



AN HONORABLE UNIVERSITY IN MARYLAND

Graduate students with a strong sense of purpose and high aspirations for the future find an exciting environment for meeting the challenges of advanced study at UMBC, a rising research university in the Baltimore-Washington corridor.

## ADMISSION PROCEDURES

Responsibility for admission to graduate study at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County resides with the office of the Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Research & Planning.

The admissibility of applicants is a two-part process. The academic departmental graduate admission committee or graduate program director makes an initial determination of the candidate's admissibility. This determination is reviewed by the Graduate School, which then issues an official decision letter. In all cases the University of Maryland, Baltimore County administers its admissions, educational services and supporting services in a manner that does not discriminate by race, religion, age, national origin, sex or handicap. Complete enrollment and degree requirements are outlined in the *Graduate School Catalog*. All graduate students are expected to abide by UMBC policies, requirements and procedures upon enrollment.

## ADMISSION CRITERIA and STANDARDS

### Grade Point Average (GPA)

The minimum standard for full admission to the Graduate School is a "B" average or 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in a program of study resulting in the award of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university or an equivalent degree from a comparable foreign institution. In addition, the student's undergraduate program must reflect successful completion of the prerequisites for graduate study in the chosen field. *Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions must be submitted to the Graduate School as part of the application packet.*

Standards for admission to a doctoral program are generally higher than those for admission to a master's program. These standards are based on specific recommendations made by

the admitting department in conjunction with the Graduate School.

### Standardized Tests

UMBC normally requires the submission of scores earned on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Aptitude test (verbal, quantitative and analytical writing scores). Some programs also require applicants to submit scores earned on the GRE Advanced (subject-specific) test or other standardized tests. Consult the Graduate Program Directory in this brochure for specific examination requirements. GRE scores are used as part of the data on which admission decisions are based, but they are seldom the sole criterion for admission. Information on the GRE may be obtained from the Graduate School office or from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) in Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

### Language Requirements

All applicants are expected to read, speak, write and understand the English language fluently upon entering a graduate program. Applicants whose native language is not English must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). International applicants with a post-secondary degree from a U.S. institution will not be required to take the TOEFL. The *minimum* acceptable TOEFL score established by the university for admission is 550 for the paper-based test and 213 for the computer-based test; some programs require a higher score. TOEFL information and applications are available from ETS.

International students who receive a teaching assistantship are required to take a test in spoken English upon arrival. Graduate students whose work or tests show English language deficiencies will be required to take remedial English instruction at their own expense.

### Program-Specific Criteria

In addition to official transcripts, test scores and letters of recommendation as evidence of academic potential, some programs require additional evidence of ability to succeed in the respective graduate program. These assessment tools may include a portfolio, an interview or other assessment means. Applicants are encouraged to review the Graduate Program Directory in this brochure, as well as program brochures, for specific requirements.

## CATEGORIES and PROGRAMS OF ADMISSION

Applicants may be offered admission to the Graduate School in full graduate status, provisional status or non-degree status.

Students admitted to full status must have submitted complete, official documents indicating a completed baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution or equivalent foreign educational institution, official standardized test score reports and be fully qualified in the judgment of the individual program and the Graduate School.

**Provisional** admission is used to admit any degree-seeking student who fails to meet the regular requirements or standards for admission, but who demonstrates potential for academic success in graduate studies. Provisional admission may also be assigned to candidates who lack adequate prerequisites for a given program or who are admitted without complete and/or official documentation.

**Non-degree** status is designed for students seeking admission for the purpose of enhancing their knowledge by completing one or more graduate courses. A *non-degree* application form is required for this category of admission.

Students interested in pursuing the **Combined Bachelor's/Master's Program** should make their intentions known to their departmental chair, undergraduate advisor or graduate program director early in the junior year. Detailed information about this program

is available from the *Graduate School Catalog* or from the individual departments.

The **Golden-ID Program** permits Maryland residents 60 years of age and older to take graduate courses at little cost. The applicant must be at least 60 years old by the date of registration and retired or working no more than 20 hours a week. Qualified individuals may apply as either degree-seeking or non-degree-seeking students. This program enables qualified persons to have tuition and some fees waived. Indicate on page 2 of the application form your qualification for and interest in this program.

### INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

It can take many weeks to complete the processing and assessment of an application from overseas and at least two months for student visa processing. International applicants, therefore, are encouraged to pay strict attention to application deadline dates and to submit all required documents as early as possible. Some applicants may be requested to have a credentials evaluation performed by an outside agency.

At minimum, international applicants must hold a degree that is equivalent or comparable to a four-year U.S. bachelor's degree, and they must have a cumulative grade point average equivalent to a "B" or first or high second division or comparable class ranking to be considered for admission.

Provisional graduate status and non-degree status are not normally available to international students. Non-U.S. citizens residing in the U.S. who hold permanent residency status, meet the required language proficiency and possess appropriate academic preparation may be considered for non-degree status.

### Transcripts, Mark Sheets and Language Requirements

Applicants must provide an official English language transcript and an official native language transcript or mark sheets from *each* post-secondary institution attended. Each set of documents must list subjects studied, grades or marks received and rank in class or division.

See *Language Requirements* section above for information about language proficiency required of students whose native language is not English.

### Immigration Documents

International students should enter the U.S. in a visa category that permits a designated program of study. Students must receive the immigration form required for obtaining the appropriate visa from the UMBC International Education Services (IES) office. A student planning to attend UMBC *must not* use another school's I-20 to enter the United States since students are required by law to attend the

school whose I-20 they use for entry. International students already studying in the United States who wish to transfer to UMBC must secure proper immigration documents to be granted permission to transfer. Students who arrive unaccompanied in the U.S. but plan to bring dependents later must complete at least one semester of study before requesting visa documents to bring dependents to the U.S. They must show adequate financial resources, as F-2 dependents are prohibited from all employment.

### Financial Resources

Each international applicant must certify that he or she has sufficient funds (exclusive of travel expenses) for university tuition, fees, books, supplies and living expenses. Acceptable sources of and documents for certifying financial support include:

1. A notarized letter indicating full name, occupation and address from a parent or sponsor who can assure the financial responsibility for the applicant's education and living expenses.
2. An original current statement from a bank confirming that sufficient funds are available. As costs and fees change, it is best to check with the IES Office at UMBC to determine the exact amount required to cover educational and living expenses. A bank statement is valid for six months only. Should enrollment be deferred to a future term for any reason, an updated bank statement is required.
3. Official notification of grant, loan or scholarship indicating name and address of awarding institution, amount of funds, extent of expenses covered and number of years.
4. If an applicant is receiving a full assistantship, no additional materials from the applicant are required. A full assistantship from UMBC is sufficient documentation for purposes of obtaining an I-20.

No international student can be provided with the required immigration form without proof of adequate financial resources. International students on student visas cannot expect to work off-campus to supplement their financial ability, as such work authorization is generally not allowed. Questions regarding financial eligibility should be directed to the IES Office.

### Health Insurance

In addition to having a certificate of immunization, all newly admitted international students are required to have health insurance. Student health insurance is available through UMBC, and all students in F-1 and J-1 status, except those awarded assistantships and those with proof of coverage, will automatically be billed for UMBC's International Student Health Insurance plan.

### APPLICATIONS IN THE FINAL YEAR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

Students in their final semester of work toward a bachelor's degree may be offered admission pending the filing of supplementary official transcripts recording the satisfactory completion of the remaining course work and the award of the degree. Students admitted pending receipt of a baccalaureate degree must submit an official transcript reflecting all course work and award of the degree within three months following such award. Applicants engaged in graduate study at another institution are also subject to this policy.

### OFFERS OF ADMISSION

Offers of admission are made by the Office of the Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Research & Planning and specify the time of entrance. The offer of admission requires a response. If the applicant wishes to accept, decline or change the effective date of the offer, for one semester or one year, the Graduate School must be notified in writing or the offer of admission becomes void. Failure to notify the Graduate School before the first day of class or failure to register for the authorized term voids the offer of admission. The applicant must then submit a written request to be considered for a subsequent semester, and additional credentials may be requested.

Students who accept the offer of admission and enroll agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the University of Maryland and the laws of the state of Maryland and the U.S. Government.

### Change of Objective, Termination of Admission, Readmission and Deferral

Students are admitted only to a specified program and only for the specified objective, e.g., course work only, master's degree, doctoral degree. Students who have been offered admission to more than one program for the same term must notify the Graduate School of their choice. When the offer of admission to one program is accepted, admission to all other programs is terminated since students can be registered in only one graduate program at a time. Failure to accept formally an offer of admission into a single program will result in a registration delay.

Students must maintain an average grade of "B" or better during the course of their studies and must otherwise satisfy all departmental and Graduate School program requirements.

Admitted students may request to defer their enrollment up to one academic year upon approval from the department and the Graduate School. For example, a student offered admission for fall 2002 may defer his or her enrollment to fall 2003, if approved (deferral is not automatic). If a student cannot



### III. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

- **Standardized Test Scores.** Indicate your test score results in the spaces provided and the date(s) you took or intend to take the test(s). Request your official GRE and/or TOEFL score reports to be sent directly from ETS using the addresses that follow:

Graduate Record Examinations Educational Testing Service  
P.O. Box 6006  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6006  
609-771-7290  
1-888-473-7267  
www.gre.org

TOEFL  
Educational Testing Service  
P.O. Box 6151  
Princeton, NJ 08541-6151  
609-771-7267  
1-888-863-3544  
www.toefl.org

Official examination score reports must be sent directly to the Graduate School from the testing agency. The GRE code number for UMBC is 5835. Photocopied score reports are not acceptable.

### IV. EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Complete each question in this section, even if you applied to or enrolled at UMBC before. Complete the history record chart as instructed. If you attended a college or university with an ETS Institution Code listed in the GRE Information & Registration Bulletin, please write in the number in the appropriate line/column.

#### Transcripts

Each applicant must submit an official transcript from each post-secondary institution attended. These transcripts must include all undergraduate and graduate course work. Each transcript should bear the signature of the registrar and the seal of the granting institution and should include the years of attendance, courses taken, grades received, class standing and the degree, diploma or certificate conferred. International applicants must provide one official native language transcript or mark sheet, and one official English translated transcript from each college or university attended. Each set of documents must list subjects studied, grades or marks received and the rank in class or division in which the student placed. Students whose universities issue only one set of official records must have their academic records copied and notarized by a public official certifying the documents are true copies of the originals. Alternatively, if only one set of official records is provided by the institution, the student may submit a photocopy of these records with their application packet and bring the original document to the Graduate School for authentication upon arrival at UMBC.

**List references as requested.**

### V. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION

Respond to the questions as requested in this section. Some departments have their own financial assistance form, which is sent to you after receiving your application.

### VI. CERTIFICATION

Please read the Certification Statement and sign and date the application form before submitting it.

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Letters of Recommendation.** Applicants should submit three letters of recommendation from professors or others who can assess the quality of your academic performance and scholastic potential. Please use the enclosed recommendation form and make additional copies as needed (letterhead is acceptable). *These completed forms (or letters) must be sent directly to the Graduate School, not to the program to which you are applying.* If the recommender does not use the form, be certain that your full name, semester and the program to which you are applying are indicated by the recommenders on the letters.
- **Statement of Goals and Objectives.** Each application for graduate study at UMBC must be accompanied by a 300- to 500-word statement of the applicant's goals and objectives in pursuing graduate study. *Use the form included with this packet or outline your statement on a separate sheet of paper and submit it directly to the Graduate School, not to the program to which you are applying.* Include a description of relevant work experience as appropriate.
- **Residency Form.** Applicants must complete this form as instructed.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE COUNTY

#### Additional Information

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County**  
1000 Hilltop Circle  
Baltimore, Maryland 21250  
410-455-1000  
www.umbc.edu

#### Graduate School/Graduate Admissions

Administration Building, 2nd Floor  
410-455-2537  
FAX: 410-455-1130  
Email: umbcgrad@umbc.edu

#### International Education Services

222 Administration Building  
410-455-2624  
FAX: 410-455-1130  
E-mail: ies@umbc.edu

#### Financial Aid

##### (Domestic applicants)

Library, Pondsides  
410-455-2387  
FAX: 410-455-1094  
Email: finaid@umbc.edu

Information including course descriptions and official guidelines and policies from the Graduate School Catalog are also available on the Web at [www.umbc.edu](http://www.umbc.edu).

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

The University of Maryland, Baltimore County is actively committed to providing equal educational and employment opportunity in all of its programs. It is the goal of the university to assure that women and minorities are equitably represented among the faculty, staff and administration of the university, so that its work force reflects the diversity of Maryland's population.

All employment policies and activities of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County shall be consistent with federal and state laws, regulations and executive orders on nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, ancestry or national origin, sex, sexual orientation, handicap, marital status and veteran status. Sexual harassment, as a form of sex discrimination, is prohibited among the work force of the university.

Admission and curriculum requirements are subject to change without prior notice.