

For Immediate Release

Gain a Competitive Edge in the Marketplace With a Diversified Portfolio at UMass Lowell

Lowell, Mass. – December 9, 2003 – Forget the stock market, now there’s a new venture available for professionals interested in diversifying their portfolios – investing in themselves! The University of Massachusetts Lowell offers cutting-edge continuing education programs designed to give working professionals a competitive edge in today’s tumultuous job market – enabling students to pursue financial returns and career advancement as dividends on their investment.

“Just as many of us review our stock investment portfolios, it may be even more important in a changing global economy to reconfigure our educational investment portfolio,” said Professor Robert Tuholski, Chair of the Engineering Technology Department at UMass Lowell. “Our Continuing Studies academic advisors can map out an education portfolio for individuals free-of-charge so they can achieve their professional and personal goals.”

As the University of Massachusetts Lowell gears up for the January 28 start of the spring semester, individuals can select from a wide variety of new courses to expand their skills – from “Adobe FrameMaker” to “Oracle Portal Development,” from “Women in Twentieth Century Music” to “Community Psychology.”

The University’s part-time certificate and degree programs feature practical applications within a curriculum that is constantly updated to integrate the cutting-edge tools

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and applications used by today's leading companies. Courses are scheduled in the evenings with working professionals in mind. Online courses provide added convenience for the hectic traveler or busy parent. And the accelerated 10-week courses – held online or Saturday mornings on campus – empower students to finish sooner, so they can reap the rewards earlier.

“With the economy where it is, I knew I had to get high-demand credentials and that I had to do it quickly,” said UML grad Valerie Cox. “By taking a mix of online and on-campus courses in Information Technology, I was able to accelerate my progress towards earning a degree.”

Individuals like Cox aren't the only ones who have tapped into UMass Lowell's expertise to enhance their skills. Corporations throughout New England have partnered with the University to provide cutting-edge training to their employees as part of UMass Lowell's Corporate Signature Seminar Series – a special series of one- to four-day seminars where regional professionals acquire sought-after skills in classes that run the gamut from “Effective Business Writing” to “Project Management Training” and “Computer Aided Drafting (CAD).”

“These noncredit seminars allow employees who do not have a lot of free time the opportunity to update their knowledge quickly in a number of areas,” said Catherine Kendrick, Director of Corporate and Distance Market Development.

Also new this year at UMass Lowell is the introduction of a Legal Studies concentration for Bachelor of Liberal Arts program and a certificate in Security Management and Homeland Security, both of which are available on campus and online. The University's popular part-time certificate in Paralegal Studies will now be available in the online format as well.

If you can't wait until January 28 to start investing in your educational portfolio, then take part in the University's accelerated Winter Intersession courses, which run from January 5 through January 21. For more information, call UMass Lowell's Division of Continuing Studies at 978-934-2480 or visit them online at <http://continuinged.uml.edu>.