

UMBC MARC U*STAR PROGRAM
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

**UMBC TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATES PURSUING
RESEARCH CAREERS IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES &
MATHEMATICS**

Application Deadline: January 27, 2012

Dear MARC Applicant:

The following pages contain introductory information pages, the MARC U*STAR Program application, a letter regarding the program evaluation, and two informed consent forms (in that order).

The application is **FILLABLE ONLINE**. It will open with Adobe® Acrobat Reader®. Please fill it out online if possible. After it is completed please print the entire application, give the two recommendation forms to professors in your declared major and/or research mentors, and ask them to return the recommendations to you in a sealed envelope for submission with your signed application.

If you cannot fill out the application online, you may print it and fill it out with a typewriter or print neatly in pen.

For Questions please contact Mrs. Taifa Simpson
410-455-2634 or hibbert@umbc.edu

UMBC MARC U*STAR PROGRAM
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

**UMBC TRAINING PROGRAM FOR UNDERGRADUATES PURSUING
RESEARCH CAREERS IN THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES & MATHEMATICS**

The MARC U*STAR Program at UMBC is a grant-funded training program sponsored by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and National Institutes of Health (NIGMS/NIH) that supports talented minority and other undergraduates who plan to pursue a Ph.D. and a research career in biomedical research and mathematics and who have a demonstrated interest in the advancement of minorities in biomedical sciences. Minorities for the MARC Program are defined by NIGMS/NIH to be members of groups historically underrepresented in biomedical sciences research careers--African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Pacific Islanders. As the preeminent undergraduate research opportunity, this residential program supports full time juniors and seniors. The program is not intended to support students who plan to pursue a MD only.

The MARC U*STAR Program models the Meyerhoff Scholarship Program's key components with additional emphasis given to the development of biomedical research talent. If funding continues from NIGMS/NIH and Trainees remain eligible for the program, their appointment will be renewed for a second year of undergraduate study. Trainees are limited to two years of support.

Trainees must maintain a cumulative 3.2 GPA each semester to remain eligible for participation in the program. Guided by the MARC Scholarship Program staff, all Trainees must meet all requirements for program activities, course work, and various group meetings. Each Trainee will do a sustained research project with an area faculty researcher selected according to his or her interests. The research project usually begins as a part time experience during the Trainee's junior year. The research training will expand to a more in depth experience usually during the summer between their junior and senior years. Training will continue part time into the Trainee's senior year unless a special exception is granted. Trainees may also do off campus research with the program's approval. Trainees must successfully complete a Research Conduct and Ethics course and a two-credit scientific writing course.

Recruitment targets highly-able sophomores from UMBC and eligible students who have transferred or plan to transfer to UMBC from community colleges and other higher education institutions. Members of the MARC U*STAR Steering Committee will review eligible applications to select students for interviews. Members of this committee will make the final selection of Trainees and decisions about renewal and/or dismissal of Trainees.

For consideration, eligible applicants must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ **Be a citizen, noncitizen national, or permanent resident of the United States.**
- ◆ **Have a minimum of 60 university or college credits.**
- ◆ **Ability to earn an undergraduate degree from UMBC in a declared major in two years upon entering the MARC Program, unless an exception is granted by the MARC Steering Committee.**
- ◆ **Have a 3.2 cumulative GPA with a major related to biomedical sciences (Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biopsychology, Bioinformatics & Computational Biology, Mathematics and Statistics, Engineering, or approved interdepartmental studies.)**
- ◆ **Plan to pursue a Ph.D. and a career in biomedical research or mathematics. (Students who plan to pursue MD/Ph.D. will be considered.)**
- ◆ **Have outstanding SAT scores with a math score of about 600 points.**
- ◆ **Submit letters of recommendation from two or more professors who taught one of your classes in the Sciences, Mathematics, or Engineering or with whom you have conducted research, who are able and willing to comment on your potential as a biomedical researcher.**
- ◆ **Clearly demonstrate an interest in the advancement of minorities in the sciences and related fields.**

UMBC MARC U*STAR PROGRAM
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Taifa Simpson	Assistant Director	410-455-2634
<u>Lasse Lindahl</u>	<u>Program Director</u>	<u>410-455-2261</u>

HIGHLIGHTS

Individuals who meet the eligibility requirements are encouraged to apply to the MARC U*STAR Program at UMBC. The residential program has been designed to enable highly able undergraduates to pursue their Ph.D. and careers in biomedical research or mathematics through financial, academic, and administrative support. Support is intended to allow students to devote full attention to their studies and students must agree not be employed in any manner during their participation in the program. Continued participation requires each participant to earn a minimum 3.2 GPA each semester during his or her appointment period and maintain their intention to pursue a Ph.D. and career in biomedical research or mathematics. Trainees must reside in campus housing at UMBC, as assigned.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

- ◆ Monitoring of academic progress
- ◆ Personal advising and counseling to foster outstanding academic achievement
- ◆ Individual or group tutoring sessions for upper-level SEM (Science, Engineering, and Math) courses, as needed
- ◆ Assistance with preparation for and application to graduate school

ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Orientation and regular group meetings with the MARC U*STAR Program Staff
- ◆ Travel to one off-campus scientific conference per year during the Trainee's participation in the MARC Program
- ◆ Attend monthly MARC research seminars
- ◆ Graduate School preparation workshops
- ◆ Mandatory, one-credit course in research conduct and ethics
- ◆ Mandatory, two-credit course in scientific writing
- ◆ Present research at the UMBC Undergraduate Research & Creative Achievement Day

MENTOR PROGRAM

A Sustained Independent Research Experience with a UMBC Faculty Mentor. Some summer research experiences may be off campus. The intention of the project is to familiarize students with research methodology and enhance their ability to be accepted into top graduate programs.

UMBC MARC U*STAR PROGRAM
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Taifa Simpson	Assistant Director	410-455-2634
Lasse Lindahl	Program Director	410-455-2261

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Please read all directions carefully.
2. Complete the UMBC MARC U*STAR Application. **Please fill it out online, print and submit per instructions below.**
3. Complete the UMBC Admissions Application, if necessary.
4. Complete the MARC U*STAR program application. Please be concise. Your essays must be typed with text confined to the space provided by the form.
5. Give the Recommendation Forms to two or more of your **professors** who taught one of your classes in the Sciences, Mathematics, or Engineering or **research mentors** with whom you have conducted research, who are able and willing to comment on your potential as a biomedical researcher. You must allow adequate time for each recommender to complete the form and return it in sealed envelope with their signature across the flap.
6. If you agree to help UMBC track your future success, please complete, sign, and return the two research consent forms (three pages total) along with your application.
7. All application materials should be submitted to Mrs. Simpson. Please see checklist below.

Please use the following guide to ensure all required materials are completed and submitted to:

Mrs. Taifa Simpson, Assistant Director, the MARC U*STAR Program,
 Room 106-H Academic Services Building, 1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250.

- UMBC MARC U*STAR Application (three pages)
- Statement of Educational Goals and Research Interests
- Recommendation Form #1 and Recommendation Form #2 (sealed envelopes with signature on flap)**
- Official Transcript(s) from all colleges attended before enrolling at UMBC.** UMBC transcripts will be obtained by the selection committee
- The two signed Research Consent Forms, if you are willing to participate in the program evaluation.
- Citizenship documentation
- Resume or CV

**may be mailed separately to Mrs. Taifa Sumpson in the MARC U*STAR Program Office

PLEASE NOTE: You will be notified by a representative of the MARC U*STAR Steering Committee regarding the outcome of your application. Top applicants will be interviewed and MARC U*STAR Trainee decisions will be announced after final interviews. Successful applicants must complete and sign a Scholarship Agreement. Proof of Citizenship and a Statement of Appointment Public Health Service Form 2271 will also need to be completed prior to official acceptance into the MARC U*STAR Program at UMBC.

UMBC MARC U*STAR PROGRAM
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Please type or print neatly

TRAINEE APPLICATION

Date _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

UMBC Student ID Number _____ Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth _____

Campus Address _____

Campus Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____

Permanent Address _____

Permanent Phone Number _____ E-mail _____

Year of Graduation	Name/Address of High School	County	

UMBC Graduation Dat _____ / _____ (mm/dd) SAT Scores: Highest Verbal _____ Highest Math _____

List all SAT exam dates _____

List all colleges and universities attended:

College/University	Major	Cum GPA	GPA in Major

Are you currently enrolled at UMBC? Yes No

If No, have you submitted a UMBC Admission application? Yes No

Do you have UMBC campus housing secured for Fall 2011? Yes No

Do you currently receive support from the Meyerhoff Scholarship Program? Yes No

If Yes, please describe this support: Premier Finalist NSA Affiliate Other

Racial Background: (check one or more)

American Indian or Alaskan Native

Black or African American

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

White

Asian

Are you Hispanic (or Latino)? Yes No

UMBC MARC U*STAR PROGRAM
1000 Hilltop Circle, Baltimore, MD 21250

Citizenship Information

- a. Are you a citizen of the United States of America? Yes No (check one)
(A photographic copy of your birth certificate or passport with a state-issued photo identification card is required with this application.)
- b. If you are not a U.S. Citizen, are you a Permanent Resident with a Permanent Residency card?
 Yes No (check one)
(Photographic copies of both sides of your Permanent Residency card are required.)
- c. I believe that I am a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident of the United States but I cannot provide the required documentation. Yes No (check one)

Situation (c) will require additional investigation. You must provide a written explanation of your U.S. Citizenship Status and permission from you, the student, and your guardian if applicable, and any legal counsel for UMBC to look into your status. Please note that there are a limited number of appointments available to the MARC U*STAR Program at UMBC and any delay in proving your citizenship status may negatively impact your acceptance into the MARC U*STAR Program at UMBC. Therefore, UMBC and its staff take no responsibility for the loss of any student's potential program support because of related delays.

I require self-only medical insurance if appointed as a MARC Trainee. **(Only available if Trainee cannot be covered by a family insurance policy.)** Yes No (check one)

Name, address and telephone number of Parent/Guardian _____

Please list the name, address, and telephone number (other than the address listed above) of a relative, or other person who can be used as a secondary contact for you:

Do you have outstanding federal student loans? Yes No (check one) If yes, please explain:

Are you responsible for any other federal debt, such as delinquent taxes? Yes No (check one)

If yes, please explain: _____

Have you received any prior NRSA funding? Yes No (check one)

If Yes, name program and dates of participation (MARC, MIRT, etc.). _____

