

# UMBC PARENT HANDBOOK

orientation 2006



# UMBC

AN HONORS UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

Dear Parents,

Whether this is your first child to go off to college or your fourth (or, as in one case recently at UMBC, your seventh) sending a student off to college is not only a change for the child but for the parents. At UMBC we believe that students benefit tremendously from the help and support of their families, not only to get to UMBC but also to be successful while they are here.

We have created a booklet we hope you will find helpful as you and your student join the UMBC community. It contains information about services at UMBC as well as some helpful hints about making the transition to college. Along with the information we have shared with your student, we hope this guide makes joining UMBC a positive experience for both you and your student.

As I'm sure you know, it takes much more than just information to make a successful college experience. Our president, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski, often reflects on his freshman year, when students in his college were told to look to the left and right and to expect that one of them would not graduate. As Dr. Hrabowski says, this is a terrible thing to say to young people. At UMBC, we are committed to having all of our students succeed. If I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yvette Mozie-Ross". The signature is written in a cursive style with a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters.

Yvette Mozie-Ross

Assistant Provost for Enrollment Management

410-455-3799



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## **WELCOME TO THE UMBC FAMILY**

Welcome to UMBC. Every parent of a UMBC student is automatically eligible to take advantage of our Parents Programs and Services. We want you to think of UMBC as an extension of your home, and we hope you will share in the rich academic, social, spiritual and cultural experiences your sons and daughters enjoy.

One of the best ways to stay informed of life on campus is to subscribe to the *UMBC Parent Connection*. This occasional newsletter is a free service available to anyone with an e-mail address. It is a way for families to stay connected with the UMBC community, learn about campus programs and activities and receive special announcements such as updates from President Hrabowski and an official invitation to **Homecoming and Family Celebration, October 20 to 22**. To subscribe, visit the “Resources for Parents” Web site at [www.umbc.edu/parents](http://www.umbc.edu/parents) or send an e-mail to [parents@umbc.edu](mailto:parents@umbc.edu). Printed copies also may be mailed; simply call 1-866-VIP-UMBC.

We look forward to seeing you in person and connecting with you online!



## THE PARENT'S ROLE

### MAKING THE TRANSITION

The college years are a time of change not only for students, but also for parents. Whether it is the first (and only) or last (of many) children to go off to college, there are many transitions facing not only students but parents. All of us want our children to be successful and happy in their academic pursuits. How can we as parents help to ensure our student's success?

College is different in many ways from high school, and some students have more difficulty than others in making the transition. Here are some issues that often arise for freshmen and some strategies for how parents can help:

- **Learning is different.** Far more emphasis (and responsibility) is placed on students for learning in college than in high school. In most cases, the majority of content in high school courses is delivered in the classroom. In college, students are tasked much more with assimilating (and even finding) material. As a general rule, students should expect to spend at least three hours outside the class for every hour inside the classroom. For many students, this is a radical change from high school.
- **Feedback is less frequent.** In many high school courses, students get regular feedback from the teacher: tests, quizzes, even daily homework assignments. Most students know (even if they are reluctant to share) how they are doing in a course: they get a good deal of formal feedback. In colleges and universities, such feedback is less frequent. In many cases, there may be no graded work for the student before the mid-term. If you ask your student how he or she is doing in a course, they are most likely to say, "Fine." Ask your son or daughter how they know they are doing well. If there has not been formal feedback, they should look to other points of reference. Do they talk with other students in the class? Can they gauge their understanding against that of others? Have they talked with the professor? Are there topics or concepts about which they are unsure? Faculty members are more than willing to talk with students.



- **Time management is more important than ever.** Most high school students live busy lives and, as a result, assume they know how to manage their time. Parents accustomed to juggling work, soccer practice and other after school activities may see college as a welcome break. The reality, however, is that as students have more control and responsibility for their time, the more challenging things get. Even for students accustomed to “block” scheduling in high school, the pattern of classes is very different in college. A student taking five courses—15 credits—will only be in the classroom for fifteen hours a week. No classes until 11 a.m. on Tuesday? It’s easy to sleep in. A class at 9 a.m. on Monday with no other class until 2 p.m.? It’s easy to see this as “found” time. Being a college student is at least a full time job. Help your student understand that even if they are not scheduled continuously, they are always a student. Help them look at their schedule—the blocks of time defined each day around their coursework—and help them think about how they use that time. For most students, a couple of hours in the library between classes will be much more productive than cramming for the exam at 2 a.m.
- **Reading is important, regardless of your major.** Because students are responsible for more of their learning outside the classroom, college courses typically require far more reading than high school courses, even in science and technology areas. Students who are not accustomed to reading—and keeping up with their reading—can find the transition to college difficult. Encourage your son or daughter to do as much reading during the summer as possible. What they read is less important than developing the habit of reading and developing reading skills. Ask them to share what they are reading with you; encourage them to think critically about what they are reading, even if it is a “beach” novel.



- **There is no shame in asking for help.** Because college is a new environment, many students are cautious about asking for help. Students who have been accustomed to being tutors in high school may feel it is beneath them to seek out tutoring for themselves. Yet, with less frequent formal feedback and more student responsibility for learning, getting help is a valuable tool for academic success. Some help may be as formal as one-on-one tutoring or using the writing or math labs, or it can be as broad as talking with the professor or getting together to study with other students in the course. Our research has shown that students who study together have significantly higher grades than those who go off on their own to study. If your student gets a B on an exam, ask him or her if they know someone who got an A (and then encourage him or her to study with that person). If your student got an A on the exam, encourage them to study with others, because in working with them they will deepen their knowledge of the subject.
- **The student is responsible for his or her affairs.** One of the biggest changes, especially for parents, is that virtually all of the “business” of education is transacted with the student, not the parent. Your son or daughter is becoming an adult, and they will be treated as one by the college or university. Help them understand that this is the case, but don’t just “let go.” This is an opportunity to help your student make the transition into adulthood. Sit down and ask them what they expect out of the college experience. Discuss your expectations. How will you communicate about finances? When will you review course selections? When and how will your student share grades with you? Reaching understanding about such issues before the start of the semester can save headaches and heartaches later.



- **Even the most independent student needs support and reassurance.**

All too often parents are concerned about “doing the right thing” by letting go of their students as they head off to college. And many students have been eagerly anticipating getting out from under their parents’ wings (and eyes). They are, however, still your children and still need to know, perhaps more than ever, that they have your support, love and attention. Give them a couple of weeks, then call them if they haven’t called you. Ask them specific questions about what they are doing. It’s helpful to have a copy of their course schedule so you can ask how a given course is going or how a faculty member impresses them. If they give you vague answers (“fine”) to questions about how they are doing, gently press for more information (“Great. What do you like best about that course?”). And don’t underestimate the value of a small gift that lets them know you are thinking about them—from a new CD (if you’re brave enough to try to pick one) to an offer to go out for dinner (if you are close enough to get together). Even if they are still living at home, the activities of daily life will be changing dramatically for them, and something as simple as a quiet dinner with mom or dad can take on new meaning. This is especially true in the first six weeks or so of the freshman year.

Your student will be making important transitions as they enter college, and so will you as a parent. Give yourself some space (and time) to make those transitions. You’ll experience a wide range of emotions, from fear to pride, relief to anxiety. Some bumps along the way are inevitable, but you and your son or daughter share a common goal: their success. As a parent, it is important to know that in the vast majority of cases it really is going to be “just fine.”



## ACADEMICS

### ACADEMIC ADVISING AT UMBC

The academic advising process is both an important and an enriching component of students' academic life at UMBC. The advising process provides an opportunity for students to sit down one-on-one with a faculty or professional advising staff member and discuss, confidentially, a wide range of topics pertaining to academic life.

The advisor is there to help choose an academic program consistent with personal and educational goals, monitor progress throughout completion of that program, assist in identifying useful campus resources and help students understand university policy and procedure. In addition, students should discuss any problems that they may have regarding transition to the academic climate at UMBC. Like any other resource on campus, however, an advisor can only help students who actively seek that help. When both the advisor and the advisee work together as a team, the academic advising relationship can be very rewarding.

The Advising Resource Center (ARC) within the Office of Academic Services allows students to shop through possible majors at UMBC, utilize online self-assessments to investigate skills and interests and browse through the advising library for major related information. Peer Advisors are also on hand to answer any questions students might have as they work in the center. Workshops are also conducted throughout the semester on subjects such as, "What's Your Story: Choosing a Major in the Social Sciences" and "How to be a Successful Student."

Throughout the course of students' studies, it will be important for them to monitor their academic progress. Beginning on Course Selection Day, they should work closely with their advisor to maintain an accurate record of general education requirements. The Office of Academic Services will provide an Undergraduate Progress Report (UPR) to your student after he or she has completed at least 60 credits. Upon receiving this document, the student should examine it closely and use it as a resource for subsequent semesters.



Once he or she has completed 90 academic credits, it is strongly suggested that a Preliminary Graduation Review by the Office of Academic Services be requested. This review is intended to help keep track of a student's progress in completing general education requirements. This review, however, is only completed by request.

The Office of Academic Services may be contacted at 410-455-2500, Academic Services Building, room 103.

## **WHO DO STUDENTS GO TO FOR ADVISING?**

Academic advising at UMBC is provided primarily by a faculty or professional advisor in the student's major, minor and/or certificate program. However, the professional staff in the Office of Academic Services provides advising for undecided students and pre-professional students (pre-dental, pre-dental hygiene, pre-medical, pre-medical technology, pre-nursing, pre-pharmacy and pre-physical therapy).

Pre-professional students in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine and optometry are advised primarily by their major department in conjunction with Academic Services staff. Workshops and group advising sessions are available in the Office of Academic Services.

## **WHY SHOULD STUDENTS SEE THEIR ACADEMIC ADVISOR?**

- To assist them in making academic and career choices or to receive more information about a particular major
- To assist them in selecting courses for the following semester and clear them for registration
- To inform them of degree and major requirements
- To inform them of university policies
- To assist them in developing strategies to improve their academic performance
- To explain and refer them to campus resources



## **WHEN SHOULD STUDENTS SEE THEIR ACADEMIC ADVISOR?**

- During mid-semester, prior to registration, to discuss course selection for the following semester. (This is mandatory for every student in the university. Therefore, they should make an appointment well in advance of their registration time.)
- Whenever they have a question or concern

## **WHAT SHOULD STUDENTS ASK THEIR ACADEMIC ADVISOR?**

- What courses complete the general education requirements?
- How many general education requirements do I have left?
- How many credits should I take?
- How many credits do I have?
- How many upper-level credits do I have?
- Should I drop or add a course?
- What are my major requirements?
- How can I find out more information about internship, research and graduate school/career possibilities?
- What options do I have if I do not like my major?



## **WHAT ARE ADVISOR AND ADVISEE RESPONSIBILITIES?**

### **Academic Advisor Responsibilities**

- Serve as a resource person
- Provide accurate information about university programs, policies and academic requirements (both major and general)
- Assist students in developing a plan for their college years
- Provide information concerning career and graduate/professional school opportunities
- Assist students in identifying career goals and objectives
- Serve as a link between students and the university community

### **Student Advisee Responsibilities**

- Stay informed on current academic policies, procedures and requirements
- Periodically review the catalog, schedule of classes and departmental documents
- Meet with his/her advisor on a regular basis
- Accept responsibility for his/her academic choices
- Develop his/her social, academic and career goals
- Maintain personal copies of tentative degree plan, progress reports, general education reviews
- Come to the advising session prepared



## **WHAT IF STUDENTS DO NOT SEE AN ADVISOR?**

There is a block on the myUMBC registration function that is removed after an advisor meets with a student. If students do not meet with their advisor, they will not be able to register for the following semester. In addition, students risk the chance of not obtaining accurate information to effectively and successfully meet their degree requirements.

## **THE ADVISING RESOURCE CENTER (ARC)**

The ARC within the Office of Academic Services allows students to shop through possible majors at UMBC, utilize online self-assessments to investigate skills and interests and browse through the advising library for major related information. Peer Advisors are also on hand to answer any questions you might have as you work in the center. In addition, the FUEL (For Undecided and Exploratory Learners) workshop series is conducted throughout the semester on subjects such as, “What’s Your Story: Choosing a Major in the Social Sciences” and “How to Prepare for Finals.”

For more information, contact the Office of Academic Services at 410-455-2729 or e-mail [arc@umbc.edu](mailto:arc@umbc.edu).



## **ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS**

During Course Selection Day, students will receive information about UMBC's academic requirements. There are three broad areas of requirements: major requirements, which provide depth in chosen areas of study; general education requirements, which provide breadth across several disciplines and electives, which are opportunities to explore other areas of interest. The UMBC Undergraduate Catalog and the schedule of classes are important references to use in planning schedules. These materials are available online.

### **I. Major Requirements**

If your student has already decided on a major, review the department's description in the catalog. In it you will find information on the courses required for the degree, as well as information about different concentrations, certificates and minors in the program. The requirements provide a road map of which courses your student will need to take and in what sequence. In most cases, studies begin with an introductory or 100-level course in that department. For example, psychology majors will want to enroll in PSYC 100.

Many students are not yet sure of their major and many students will change their minds during their academic career. If they are undecided as to a major, it is recommended that they start with an introductory course in an area in which they might be interested. This is a good way to begin to learn more about the discipline. It is also a good idea to select a course that also meets a general education requirement.

### **II. General Education Requirements**

The general education requirements are spelled out in the catalog. Students will have a more detailed discussion of them during Course Selection Day. UMBC requires all students to take a range of courses to ensure exposure to a variety of areas of study. Among the requirements are an English composition course, ENGL 100; an approved math course (MATH 100, 115, etc.) and competency in a foreign language. To help plan to meet these requirements, placement test information has been provided on the freshman profiles that students will receive on Course Selection Day.



Many students want to complete these particular requirements in their freshman year. Do not feel, however, that they have to do so in the first semester. There are other general requirements, in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, science and culture, as well as a physical education requirement that will provide many choices for courses.

The online schedule of classes has a helpful list of all the courses offered that meet the general education requirements. This is an excellent reference to use in building a schedule. Remember that some of the courses required for a given major may also fulfill a general education requirement, and it is not uncommon to complete both a major requirement and a general education requirement with one course.

### **III. Electives**

Students must complete a minimum of 120 credits and two physical education courses to complete a degree at UMBC. This means that they will have many opportunities to select courses to explore their interests. Browse the catalog and the online schedule of classes to begin building a list of courses that your student may want to take during their studies at UMBC. Start by looking at the descriptions of academic departments in the front of the book, but be sure to read over the course descriptions in the back of the catalog. Listed alphabetically by department, they will give a good sense of what each course is about. Students will find courses dealing with American folk life, the philosophy of biology, East European cinema, astronomy and astrophysics, women and law, the history of jazz, human geography, the psychology of learning, the history of medicine and many other topics.



## **UMBC NEW STUDENT BOOK EXPERIENCE**

The UMBC New Student Book Experience provides all new first-year and transfer students with the opportunity to share in a common reading experience that culminates in small group discussions held at the start of classes during Welcome Week. These dynamic conversations are facilitated by UMBC faculty representing a range of academic interests and disciplines from cultural anthropology, philosophy of science and economics to biomechanics, neuroscience and mass-media theory.

As your son or daughter begins their UMBC experience, we encourage them to connect with members of the campus community, both inside and outside the classroom, and to begin to integrate their intellectual and social experiences as new members of the UMBC community. The New Student Book Experience is where this begins.

This year's reading is *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro. The book discussions will be held during Welcome Week.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AT UMBC: THE BEDROCK OF AN HONORS UNIVERSITY**

### **Academic Integrity and Personal Commitment to Academic Success**

There are times in our lives when we are forced to make decisions that test our values and the resolve of our convictions. Being truly successful in higher education involves just such a test. When students think of the role of integrity in education, several images often come to mind. Plagiarism and cheating are certainly behaviors that would place one's integrity clearly in jeopardy. Students have known that for quite some time; however, on the university level, integrity shows itself in a much more profound yet highly personal way.



When your son or daughter enters college, he or she has goals in mind. Earning a degree and preparing him or herself for a successful career are certainly valid goals; but, ultimately, in order to reach these goals, the greatest objective of a higher education must first be attained. Students are here to learn! The commitment to learn and use their newly gained knowledge wisely is one students must make – first, to the university and, more importantly, to themselves.

Integrity then involves acting in a way that will allow students to reach their goal of learning. If they truly value their education, doing such things as missing class, skipping assignments or just putting forth enough effort to simply “get by” would directly contradict what they claim to value. And to whom do they do the greatest injustice by not behaving in accordance with their professed values? You know the answer. Putting forth the effort and time to learn results in more than just high grades. As much as students enjoy an “A” at the top of the paper, their greatest reward is the cultivation of self-respect and confidence that only integrity can bring. Encourage your student to give maximum effort in class and in life. He or she owes it to him or herself!

(Adapted in part from *On Course*, second edition, by Skip Downing)

### **Statement of Values for Student Academic Integrity at UMBC**

As part of the UMBC community, your student is responsible for the maintenance of the university’s honor. Please read the following statement of the UMBC Undergraduate Council as it describes the high standards to which everyone in the UMBC community is held.

Academic integrity is an important value at UMBC. By enrolling in a course, each student assumes the responsibilities of an active participant in the scholarly community in which everyone’s work and behavior are held to the highest standards of honesty. Rigorous standards allow UMBC students, faculty and administrators, as well as scholars and employers in the larger community, to trust that the work that students submit is the fruit of their own learning and academic effort.



The purposes of higher education are the learning students and faculty undertake, the knowledge and thinking skills developed and the enhancement of personal qualities that enable students to be strong contributing members of society. In a competitive world, it is essential that all members of the UMBC community uphold a standard that places the integrity of each student's honestly earned achievements above higher grades or easier work dishonestly sought.

All members of the UMBC community are expected to make a commitment to academic honesty in their own actions and with others. Academic misconduct could result in a disciplinary action that may include suspension or dismissal. The following are examples of academic misconduct that are not tolerated at UMBC:

- **Cheating:** Knowingly using or attempting to use unauthorized material, information or study aids in any academic exercise.
- **Fabrication:** Intentional and unauthorized falsification or invention of any information or citation in academic exercise.
- **Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another commit an act of academic dishonesty.
- **Plagiarism:** Knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise, including works of art and computer-generated information/images.

Students should consult UMBC's Student Academic Conduct Policy for information on policy and procedures for upholding UMBC's high standards for academic integrity. Students who have questions or concerns are encouraged to talk with a member of the faculty or administration for assistance.

For more information on the topic of academic integrity, visit [www.umbc.edu/integrity](http://www.umbc.edu/integrity).



## **FERPA (STUDENT PRIVACY ACT)**

### **What is FERPA?**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974 is a law passed by Congress that ensures and protects the privacy of students' post secondary educational records. It spells out what information can be disclosed without a student's permission and what information requires a student's written consent before it can be released. This law is sometimes referred to as the "Buckley Amendment" after its congressional sponsor.

### **Who is protected or covered by FERPA?**

All students, regardless of age, who enroll in a U.S. college or university, are accorded the rights and protection of FERPA.

### **What information may be given to a parent or other individuals without a student's permission?**

Colleges may release only the following information without a student's permission. FERPA considers this "directory information" and not harmful or an invasion of privacy if disclosed. It includes:

- Students name
- Address
- Telephone listing
- E-mail address
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Major field of study
- Dates of attendance
- Any degrees awarded
- Weight and height of members of an athletic team

All other information such as grades and grade point averages, specific courses, class schedule and other information may not be released without the student's written permission.

### **Will I be sent a copy of my son/daughter's grades in the mail?**

UMBC does not mail grades. Student's grades are posted electronically on their myUMBC student account. Students have access to their grades anytime by signing on to their university account. Parents are encouraged to keep open lines of communication with their son/daughter and determine together when and how academic information will be shared.



## **UNDERSTANDING UMBC TERMS**

### **Academic Honors**

Any undergraduate student who earns a grade point average of 3.5 or better at the end of any semester in which he or she has completed 12 or more credit hours will receive semester honors, which will be noted on the transcript. Any undergraduate student who earns a GPA of 3.75 or better will have the notation of “Dean’s List” posted on the transcript for that semester.

### **Academic Jeopardy**

All first semester freshmen who earn less than a 2.0 cumulative GPA are considered to be in “academic jeopardy” and will be so notified with a letter. No notation is placed on the permanent record. Students should contact the Office of Academic Services to discuss their academic difficulties.

### **Advance Registration**

Continuing UMBC students may advance register at the end of each semester for the next semester’s courses. Advance registration eligibility dates (earliest date you can begin registration activity) are assigned based on the number of credits earned.

### **Audit**

Students may register in a course as an auditor if they wish to show they have attended a course but do not seek academic credit. The notation “AU” is listed on their transcript. Audited courses count as zero-credit toward enrollment certifications.

### **Class Status**

Freshmen, 0-29 credits completed; Sophomores, 30-59 credits completed; Juniors, 60-89 credits completed; Seniors, 90 or more credits completed.

### **Closed Course**

All course sections have an enrollment limit specified by the department sponsoring the course. When the enrollment in a section reaches the established limit, the course is considered “closed.”

**Credit Hour**

This is the unit used to measure course credits. Courses generally meet one hour per week for each credit hour.

**Cross-listed Courses**

A single course listed under more than one department, for instance MLL 190 and ENGL 190. A cross-listed course may be considered as any one of its assigned disciplines, regardless under which departmental designation the course is taken.

**Discussion**

Many courses meet for a one-hour mandatory discussion class in addition to the three hours per week of lecture. Generally, the discussion hour is with a smaller group of students allowing you to discuss any questions, as well as apply information learned in the lecture.

**Dismissal**

Following the occurrence of academic probation and academic suspension, any subsequent semester that a student does not meet the minimum cumulative standards will result in academic dismissal from the university.

**Electives**

Electives are courses the student chooses to take. They make up the difference between the number of courses required for their degree and the number needed to graduate.

**Excess Credit**

Students who wish to take more than 19.5 credits during the fall or spring semester must submit a Petition to Enroll in Excess Credits, signed by the major advisor, to the Office of Academic Services.

**Full-Time/Part-Time**

Full-time status for undergraduates is considered 12 or more credits. Part-time status is fewer than 12 credits



## **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

UMBC calculates GPA by assigning numerical values to letter symbols (A=4 quality points; B=3 quality points; C=2 quality points; D=1 quality points; F=0 quality points). The semester GPA is determined by multiplying the credit value of each course by the numerical equivalent of each grade. Then, divide total quality points by total credit hours attempted. The same method is used to compute cumulative GPA.

## **Hold List**

When a class students are interested in taking is closed, they can add themselves to the hold list through the myUMBC registration system (see Hold List Procedures section). It is the student's responsibility to follow through on the outcome of a hold-listed class.

## **Major**

A major is a sequence of courses in a specialized academic area. A major should reflect both career goals and personal interests. Students are required to declare their majors by the time they reach 60 credits. To declare or change a major, a student completes a Declaration of Major form available in the Office of Academic Services.

## **Mandatory Advising**

All UMBC students are required to meet with an advisor before they can register for the following semester and are encouraged to meet with him or her regularly.

## **Minimum Standards for Continued Enrollment**

Attempted Credits (including transfer credits)	Minimum Cumulative GPA
0-14	1.25
15-44	1.50
45-74	1.75
75-89	1.95
90-120	2.00

**Minor**

A minor is a secondary area of study that is earned in addition to a major and involves fewer credit hours.

**Pass/Fail Grading**

Students may choose this grading option after they have earned 30 or more credits at UMBC and are in good academic standing. One course per semester for a maximum of 12 credits toward graduation may be taken pass/fail. A grade of “P” is not included in the GPA, however, a grade of “F” is included in the GPA calculation.

**Permission Required (PermReq)**

Courses designated as “Permission Required” in the schedule of classes require the instructor to grant permission for the student to register for the course. Students allowed to enroll in these courses will be given electronic permission to enroll in the course.

**Prerequisite (Prereq)**

Course requirement that needs to be completed before enrolling in another course.

**Probation**

All students who are not first-semester freshmen and who do not meet the minimum cumulative GPA (see above under Minimum Standards for Continued Enrollment) at the end of any regular semester will be placed on academic probation. There will be a notation on the transcript.

**Registration Hold**

A hold prohibits a student from registering. Each semester a student has an advising hold on his registration that is not removed until he has met with his advisor. A student also has a hold placed on his registration if he is not current on his immunizations, has a financial obligation to UMBC or if he has more than 60 credits and has yet to declare a major.



## **Suspension**

Following the first occurrence of academic probation, any future semester that a student does not meet the minimum cumulative standards will result in academic suspension from the university for a minimum of the next regular semester.

## **Teaching Assistant (TA)**

The teaching assistant is usually a graduate student who helps the professor in conducting discussion and laboratory sessions as well as grading. The TA usually has office hours during the week when they are available to assist students.

## **Upper Level Courses**

Courses numbered at the 300-and 400-level. Students must have 45 credits of upper-level courses in order to graduate.

## **Withdraw “W”**

Classes dropped after the end of the fourth week of the semester will be recorded on the student’s transcript with a grade of “W.” A grade of “W” has no impact on the GPA.

# **STUDENT LIFE AT UMBC**

## **How Students Can Enrich Their Lives and Make a Difference**

On any given day, UMBC experiences a whirlwind of activity outside the classroom. You’ll find students attending movies and concerts, pursuing hobbies, interests and social activities, working on community service and advocacy projects, serving in the student government, writing for a newspaper or journal, playing on intramural sports teams, participating in leadership seminars and contributing to major campus events like Welcome Week and Homecoming. It may surprise you to discover that almost all of these events, projects and activities are created for students by students. UMBC staff members provide students with support, advice and resources, but it is the students themselves who determine how they want to get involved, enjoy life and make a difference on campus. Students have created more than 240 clubs and organizations to pursue interests ranging from aviation to yoga, and the list grows by more than a dozen every year.



The Office of Student Life is UMBC's central resource for students hoping to get involved and try something new. Does your son or daughter want to contribute to UMBC's vibrant campus community? Is he or she experiencing some difficulty in getting connected and finding a niche? The Office of Student Life can help.

### **OFFICE OF STUDENT LIFE**

The Commons, Suite 336  
410-455-3462  
[www.umbc.edu/studentlife](http://www.umbc.edu/studentlife)

There are many ways students enrich their college experience. Here are three specific ways students can commit to obtaining a holistic education at UMBC:

- Attend events to gain exposure to new experiences, perspectives and opportunities. Such involvement activities include lectures, concerts, athletic events, entertainment and performing arts events and community celebratory occasions.
- Get involved as active members of organized group activities on campus. Such activities include membership in the Student Government Association (SGA), Student Events Board (SEB), *The Retriever Weekly* newspaper, student organizations, Greek Life, recreational sports and campus governance committees.
- Commit to making a difference through creativity, leadership and responsible citizenship roles. Such roles include both formal and informal leadership positions in campus organizations, representative positions in institutional governance bodies, peer education positions in campus service areas and community service.



## **UMBC STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

UMBC has a diverse student body and the range of student groups reflects this diversity. With over 240 student organizations, there is something for every student. A complete list of campus student organizations can be obtained by visiting the Office of Student Life or its Web site. Here are just a few examples:

Student Government Association (SGA) represents the voice of all undergraduate students with the intention of continually improving the quality of life inside and outside of the classroom. SGA needs leaders to serve in many capacities. Students may get involved or express their concerns by calling 410-455-2220, visiting [sga.umbc.edu](http://sga.umbc.edu) or visiting SGA in The Commons, 2B13-15. This is the students' government.

Student Events Board (SEB) is the major programming board on campus. It is student-run and responsible for bringing social, cultural and educational programs to campus. SEB has presented entertainment such as Kanye West, N\*E\*R\*D, The Strokes, Lewis Black, Brad Sherwood and Colin Mochrie, Dave Chappelle, Ludacris, and Good Charlotte. Students looking for something to do should check out what SEB has to offer. Visit SEB in The Commons 2B23, [sta.umbc.edu/orgs/seb](http://sta.umbc.edu/orgs/seb) or by calling 410-455-3618.

Commuting Students Association (CSA) represents the interests of commuting students on various university committees. The CSA also sponsors programs and workshops to assist with commuter concerns. Visit Off-Campus Student Services in The Commons 309 or call 410-455-2770.

Student Involvement Center (SIC) is a one-stop shop for involvement and leadership opportunities. Student peer advisors are available to answer questions about student organizations, involvement opportunities, volunteerism and leadership opportunities. Visit the SIC in The Commons 2B24, call 410-455-2867 or e-mail [explore@umbc.edu](mailto:explore@umbc.edu).

Leadership@UMBC sponsors a number of campus-wide leadership retreats and on-going programs. Past programs have included a fall leadership retreat, an emerging leaders retreat and the Student Leadership Awards ceremony. These programs are open to all students. For more information stop by The Commons, Suite 336 or call 410-455-3462.



Greek Life encompasses over 400 members in 19 different Greek letter organizations. The sorority and fraternity chapters conduct recruitment and/or intake in both the fall and spring semesters. Community and individual chapters perform service, scholarship and social activities throughout the year. More information on how students can create a life-long experience of friendship, leadership, scholarship and philanthropy is available at the Office of Student Life or by calling 410-455-3462.

Resident Student Association (RSA) is an organization for all resident students. RSA funds all hall and apartment council activities as well as provides opportunities for students to influence residential policies and activities. Students may contact the Residential Life Office at 410-455-2591 for more information.

UMBC values diversity, and our commitment to this value is represented throughout campus. Learning and community are enhanced as students interact across differences, while also coming to understand shared experiences and commonalities. Our Mosaic Center for Culture and Diversity and Interfaith Center (IFC) provide powerful and rich opportunities to engage in dialogue and experiences related to culture and diversity. Visit the Mosaic Center in The Commons, room 2B24, or call 410-455-3611. For more information about the IFC, please stop by the Student Development and Success Center or call 410-455-3611.

## **RESIDENTIAL LIFE (RL)**

184 Erickson Hall

Residential Operations

(Contracts, Assignments and Billing) 410-455-8832

Residential Education

(Programs, Community Staff, Judicial) 410-455-3932

Residential Facilities

(Maintenance, Safety, Housekeeping) 410-455-3948

[www.umbc.edu/reslife](http://www.umbc.edu/reslife)



Residential Life's housing system is made up of ten individual communities. Residence hall communities (Susquehanna, Chesapeake, Potomac and Patapsco) are composed primarily of units containing two double rooms sharing an adjoining bath. Some triple and double rooms are also available. Suite communities (Erickson and Harbor) are composed of two double rooms with a shared living area and bathroom or four single rooms with shared bath. Residence hall and suite communities are open to all students. There are three university managed apartment communities available only to upperclass students (West Hill, Terrace and Hillside). Upperclass students may also choose to live in the privately operated Walker Avenue Apartments located on campus. While students in Walker sign a lease with the management company, the university provides live-in professional and paraprofessional staff in these apartments to coordinate programs and assist with community development. All facilities come complete with carpeting, individually controlled heating and air conditioning and laundry facilities.

A carefully trained and competent staff manages all residence halls. Residential operations staff handles housing applications, assigns rooms, manages billing and coordinates the recontracting process each spring for residents. Residential facilities staff handles maintenance, housekeeping, renovation and construction of facilities. Residential education staff supervises and trains all community staff including community directors, resident associate (RAs) and desk staff. They also coordinate major programs and activities for resident students, review violations of residential life or university policies, and act as Residence Life's liaison with the director of student judicial programs. A resident assistant, maintenance assistant and community director are on duty each weeknight and on weekends for emergencies and other needs. Staffed by students, the residence hall or apartment desks provide a variety of services for residents. In the residence halls, desk staff checks the ID's of all individuals who wish to enter the building.

**Holiday Periods**

Chesapeake, Patapsco, Susquehanna, Erickson Hall and most floors in Harbor Hall close to residents during the Thanksgiving, winter and spring breaks at 8 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled break period. Apartments, Potomac and some floors in Harbor Hall remain open continuously throughout the school year. Specific closing and opening times are posted on our Web site.

**Mail Service**

Students in Walker will be given a U.S. Postal service mailbox address. Please check with Walker Avenue desk for your student's specific address. For all other on campus housing, mail to your student should be addressed exactly like the example below to avoid delays or loss.

Student's Name

Room or Apt #, Hall Name or Apartment Community

UMBC

1000 Hilltop Circle

Baltimore, MD 21250

The format is very important. If the address is incomplete or not properly arranged, the U.S. Post Office may mistake the residence hall or apartment for a street address and mail will not be sent to UMBC. Mail is delivered to the residence facilities daily, Monday through Friday.

**OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT SERVICES**

The Commons, Room 309

410-455-2770

[www.umbc.edu/ocss](http://www.umbc.edu/ocss)

Students living off-campus receive special attention through the Office of Off-Campus Student Services (OCSS). Students can stop by the OCSS resource center for assistance with off-campus housing services, transportation schedules and parking information, educational and social programs or to meet other commuting students. The OCSS Commuter Connection Living-Learning Communities Series offers opportunities for students to get connected on campus through student peer networking, study groups, referral services and community building events.



## **What types of off-campus housing services does UMBC offer?**

Students can begin their off-campus housing or roommate referral search at OCSS Off-Campus Housing. Off-campus housing resources include: listings of local housing availabilities and apartment complexes on the UMBC shuttle bus route, a roommate referral service, off-campus housing fairs and tours of apartments on the shuttle bus route. OCSS professional staff and community assistants provide one-on-one consultation to assist students with their housing search, off-campus living concerns and on-campus resources.

## **How can my student get connected to the campus?**

OCSS encourages students to participate in campus life, academic and career planning services. The weekly Commuter Connection and Good Morning Commuter series are staffed by Commuter Assistants (CAs) who are experts at finding ways to get students involved. During the first weeks of school, CAs, volunteers and staff operate an Off-Campus Students Outreach and Information helpdesk. CAs are available to respond personally to questions, involvement concerns and transition issues through our online chatroom at [ocss@umbc.edu](mailto:ocss@umbc.edu).

## **How can off-campus students find out about school closing in case of inclement weather?**

Inclement weather school closing announcements are publicized on local radio/TV stations (e.g., WMAR TV channel 2, WJZ TV channel 13, WBAL Radio 1090 AM, or WJHU Radio 88.1 FM). Students should also contact the inclement weather line at 410-455-8881.

## **What support is there for transfer students who live near campus?**

All new transfer students are enrolled in the Transfer Student Network (TSN) program. TSN members get to meet each other, learn about upcoming gatherings, workshops and form study groups. TSN students also make a personal connection, receive mentoring, attend social events and participate in special interest workshops with the transfer student faculty mentor. Students may sign-up for the TSN online community by logging on to [myUMBC blackboard.umbc.edu](http://myUMBC.blackboard.umbc.edu) and enroll with the Transfer Student Network by using their username and password.



## **ATHLETICS, PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND RECREATION**

Retriever Activities Center (RAC)  
410-455-2126  
[www.umbcretrievers.com](http://www.umbcretrievers.com)

The Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation serves the needs and requirements of all of UMBC's undergraduates. Each undergraduate is required to complete two semesters of physical education to graduate and there are a multitude of courses to select from in all sessions. Retriever Rec Sports provides students with seven-day-a-week access to the indoor and outdoor facilities for open recreation. The facilities include the Retriever Activities Center, with three full indoor multi-use courts, a fitness center, cardio balcony and a dance studio. The Natatorium and indoor jogging track are also located in the center, and the outdoor swimming pool is adjacent to the RAC, along with six new, lighted tennis courts. The outdoor UMBC Stadium complex also features a regulation track complex.

For those who like more organized activities, Rec Sports sponsors numerous intramural events throughout the year. Teams or individuals may sign up to compete in such events as flag football, soccer, softball and many more. UMBC also has 25 club sport programs that compete against similar programs in the region. The Retrievers have 20 varsity programs that compete in the NCAA Division I and are members of the America East Conference.

### **My student played a sport in high school. Can they compete at UMBC?**

UMBC competes at the highest level of collegiate athletics, so a vast majority of the athletes are recruited by UMBC's coaches. However, nearly all Retriever sports give the opportunity for "walk-ons" to make a team. Your son or daughter should contact the appropriate head coach no later than the summer before they begin at UMBC to determine when tryouts are scheduled.



## **Who does UMBC compete against?**

Over the past several years, UMBC has played teams like Ohio State and Villanova in basketball, North Carolina in men's lacrosse, Duke in men's soccer and Stanford in women's lacrosse, as part of its always-tough non-conference schedules. Teams in the America East Conference are University at Albany, Binghamton University, Boston University, University of Hartford, University of Maine, University of New Hampshire, Stony Brook University and University of Vermont.

## **CAMPUS RESOURCES AND STUDENT SERVICES**

UMBC offers all students the opportunity to excel both inside and outside of the classroom. Our students are exposed to a wide variety of programs and services intended to offer just the right balance of challenge and support to their educational endeavors. From tutoring through the Learning Resources Center and landing an internship with the Shriver Center, to strengthening résumé and interviewing skills with the Career Services Center and career counseling through University Counseling Services, each department works with your student to ensure that they progress to the best of their ability and reach the ultimate goal, graduation.

Should you have any specific questions or concerns, feel free to send an e-mail to [parents@umbc.edu](mailto:parents@umbc.edu) or call 1-866-VIP-UMBC.

## **LEARNING RESOURCES CENTER (LRC)**

Academic IV Building, B Wing, Room 345  
410-455-2444  
[www.umbc.edu/lrc](http://www.umbc.edu/lrc)

The Learning Resources Center (LRC) is directly concerned with undergraduate student retention and is the university's comprehensive student academic support program. The LRC is where good students become better and where better students become tutors!



## LRC Programs

The Tutorial Center provides peer tutoring for 115 selective courses. The courses tutored receive the most student requests and/or are largely enrolled in by freshmen and sophomores. The tutors are successful students and good people to know.

The Placement Testing program is used to administer campus-developed placement tests in mathematics and composition to newly admitted freshmen and some transfer students. A standardized reading test is also administered to freshmen for advisement purposes. The advisors use these scores and other information to program students for success from the start. Sample tests are on the LRC and Orientation Web sites.

The Freshman Year Interim program (FYI) is an early intervention activity. By the eighth week of each semester, faculty-identified freshmen are notified by LRC about their progress in courses with a grade below "C." New students learn what to do immediately, 30 percent of the students identified improve their final grades.

The LRC Skill Development Courses are Introduction to Algebra, Introduction to College Reading and College Learning and Study Skills. First-year students say they make a difference.

## FAQS

### **How do new students become involved with the LRC?**

First-year students get off to a good academic start by taking the LRC administered placement tests in math, English composition and reading.

### **How does a student get help with a specific course?**

The LRC has a staff of about 80 (mostly undergraduate) tutors for 115 selective courses at the 100-and 200-levels across the academic curriculum. LRC also encourages students to ask professors for study strategies, use departmental resources (such as help lines, tutoring and test files) and develop study groups.



## **How does a student sign up for a tutor?**

A student registers in the LRC for a weekly appointment and tutor-led study groups or students simply stop in the Writing Center or the Math Lab; these walk-in tutoring centers are located in the library and do not require an appointment.

## **How much does tutoring cost?**

The tutoring service and all other LRC academic support services are UMBC sponsored and free of charge to enrolled students.

## **Does the LRC provide services for students with disabilities?**

The LRC and the Student Support Services (SSS) staffs train all tutors to tutor students with disabilities. Student Support Services, however, is the designated provider for students who need academic accommodation services associated with a disability. The SSS office can be reached by calling 410-455-3250.

## **What other LRC services help new students?**

The LRC has academic specialists in math/science, writing, language and reading/study skills. These staff see students by appointment. The specialists help students to identify their subject matter ability and to develop course-specific study strategies.



## THE SHRIVER CENTER

Public Policy Building  
410-455-2493  
[www.shrivercenter.org](http://www.shrivercenter.org)

The Shriver Center was established in 1993 in honor of Sargent Shriver and Eunice Kennedy Shriver. The center's mission is to link the intellectual and human resources of higher education in finding creative solutions to some of the most troublesome social problems of our times. The center organizes and leads projects and programs in social care, service-learning, professional practice, teaching and research. Through its programs, the center broadens the meaning of scholarship to include research, teaching and service, as well as the application of knowledge.

For UMBC's undergraduate and graduate students, the center offers a range of professional practice and service-learning programs including cooperative education, internships, service learning and the Shriver Peacemaker Program. Through these programs, students gain valuable practical experience in their major or area of career interest, and can become agents of social change by providing direct service in non-profit and for-profit settings. The Shriver Center staff assist students in preparing their résumés, obtaining placements and working with academic departments to link internship, cooperative education and service experiences to academic credit.

### **What are the benefits and advantages of experiences like internship, co-op and service learning?**

Experiential learning (e.g. internship, co-op, service-learning) provides students with the opportunity to test their majors prior to graduation, allows them to gain valuable work-related skills and gives them the ability to link theories learned in the classroom to real-life experiences, transfer newly acquired knowledge back to the classroom and develop a greater understanding and appreciation for issues and problems faced by people different from themselves.



### **What are the eligibility requirements for students to participate in Shriver Center programs?**

To participate in internship and co-op experiences, students must be full-time, degree-seeking students with at least one completed semester at UMBC and a 2.5 cumulative grade point average. To participate in service learning, students can be first-year students or new transfer students with at least a 2.5 grade point average. They too must be full-time, degree-seeking students.

### **Within which majors can students gain practical work experience through internship and co-op?**

Students studying within all majors at UMBC are eligible to apply for internship and co-op opportunities through The Shriver Center. Our largest numbers of placements occur within the information technology, engineering, psychology and visual arts majors.

### **Are internships and co-op experiences paid and can students earn credit linked with this type of experience?**

Co-op experiences are always paid experiences. Approximately two-thirds of our internship experiences also provide compensation to students. The average hourly wage for these paid positions is over \$12 per hour. Additionally, students have the option of linking their internship or co-op experiences with credit through their academic major or some other credit vehicle. Typically, students earn three to six credits per semester linked with their internship or co-op. The number of credits and the requirements for these credits vary by academic department.

### **Where do students typically do their service-learning experiences and how are they supervised and monitored?**

Most of The Shriver Center sponsored service experiences occur within non-profit or community-based organizations in Baltimore City or the surrounding area. We do have some opportunities available on campus and with most of our projects transportation is provided by the center. Typically, students go in groups to their service sites and are supervised and monitored by a trained student leader. In some cases, a graduate student assistant is assigned to provide guidance to service students. Additionally, students may be supervised or monitored by staff at their service site. In all cases, students receive guidance and support from a team of staff at The Shriver Center.



## CAREER SERVICES CENTER

Mathematics/Psychology Building, Room 204  
410-455-2216  
[www.careers.umbc.edu](http://www.careers.umbc.edu)

The Career Services Center (CSC) is the “one-stop” center where students can explore career options, access valuable career resources and connect with the employing community. Upon meeting one-on-one with an experienced career specialist, students will have an opportunity to discuss their transition from UMBC to the world of work or graduate school. They also can interview and meet with employers through job fairs, Corporate Visibility Days and on-campus interviews; participate in the Weekly Wednesday Workshop series and various other career development seminars; access job listings; collect graduate school information and visit the Career Resource Center. Students interested in pursuing part-time jobs, either on- or off-campus, can access opportunities through the Career Services Center.

### **How can you help my student to choose a major and/or explore career options?**

CSC offers a variety of resources to assist students with the career exploration process, including:

- Individual career advisement
- FOCUS career exploration computer software
- A Web site with a host of resources including job searches, The Vault Career Library, links by major, career skills, salary information and a calendar of events.
- A comprehensive Career Resource Center which houses books, CD-ROM'S, videos, directories and other publications
- “What Can I Do With My Major?” handouts and booklets for each UMBC major
- Regularly scheduled career workshops and seminars to assist with skill development



## **What type of job search assistance is offered?**

In addition to teaching students how to market themselves to employers and network, CSC offers:

- An excellent on-campus interviewing program where students meet one-on-one with employers seeking to hire UMBC students
- The Web Résumé Book, a password protected, searchable résumé database where employers may access students' résumés from the CSC Web site
- A credentialing service, where students maintain their marketing information for distribution to employers
- Several job fairs a year
- Listings of full-time, part-time, on-campus and off-campus job opportunities
- A variety of informational career sessions and several Corporate Visibility Days

## **Does my student need to be a senior in order to utilize these services?**

No, services are available to all undergraduate, graduate students and alumni. We encourage students to visit the Career Center as early as their freshman year. We offer resources that are invaluable to students at every level. We have also designed a career timeline that outlines the career development process as students progress from new student to college graduate.



## UNIVERSITY COUNSELING SERVICES

Math/Psychology Building, Room 201A  
410-455-2472  
[www.umbc.edu/counseling](http://www.umbc.edu/counseling)

University Counseling Services (UCS) provides free and confidential psychological services to UMBC students who are concerned about social, personal, vocational and academic problems. Students may request an intake interview in person or by phone. During the intake, the student and the counselor discuss what kind of service, within the scope of UCS practice, best fits the needs of the student. Services include short-term individual counseling, group counseling, consultation with the psychiatrist, career assessment and counseling, psycho-educational workshops, access to self-help materials and referral resources. Immediate assistance is available in the event of an emergency.

### Skills for Success

These workshops are designed to assist students with time management, procrastination, stress management and test anxiety. Other workshops and programs are offered as needed. The goal of UCS is to assist and support students in making changes that increase their chances for academic and personal success.



## **STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES**

Academic IV Building, A Wing, Room 420A

410-455-3250

Math/Psychology Building, Room 211

410-455-2459

[www.umbc.edu/sss](http://www.umbc.edu/sss)

Student Support Services (SSS) provides academic support to a select population of UMBC students whose needs may differ from the student body at large. A federal grant supports these services and students must meet federally defined eligibility criteria.

SSS also coordinates accommodation services for students with disabilities. Users of the services include blind and visually impaired, deaf and hearing impaired, physically and learning disabled and students with other chronic disabling conditions. Services include note takers, readers, mobility training, interpreters and scribes for persons with manual or learning disabilities. Personal counseling or special orientation is provided as needed. A resource and information center, in the Math/Psychology Building, room 214, houses equipment such as a Braillewriter, tape recorders, talking book machines and calculators and TTY. A telesensory reading machine is located in the Library Media Center.



## OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Engineering Building, Room 125  
410-455-3838  
[www.umbc.edu/oit](http://www.umbc.edu/oit)

The Office of Information Technology's (OIT) mission is to provide the information technology infrastructure and services that support student studies while at UMBC. OIT provides a variety of services to the UMBC community, including computer labs for instructional and public access; audio/video, multi-media and foreign language resource center; instructional support for the Blackboard course management system; network services for wireless, residential or home; central e-mail and Web services to the campus; centralized help desk support and administrative self-service applications such as registration, grades and billing through our myUMBC portal. For more information on OIT student computing, visit the OIT orientation Web site, [www.umbc.edu/oit/orientation/student](http://www.umbc.edu/oit/orientation/student).

### **Should I buy a computer for my child?**

Yes! All students are expected to have access to a computer for their academic studies. To support this UMBC has put in place special buying programs for students through both Dell and Apple. Prices on both are among the lowest you will find. In addition, the bookstore has special academic pricing available on a wide variety of software products used at UMBC – including products from Microsoft, Adobe and many others. For more information on these programs visit the campus bookstore Web site at [www.umbc.edu/bookstore](http://www.umbc.edu/bookstore).

### **What type of computer does UMBC require?**

UMBC does not mandate a particular brand of computer, though some programs utilize certain brands of computer more heavily than others. For example, students in the arts often work with Apple Macintosh systems. UMBC does have a minimum hardware standard and expects that students will have at least a 500 Mhz Macintosh or 1 Ghz Intel system. We strongly encourage that students consider getting a laptop computer with 802.11B wireless access.

**Does UMBC provide wireless Internet connectivity? What about other Internet access?**

Access to the Internet, anytime and anyplace is what students want. UMBC presently has approximately one million square feet of academic space covered by wireless access. In addition to wireless access, UMBC provides every student living on campus a dedicated high-speed Ethernet connection. In addition, UMBC provides 500 modems for students living off-campus in the Baltimore/Washington region.

**How can my child get help?**

During the semester the help desk is open continuously from Sunday at 12 p.m. through 12 a.m. Friday with Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to 12 a.m. Both student employees and professional staff work at the help desk to answer inquiries and log problems that require further investigation. The help desk will work with your child to diagnose software problems, but will not repair hardware problems.

**Does UMBC have any computers that my child can use?**

OIT provides over 400 computers in the Engineering Building and in the basement of the library that any student can use. The engineering labs are open 24 hours a day from Sunday at 12 p.m. until Friday at 12 a.m. with Saturday hours from 8 a.m. to midnight. Labs offer both PCs that dual boot between Windows and Linux and Macintosh-based machines which have a wide range of software installed. Many departments on campus also have computer labs, including geography and environmental systems, information systems, physics, mathematics, economics, public policy, mechanical engineering, computer science and electrical engineering and the Language Center.

**What computer services does UMBC provide my child?**

OIT provides over one terabyte of disk space for use for e-mail, personal Web publishing and storage, in addition to space dedicated for research and administrative use. Multiple Linux, Silicon Graphics and Sun servers are available for general purpose use. OIT also participates as a member of Internet2, bringing high-speed network connectivity and access to advanced applications to the entire campus. OIT provides multiple general and fixed purpose accounts for academic use and instruction, providing access to Windows, Linux



and Macintosh workstations for students and faculty. Most major commercial software is available, including SPSS, SAS, Matlab, Maple, Mathematica, Microsoft Office, McAfee Antivirus and other popular open source applications. Finally, OIT provides students with a Web portal for them to transact business with the university.

## **HOME AWAY FROM HOME**

### **OFFICE OF FOOD SERVICES**

University Center, First Floor  
410-455-2188  
[www.umbc.edu/umbcfood](http://www.umbc.edu/umbcfood)

The Office of Food Services is responsible for providing all food to the boarding students, cash facilities and catered events for UMBC. There is one Resident Dining Hall consisting of three wings. In addition to the dining hall are the following facilities: Market Street, the Retriever Grille or the Skylight Restaurant in The Commons; a snack bar located in the lobby of the Administration Building and an espresso/cappuccino kiosk located in the main lobby of the library.

### **What meal plans are offered to resident students and how do they work?**

All students living in dormitories have an option to choose from a 19-meal plan, 14-meal plan or a 10-meal plan. Each meal plan has flex dollars to allow cash purchases in a food facility. Meals begin each Monday morning and end on Sunday night. There are 26 meal opportunities each week from which to choose. Additionally, apartment residents may purchase a five-meal plan that has the same opportunities to be used and has \$60 in flex dollars attached to the plan. The meals are renewed each week, but the flex dollars are for the entire semester.



## **What if my student wants to switch meal plans after the semester starts?**

Once you sign up for a meal plan, you have the first two weeks in the semester to make adjustments. After this time, meal plan options may only be increased. Students wishing to change their plan must sign a request form at the Office of Food Services.

## **What happens to the meals that are left over each week? Do the meals or money carry over to the next week?**

The left over meals from each week are gone if not used in the same week. Meals do not carry over. Unspent flex money will go away at the end of the semester if not used during the semester.

## **If my student has left over meals, may his friends use them?**

No, meals are not transferable. The meal plan prices are discounted to reflect the fact that most students miss some meals each week.

## **Can the meal plan be used somewhere other than the Resident Dining Hall?**

Yes. Meals have been given a cash allowance so the meal plan may be used in the retail facility (The Commons) for all meals. For the 2006 semesters, breakfast will be \*\$4.00, lunch will be \*\$5.00 and dinner and late night will be \*\$5.00. (\*subject to change)

## **Can commuting students take advantage of meal plans?**

Yes. Students that commute may take the 19, 14, 10, 5-meal plan or the Retriever Block Lunch Plan which includes 25 meals over the course of the semester.



## UMBC CAMPUS CARD

### Department of Communication Services

University Center  
443-61C-CARD

The UMBC Campus Card Administration invites and encourages all new students to establish their identity and become one with the campus community. The Campus Card not only serves as the UMBC ID, but also opens the door to a wide variety of services and resources. With it, students may conveniently access many of the amenities and necessities found throughout campus. Some examples of student use are:

- **Personal Identification:** Students use the card for entrance to student life activities, social, sports and cultural events and the shuttle bus. For many of our students, particularly resident students, the card is an essential part of daily campus life for it allows access to the resident facilities, doing laundry, as well as supporting the meal plans, which are available to all.
- **Library Services:** Students use the card as a borrower's card at the Albin O. Kuhn Library to check out books and materials, as well as for pay-for print facilities, to make hard copies of computer and Web based information or to use the library's copy machines.
- Students enjoy the safety and convenience of "cashless" purchasing across campus by using the card with campus dollars at the bookstore, Comm\_Store, food facilities, The Commons and various other campus operations. The card may be used at many of the vending machines. These and a continually expanding list of items and services are available by card.

### How is money put on the card?

Adding value is easy and may be done online, around campus at cash-to-card machines or through the campus cashier. Parents may add to their student's card through the UMBC Web site via "Resources for Parents." Funds may be quickly deposited using a VISA, Master Card or Discover card. While on campus there are cash-to-card



machines in many locations, including The Commons, Albin O. Kuhn Library and the Engineering Building, that accept cash for deposit to a card account. Also, the campus cashier in the Administration Building will accept cash, check or credit card deposits for a card account.

## **UNIVERSITY HEALTH SERVICES (UHS)**

Erickson Hall  
410-455-2542 or 410-455-5555  
(24-hour, on-call services)  
[www.umbc.edu/uhs](http://www.umbc.edu/uhs)

University Health Services (UHS) provides convenient primary and urgent health care and health education to UMBC students. Professional staff members include board-certified physicians, certified nurse practitioners and health educators.

Primary and urgent care services at UHS include, but are not limited to:

- Diagnosis and treatment of acute illnesses and injuries
- Treatment and monitoring of chronic illnesses
- Preventive, routine gynecological care
- Immunization and allergy shots
- Acupuncture treatment
- Massage Therapy

University Health Services charges for its services. The office is a participating provider with most major health insurance providers. Please be sure to check with your insurance company about coverage for your student away from home. A basic health insurance plan is available through UHS.

Students may be seen at UHS by appointment or on a walk-in basis. When UHS is closed, 24-hour on-call service is available by calling Campus Police at 410-455-5555 or 911.



### **What are the health requirements for entering UMBC?**

Every student is required to have two MMR vaccinations after the age of 12 months, one of which is after 1980. If the student is living in university housing, he/she must have a meningitis shot or sign a waiver acknowledging that he/she understands the risks of meningitis and elects not to have the shot. If the student is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident, he/she must have a TB test in the U.S. within three months of initial enrollment. Students who fail to provide this documentation during their initial semester of enrollment will have their class registration blocked for the upcoming semester.

### **What if we no longer have our student's immunization records?**

Your student may get the required immunizations at UHS and/or can be tested to see if he/she is immune.

### **What do students do when UHS is closed?**

Physicians from the University of Maryland Medical System provide on-call service available through the university police 24 hours per day, seven days per week, to deal with emergencies. St. Agnes Hospital is less than 10 minutes from campus.

## **PARKING SERVICES**

Facilities Management Building, Room 100  
410-455-2551  
[www.umbc.edu/parking](http://www.umbc.edu/parking)

Parking Services manages all the parking needs and enforces the parking rules and regulations for the UMBC campus community and guests. All students will receive a copy of the UMBC Parking Rules and Regulations with their permit.

### **How does a student obtain a student permit and what does it cost?**

Student Parking Registration is accessed from myUMBC on UMBC's homepage [www.umbc.edu](http://www.umbc.edu). Go to "Services" and click on "Student Parking Registration." Students must register all vehicles they park on campus. After registering the vehicle(s), a delivery option must be



entered for the parking permit. The permit may be picked up at Parking Services or mailed to the address on the system. The UMBC ID must be shown to pick up your permit. The permit cost is included in the transportation fee on the tuition bill.

## **Where do visitors park?**

The campus has metered parking for visitors at three parking garages. A visitor permit can be obtained from Parking Services at no cost, for residential student's guests.

## **What if my student forgets the permit?**

A temporary permit can be obtained from Parking Services. The student will need to show the UMBC ID.

## **What happens if my student receives a parking violation?**

UMBC offers the choice of an administrative appeal or going to District Court. The information is on the back of the violation. All appeals must be submitted within 10 business days from the date of the violation. The student will receive a written response for UMBC appeals or a court date for District Court.

## **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

113 Warehouse  
410-455-2454 (office)  
410-455-3974 (info line)  
[www.umbc.edu/transit](http://www.umbc.edu/transit)

UMBCTransit provides shuttle services that enable students to commute to campus from homes in Catonsville, Arbutus and other areas. Many resident and commuting students find shuttles convenient for taking advantage of grocery stores, dry cleaners and banks without having to use their cars. Of special note are connections to downtown Baltimore, The BWI MARC/Amtrak station and weekend service to the Inner Harbor and Arundel Mills Mall. The Wave 'N Ride service connects remote parking, including the Research Park, with center campus. The satellite line provides parking service for resident freshmen.



## **BURSAR'S OFFICE/STUDENT BILLING**

Administration Building, Third Floor  
410-455-2288  
[www.umbc.edu/accounting/bursar](http://www.umbc.edu/accounting/bursar)

The Bursar's Office is a term unique to higher education. The Bursar bills and collects tuition, fees, campus housing and other university related charges. Loan, scholarship and refund checks are also disbursed from this office.

### **How does my student find out how much he owes?**

There are two ways to retrieve this information:

- Information on student accounts is available via the myUMBC Web site. To access this information you must have the student log-on and password. Account information can be obtained under the heading "Services," listed in this area.
- The Bursar's Office can be contacted by phone or in person at 410-455-2288, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

### **How does my student pay his/her bill?**

- All UMBC students are required to sign up for e-billing. E-billing is convenient, allowing students to view and pay their bills at any time from any location. The Web site is secure and easy to navigate. Students receive e-mail notifications when bills are available for viewing. For information and to enroll, visit [www.umbc.edu/ebilling](http://www.umbc.edu/ebilling).
- Up-to-date account information will continue to be available through myUMBC. myUMBC will reflect payments made in person at the Cashier's Office immediately, online payments within two business days of submission and mailed payments within two business days of receipt.
- Check payments may be mailed to our lock box: UMBC, P.O. BOX 8700, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18773-8700



- The Cashier's Office is opened Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cash, personal check, cashier's check, credit card (Visa/MasterCard/Discover) and money orders are accepted.
- There is a night depository located next to the Cashier's window for payments after hours.
- The Monthly Payment Plan is available for the fall and spring semesters. This allows for payments to be divided into up to five installments per semester. There is a non-refundable enrollment fee of \$50 per semester. The payer of the account can design a budget according to their needs. Payments are due the first of the month.

### **When are bills due?**

Bills are due approximately 15 days after the bill date. A late payment fee is charged if a tuition bill is not paid within 20 business days (including holidays) of the due date printed on the bill. Please refer to the Bursar's Office/Student Billing Web page for additional billing information.

### **Who can obtain information on a student account?**

UMBC observes the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), commonly known as the Buckley Amendment. In accordance with the Buckley Amendment, only students may receive itemized information regarding their accounts. Students may access their student account through myUMBC or they may come to the Student Accounts Receivable office. New for this year, students may download the Release of Information form, allowing parents to view information regarding the student's financial records. To download this form, go to [www.umbc.edu](http://www.umbc.edu) and click on Cost. Then click on Bursar's Office/Student Billing. Click on Authorization to Release Information. This form must be submitted to the Bursar's Office.

### **How soon will a student receive a refund?**

Once a refund has been ordered it usually takes 10 to 14 business days to receive the check.



## OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Albin O. Kuhn Library, Lower Level Pondsides  
410-455-2387  
[www.umbc.edu/financialaid](http://www.umbc.edu/financialaid)

### The Financial Aid Package

A variety of need-based financial aid programs are available to students. Aid is awarded in three categories: grants, loans and employment. To attempt to meet a student's financial need, the financial aid package prepared by UMBC's Office of Financial Aid may consist of one or more of these types of aid.

- Grants are often referred to as "gift" aid and do not require repayment. Examples of grants include the Federal Pell Grant, UMBC Grant-in-Aid and Guaranteed Access Grant.
- Loans, considered "self-help" financial aid, are offered at low interest rates, and interest is generally deferred until the student completes his or her education. Examples of loans include the Federal Perkins Loan and the Federal Stafford Loan.
- Employment enables students to receive part-time earnings for work performed on an approved job assignment. The Federal College Work-Study Program allows UMBC students to work both on- and off-campus on a part-time basis.

### Applying for Undergraduate Aid

All students applying for financial aid must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The Federal School Code for UMBC is 002105. This number is needed when you complete the FAFSA and allows the UMBC Office of Financial Aid to electronically download the results of your FAFSA. To file electronically, please go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). For more information about signing your application electronically, please visit [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).



## **What is needed to make the application process run smoothly?**

The student should:

- Read everything the Office of Financial Aid sends and respond immediately to any requests.
- Apply early. For priority consideration of limited need-based federal, state and institutional funding, valid FAFSA results (SAR) should be on file at UMBC by March 1 prior to the upcoming academic year. Therefore, we encourage students to apply for financial aid no later than February 14.
- Keep addresses up to date with the Registrar's Office. If the address changes, notify the Registrar's Office or submit an address change to myUMBC.
- Maintain a file and keep track of all submitted documents.

## **What percentage of UMBC's students receive financial aid?**

Over 55 percent of UMBC students receive some form of financial aid, much of which is need-based.

## **I have not yet filed my federal taxes—what should I do?**

Students and/or parents who have not filed federal taxes should use estimated amounts. Doing so allows the student to be considered for limited aid funding associated with the February 14 FAFSA filing priority deadline.

## **Why must my student complete the FAFSA using my information?**

A student is considered to be dependent on his or her parents and must use the income (and assets, if applicable) when completing the FAFSA if the student does not meet at least one of the following criteria.

Independence Criteria:

- The student was born before January 1, 1983
- The student is a graduate or professional student



- The student is married on the date he or she applies
- The student is an orphan or a ward of the court (or has been a ward of the court until reaching the age of 18)
- The student is a veteran of the U.S. armed forces
- The student has certain dependents other than spouse

For students who do not qualify for independent status, parental information must be collected on the financial aid application, and a parental contribution will be added to the student's contribution to determine the Expected Family Contribution (EFC). Please note that a student's living situation (that is, whether the student lives with his or her parents) does not affect the student's dependency status.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICE**

410-455-5555

[www.umbc.edu/police](http://www.umbc.edu/police)

The UMBC Police Department provides police services 24 hours a day throughout the year. The UMBC police staff includes 28 sworn police officers, security officers, police communications operators and student marshals. Police officers are certified by the Maryland Police Training Commissions and vested with full arrest powers. Police officers respond to criminal offenses that occur on campus and provide other services such as escorts. The police building is located in parking lot 8 at Hilltop Road and Hilltop Circle.

Emergency "blue light" phones are located around the campus grounds and are marked by a blue light that makes them visible at night. An emergency phone is also located in most campus elevators. These emergency phones connect directly and automatically to the UMBC Police Department who identify the location of the phone call and dispatch an officer. A police aide campus escort service is available during the evening hours. The student should call 410-455-3133 to request this service.



In conformity with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crimes Statistics Act (formerly the Campus Security Act), campus police report their crime statistics, for the previous three years, concerning reported crimes that occurred on campus; in certain off-campus buildings (owned or controlled by UMBC) and on public property within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. The report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security, such as policies concerning alcohol and drug use, crime prevention, the reporting of crimes, sexual assault and other matters. You can view a copy of this report by accessing [www.umbc.edu/admissions/playitsafe](http://www.umbc.edu/admissions/playitsafe).

### **What is the most frequent crime that occurs at UMBC?**

Property thefts are the most frequent. These are usually items stolen from parked automobiles such as compact discs and other items easily seen through a car window.

### **Does UMBC have a problem with violent crime such as assaults or sexual offenses?**

No. For more detailed crime statistics information, please refer to the Play It Safe brochure, available at the UMBC Police Department or online.



## PARENT RESOURCES

### UMBC PARENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

UMBC Parent Programs and Services helps enhance communication between parents and the university. It also allows you to become involved in your child's education through career development, admissions recruitment, fundraising or one of the many other volunteer opportunities. Funding supports programs that help your student succeed academically and personally.

#### UMBC Parent Connection

To help keep you connected with your student and the UMBC community, Parent Programs and Services sends an occasional e-mail newsletter called the *UMBC Parent Connection*. It is packed with valuable information, such as:

- Campus news
- Academic calendar
- Student activities and events
- Internship and job announcements
- Scholarship opportunities
- UMBC arts and culture event
- Parent volunteer opportunities

Many parents find these weekly updates to be an ideal informational resource when talking with their sons and daughters about life on campus.

To subscribe to this free service, please visit UMBC Parent Programs and Services online at [www.umbc.edu/parents](http://www.umbc.edu/parents). Printed copies of the newsletter are available. E-mail [parents@umbc.edu](mailto:parents@umbc.edu) or call 1-866-VIP-UMBC.



## **PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Parent Fund Ambassadors**

Are you enthusiastic about your student's UMBC experience? Do you want to help provide new services and resources? We are looking for philanthropic parents who would like to meet one-on-one with other parents to talk about making a donation.

### **Student Recruitment and Outreach**

We are always looking for parents and alumni to serve as ambassadors for UMBC. As a volunteer in this capacity, you can personally share your experiences with prospective students and their parents. Receptions and college fairs are held throughout Maryland and in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York. You can also assist via phone or on campus during our Family Orientation Programs.

### **Student Internship Opportunities**

UMBC students need hands on experience in the workplace. Internships are structured, part-time work experiences for a semester or summer. Students can choose to work in public, private or non-profit sector organizations throughout the Baltimore-Washington region. Interns may or may not be paid, but can always choose to earn academic credit connected to their experience.

### **Student and Alumni Career Opportunities**

UMBC graduates are among the best and brightest in the workplace. The Career Services Center provides numerous services to help employers connect with our quality candidates. For information on employers services, visit the employer section of the Web site at [www.career.umbc.edu](http://www.career.umbc.edu).



## **PARENT SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS**

In our endeavor to nurture the success of every student, UMBC is fortunate to receive generous financial support from parents like you. We invest donations to The Parents Fund into areas that serve the academic and professional development needs of our students such as the Albin O. Kuhn Library, Student Support Services, The Shriver Center, Academic Services and the Learning Resources Center.

To illustrate, Academic Services is using parent gifts to fund an initiative known as FUEL, an acronym of “For Undecided and Exploratory Learners.” FUEL targets the approximately 300 incoming freshmen and transfer students who have not yet selected a major. Through programs and activities, FUEL helps these students develop the insight and understanding that will allow them to make important academic decisions such as selecting a major.

Many parents also contribute to the department of their student’s major, athletics and specific programs such as the Meyerhoff Scholarship Program and the Honors College.

When you receive a phone call or letter asking for your support, this is your opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation that will help us to provide additional services and resources for students. You may give online at [www.umbc.edu/giving](http://www.umbc.edu/giving).

To discuss any of these opportunities or for information on planned giving, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 410-455-2904 or via e-mail at [parents@umbc.edu](mailto:parents@umbc.edu).



## **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND WEB SITES**

<b>Office</b>	<b>Phone Number</b>
<b>Web site</b> Commons Information Center/General Information	410-455-1000
Academic Advising <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/registrar/F06acadadvising">www.umbc.edu/registrar/F06acadadvising</a>	410-455-2500
Admissions (Undergraduate) <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/undergrad">www.umbc.edu/undergrad</a>	410-455-2291
Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation <a href="http://www.umbcretrieve.com">www.umbcretrieve.com</a>	410-455-2126
Bursar's Office/Student Billing <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/accounting">www.umbc.edu/accounting</a>	410-455-2288
Bookstore <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/bookstore">www.umbc.edu/bookstore</a>	410-455-2665
Career Services Center <a href="http://www.careers.umbc.edu">www.careers.umbc.edu</a>	410-455-2216
Financial Aid and Scholarships <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/financialaid">www.umbc.edu/financialaid</a>	410-455-2387
Food Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/umbcfood">www.umbc.edu/umbcfood</a>	410-455-2188
Honors College <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/honors">www.umbc.edu/honors</a>	410-455-3882
Learning Resources Center <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/lrc">www.umbc.edu/lrc</a>	410-455-2444
Library <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/library">www.umbc.edu/library</a>	410-455-2232



Office of Information Technology Helpdesk <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/oit">www.umbc.edu/oit</a>	410-455-3838
Parent Programs and Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/parents">www.umbc.edu/parents</a>	1-866-VIP-UMBC
Parking Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/parking">www.umbc.edu/parking</a>	410-455-2551
Police <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/police">www.umbc.edu/police</a>	
Emergency Only	410-455-5555
Non-emergency	410-455-3136
Registrar	410-455-3158
Resident Dining Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/umbcfood">www.umbc.edu/umbcfood</a>	410-455-1201
Residential Life <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/reslife">www.umbc.edu/reslife</a>	410-455-2591
Shriver Center <a href="http://www.shrivercenter.org">www.shrivercenter.org</a>	410-455-2493
Student Affairs <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/saf">www.umbc.edu/saf</a>	410-455-2393
Student Support Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/sss">www.umbc.edu/sss</a>	410-455-3250
Transportation Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/transit">www.umbc.edu/transit</a>	410-455-2454
University Counseling Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/counseling">www.umbc.edu/counseling</a>	410-455-2472
University Health Services <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/uhs">www.umbc.edu/uhs</a>	410-455-2542
Women's Center <a href="http://www.umbc.edu/womenscenter">www.umbc.edu/womenscenter</a>	410-455-2714



## UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

### 2006–2007 Calendar Year

#### August 2006

August 26 Fall Residence Halls Open  
(Check room assignment letter  
for specific check-in time)

August 26–September 4 Welcome Week

August 29 Convocation

#### September 2006

August 30 Fall Classes Begin

August 30–September 13 Schedule Adjustment Period

August 30–September 30 Fall Frenzy

September 4 Labor Day, University Closed

#### October 2006

October 20–22 Homecoming and Family Celebration

#### November 2006

November 8 Last Day to Drop Class

November 23–25 Thanksgiving Break  
  
(Chesapeake, Erickson,  
Patapsco, Susquehanna, and  
most floors on Harbor Hall  
close on 11/23 at 8 p.m. and  
reopen at noon on 11/25)

#### December 2006

December 12 Last Day of Classes for Fall

December 13–20 Final Exam Period



December 20	Fall Closing  Residence Halls (Chesapeake, Erickson, Patapsco, Susquehanna, and most floors on Harbor Hall close at 8 p.m.)
December 21	Fall Commencement (RAC)
<b>January 2007</b>	
January 1	(Financial Aid) Student completes FAFSA listing UMBC's Federal School Code of 002105 online at <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> or mails proper application to federal processor
January 2	Winter Classes Begin
January 15	Martin Luther King Day, University Closed
January 26	Last Day of Winter Classes
January 28	Spring Opening  Residence Halls (Chesapeake, Erickson, Patapsco, Susquehanna, and most floors on Harbor Hall) reopen at 9 a.m.
January 29	Spring Classes Begin
January 28–February 4	Winter Welcome Week



## **February 2007**

January 29–February 9

Spring Schedule  
Adjustment Period

February 14

(Financial Aid) Financial Aid  
Office receives valid electronic  
FAFSA results (ISIR)

## **March 2007**

March 18–25

Spring Break

Residence Halls  
(Chesapeake, Erickson,  
Patapsco, Susquehanna,  
and most floors on Harbor  
Hall) close 3/17 at 8 p.m.  
and reopen 3/25 at noon

March

Residential Life recontracting  
and room selection materials  
for 2007–2008 distributed to  
current residents eligible to  
participate (bill paid, no  
judicial record)

## **April 2007**

April 1

(Financial Aid) Financial Aid Office sends  
admitted students estimated financial  
aid award offers based on information  
provided on FAFSA and expected  
full-time status

April 2

Last day to pay housing deposit  
and submit recontracting materials  
for 2007–2008 academic year. Room  
selection begins and continues  
through mid April.



April 16	Last Day to Drop Class
April 28	Quadmania (Spring Concert)
<b>May 2007</b>	
April 29–May 6	Student Recognition Week
May 15	Last Day of Spring Classes
May 16–23	Final Exam Period
May 24	Spring Commencement (Baltimore Arena)
	All Residence Halls and Apartments close at 8 p.m.
May 28	Memorial Day, University Closed



## **SUGGESTED READINGS\***

***Don't Tell Me What To Do, Just Send Money*  
written by Helen E. Johnson and Christine Schelhas-Miller**

When children leave for college, many parents feel uncertain about their shifting roles. By emphasizing the importance of being a mentor to your college student, *Don't Tell Me What To Do, Just Send Money* shows parents how to influence their college student while still supporting their independence. The authors offer valuable insight into the minds of college students and provide parents with simple suggestions for improving communication with their children. Filled with humorous anecdotes and realistic dialogs between parents and students, this comprehensive guide covers a wide range of issues including financial matters, academic concerns, social adjustment and postgraduate choices.

***Empty Nest...Full Heart: the Journey from Home to College*  
written by Andrea Van Steenhouse, Ph.D.**

The author chronicles the tumultuous journey from the senior year of high school, through the challenging summer, to the first year of college for students. Featuring an emphasis on the freshman experience, *Empty Nest...Full Heart* offers a lighthearted yet savvy look at this turbulent time. The book's generous and compassionate scope makes it lively, humorous, an emotionally resonant.

***Helping Your First Year College  
Student Succeed—A Guide for Parents*  
written by Richard H. Mullendore and Cathie Hatch**

Parents may be the most powerful, untapped resource for helping new students make the transition to college. This guide, published jointly by the National Orientation Directors Association and the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition, offers practical advice on how parents can help their students make a successful transition to college. This is an ideal resource to incorporate into summer and fall orientation programs, admissions open houses and parent programs.



***Almost Grown: Launching Your Child from High School to College***  
**Written by Patricia Pasick**

A time of tumult, your children's transition from high school to college can also be a time of growth. This book shows you how. *Almost Grown* is a guide for parents to the final years of high school and first years of college, offering intelligent counsel not only in practical issues such as developing a college search plan or handling question of money, sex and substance abuse, but also in the psychological issues that arise during this family transition. Writing as both psychologist and parent, Patricia Pasick tackles the key question of how mothers and fathers can foster adolescents' growth and autonomy while maintaining family connections and stability. She also explores the unexpected: the impact of the changing family on younger siblings, the benefits and frustrations of college students' returning home, the challenges and opportunities that nontraditional families face and more. Pasick delves into another critical yet underplayed aspect of the college transition: how parents' lives change. *Almost Grown* guides readers through this major step in adult development and new start to adult partnerships. *Almost Grown* contains advice from high school and college admissions counselors across the country and, at the heart of the book, stories of personal experience from parents and adolescents who are making, or have made, the transition.

***Letting Go: A Parents' Guide to Understanding the College Years, Third Edition***

**Written by Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger**

Unlike other college guides targeted at students or about the admissions process, *Letting Go* is a compassionate, practical and up-to-the-minute self-help handbook for parents dealing with the confusing and conflicting emotions of watching their children go off to college. Using many anecdotes from students, teachers and administrators on the lines, the chapters lead parents through the transitional period from junior year of high school to senior year of college. The authors explain the mind-set of today's college students and what their hopes and fears and offers parents help in figuring out when to encourage their child's independence and when to come to the rescue. With all-new sections on campus life, as well as the latest facts on the Internet and its impact on the admissions process, academics and student life, this is a must-have guide for every concerned parent.



***When Your Kid Goes to College: A Parent's Survival Guide***  
**Written by Carol Barkin**

You've taught them how to do their laundry, brought them a year's supply of toothpaste and shampoo and lectured them on the do's and don'ts of life beyond your home. The time has come for your child to leave for college—but are you prepared to say goodbye? Written by a mother who survived the perils of packing her own child off to school, *When Your Kid Goes to College* provides supportive, reassuring and helpful tips for handling this inevitable but difficult separation. This practical guide includes information on: Teaching your child how to live on his own, from balancing a check book to dealing with a roommate; the difference between financial and emotional dependence, and how to keep them separate; helping your spouse, younger children and even pets deal with the transition when your child leaves; and how to fill, and even enjoy, the hole that your child's absence leaves. Saying goodbye isn't the end of the world; it's the beginning of an exciting new one for your child—and you!

\*Source: Amazon.com



**NOTES:**



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## **UMBC Non-Discrimination Policy Statement**

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic background, ancestry, sex, disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran's status or religion in admission to and participation in educational programs and activities, or employment practices in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (revised 1992), Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the UMBC nondiscrimination policy:

**Adrienne L. Mercer**

Director of Human Relations  
ADA Coordinator  
Title IX Coordinator

1000 Hilltop Circle  
Administration Building, Suite 703  
Baltimore, MD 21250  
410-455-1606  
TTY: 410-455-3233  
almercer@umbc.edu

## **IMPORTANT ORIENTATION DATES**

Course Selection Dates

Freshman:

June 22–29

July 6 and 7

Transfer:

July 11–13

August 9–11

Welcome Week

August 26–September 4

New Student Book Experience

August 28

Convocation

August 29

**[www.umbc.edu/orientation](http://www.umbc.edu/orientation)**

UMBC at  
**40**  
exceptional  
by example

UMBC's 40th anniversary celebration provides an opportunity for the UMBC community to take pride in our values and achievements and for others to learn how we've accomplished so much in just 40 years. In achieving both excellence and diversity, we are a new model for American higher education.