retirement Application	All retirement options Pension Options A, B, C	State Board of Retirement or Human Resources can provide these forms
<input type="checkbox"/>	Retirement Option Form		
<input type="checkbox"/>	W-4 P Tax Form		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Direct Deposit Authorization Form		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Bank Account Information for Direct Deposit <i>and</i> , if using a checking account, a voided check	All retirement options Pension Options A, B, C	You must provide these items.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Birth Certificate or Unexpired Passport – Employee		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spouse's Signature to Witness Retirement Option (if married)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	If divorced, a copy of any Domestic Relations Order resulting from that divorce		
<input type="checkbox"/>	DD214 – Honorable Military Discharge	All retirement options (to qualify for Veterans Premium)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Birth Certificate or Unexpired Passport for your Option C beneficiary	Retirement Option C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Marriage Certificate (<i>if</i> naming your spouse as beneficiary)	Retirement Option C	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Beneficiary Information: Social Security Number, Address & Date of Birth	Retirement options B & C	

Important things to consider as you approach retirement:

If you are not yet drawing your Massachusetts pension (MSERS) but you are:

- 65 years of age and eligible for Medicare (or providing GIC health insurance coverage to someone who is Medicare eligible): while you are still working in a benefitted position for the Commonwealth you (and your GIC-covered spouse, if applicable) should NOT enroll in Medicare Part B. You (and your covered spouse) may enroll in Medicare Part A at age 65. If you do, Medicare Part A will be secondary to your GIC health insurance coverage until you retire.

As you approach retirement ask if your health care provider(s) accepts Medicare or, if no, what health care provider(s) they trust who do accept Medicare in case you need to change providers.

Additional information on turning 65 is available at:

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/10/31/age%2065%20q-and-a2017.pdf>

- Eligible for social security, full social security retirement age* and still working, you may be able to draw your Social Security benefits now (in addition to your University salary). Your Social Security will *not* be reduced by your current earnings or because you are an employee of the Commonwealth.

Your Social Security income may be reduced under the federal Windfall Elimination Provision and/or Government Pension Offset *once you begin drawing your Massachusetts pension.*

A Social Security representative can help you evaluate when it is most beneficial to begin drawing your Social Security income. Social Security telephone: 1-800-772-1213 / TTY 1-800-325-0778

*Full Social Security Retirement Age:

Year of Birth	Full Social Security Retirement Age
1940	65 years and 6 months
1941	65 years and 8 months
1942	65 years and 10 months
1943-54	66 years
1955	66 years and 2 months
1956	66 years and 4 months
1957	66 years and 6 months
1958	66 years and 8 months
1959	66 years and 10 months
1960 or later	67 years

Planning for retirement:

- Your first pension payment may take three or more full calendar months before it is issued. Your first pension payment will be retroactive to your date of retirement. Thereafter pension payments are made once a month at the end of the month.

Federal taxes and GIC insurance will be deducted from your pension payments (deduction of GIC premiums may not begin until your second or third pension payment).

Immediately following retirement the GIC will begin billing you for your insurance premium contributions and you will need to make timely payments in order to secure coverage until the premiums are deducted from your monthly pension payment.

- If Medicare eligible you (and your GIC-covered spouse, if applicable) must enroll in Medicare Parts A&B *when you (the insured) retire* in order to continue health insurance coverage through the GIC.

After retirement Medicare Parts A&B are your primary health insurance coverage; the GIC will offer you a Medicare supplement plan at the retiree rate. Your GIC Medicare supplement plan provides prescription coverage so *you are not required* to enroll in Medicare Part D. Medicare and your GIC plan will only provide coverage if you are seeing a health care provider who accepts Medicare.