

# Replacing Graduate Student Orientation and Graduation Fees with a Matriculation Fee

*Effective Fall 2009*

## Changes Effective Fall 2009

There will be a single **matriculation fee** of \$200 to replace the orientation and diploma fees.

- The one-time matriculation fee will be paid during the first two semesters of enrollment for master's or Ph.D. degree-seeking students, and the fee will be posted to student accounts automatically: \$100 will be charged the first semester; \$100 will be charged the second semester.
- Certificate and non-degree students will not be charged a matriculation fee or orientation fee. The certificate diploma fee will continue to be charged when the application for certificate diploma is submitted to the Graduate School.
- There will be no fee associated with the initial or renewal application for master's or Ph.D. diploma. However, a renewal application for diploma form will still be required when a student does not graduate during the semester of the current application for diploma.
- Students who participate in the commencement ceremony will pay the costs to rent regalia. The current cost for master's regalia rental is \$75 and for the new specialty Ph.D. regalia rental is \$150. This process is in line with other area universities.

## Implementation

The starting semester for the **matriculation fee** is **Fall 2009**.

- All newly matriculated degree-seeking students will be charged the matriculation fee.
- During the transition, in Fall 2009 all continuing degree-seeking students will be charged a one-time fee of \$125, the difference between the matriculation fee and the orientation fee already paid.
  - Continuing students who have already applied for diploma and paid the fee for a prior semester but didn't graduate during that semester will be exempted from paying the one-time fee.
  - Students on leave of absence during the Fall 2009 semester will be charged the one-time fee during the next semester of enrollment.

Beginning with Fall 2009 graduation, students will not be charged a diploma fee. To ease the transition, regalia will be provided rent-free for the Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 commencement ceremonies. The Graduate Student Association will continue to supplement the costs of the new UMBC Ph.D. regalia (to be introduced at the May 2009 ceremony) under the phased plan that they announced previously. Arrangements will be handled on a case-by-case basis for situations not covered in this document.

This plan has been shared with the Graduate Student Association and the Graduate Program Directors, and each group has indicated support.