Dear Families,

Whether this is your first child to go off to college or your fourth (or, as in one case at UMBC, your seventh), sending a student off to college is not only a change for the child but for the family. 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 guide 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 helps to make 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,

Yvette Mozie-Ross, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Planning
410-455-3799
mozie@umbc.edu
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IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS AND WEBSITES

Academic Advising
410-455-2729
advising.umbc.edu

Admissions (Undergraduate)
410-455-2292
undergraduate.umbc.edu

Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation
410-455-8888
umbcretrievers.com

Bookstore
410-455-2665
bookstore.umbc.edu

Career Center
410-455-2216
careers.umbc.edu

Commons Information Center/General Information
umbc.edu/thecommons

Counseling Center
410-455-2472
counseling.umbc.edu

Dining Services
410-455-2188
dineoncampus.com/umbc

Enrollment Management
410-455-2292
enrollment.umbc.edu

Financial Aid and Scholarships
410-455-2397
financialaid.umbc.edu

Honors College
410-455-3720
honors.umbc.edu

Learning Resources Center
410-455-2444
lrc.umbc.edu

Library
410-455-2232
library.umbc.edu

Off Campus Student Services
410-455-2770
ocss.umbc.edu

Parent Programs and Services
410-455-2393
umbc.edu/saf/parents

Parking Services
410-455-2551
umbc.edu/parking

Police
police.umbc.edu

Emergency Only
410-455-5555

Non-emergency
410-455-3136

Provost
410-455-2333
provost.umbc.edu

Registrar
410-455-2500
registrar.umbc.edu

Residential Life
410-455-2591
reslife.umbc.edu

Shriver Center
410-455-2493
shrivercenter.umbc.edu

Student Affairs
410-455-2393
umbc.edu/saf

Student Business Services
410-455-2288
sbs.umbc.edu

Student Life
410-455-3462
osl.umbc.edu

Student Disability Services
410-455-3250
sds.umbc.edu

Technology Support Center
410-455-3838
doit.umbc.edu

Transportation Services
410-455-2454
umbc.edu/transit

Undergraduate Education
410-455-6805
oue.umbc.edu

University Health Services
410-455-2542
umbc.edu/uhs

Women's Center
410-455-2714
womenscenter.umbc.edu
Welcome to UMBC and our Orientation programs! June and July are months for planning for your student's smooth introduction to campus and college life. UMBC students find that learning at an honors university takes place in many different settings. UMBC offers a variety of First Year Opportunities to support students so their first year on campus is an academic and personal success. To learn more about these opportunities, please visit orientation.umbc.edu/firstyear.

The New Student Book Experience (NSBE) connects new students with faculty and staff members during Welcome Week through small group discussions, and is required for all new freshmen and transfers. The experience is a first exposure to the caliber of discussion that is prevalent in many courses, providing intellectually stimulating interaction that welcomes new students to the UMBC community.

Our 2017-2018 NSBE selection is *Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn*. NSBE discussions will take place during Welcome Week, and all students are invited to meet the author, Antero Pietila, on November 1, 2017 on campus. Encourage your student throughout the summer to get a good start academically by being prepared for this lively and engaging discussion. We hope you are as excited to become a part of this UMBC community as we are to welcome you!

### Important Dates
- June 12-13 Honors College Orientation & Overnight
- June 13, 19, 21, 22, 26, 28, 29 Freshman Orientation
- June 15 Transfer Orientation
- July 6, 17 Freshman Orientation
- July 10, 12, 13, 17 Transfer Orientation

### TIP:
Don’t forget to have your student check orientation.umbc.edu/welcome-week for Welcome Week information before arriving in August. This way your student can plan ahead for events he or she wants to attend!
**Welcome Week and Arriving on Campus**

We know everything your student needs to know couldn’t be covered in one day, so Welcome Week is designed as a follow up to Orientation. Over the course of the week, your student will have the opportunity to learn more about campus and what life as a UMBC student will be like. Whether your student is coming to UMBC from across the country or right down the road, encourage them to attend events and be open to opportunities and experiences as a new student and throughout their time at UMBC. To learn about Welcome Week, please visit [welcomeweek.umbc.edu](http://welcomeweek.umbc.edu).

**Resources for Living on Campus**

Students can check their housing assignment through myUMBC, available the first week in August. Please remind your student to get in touch with their new roommate (and memorize their new address). Residential Life is the best resource for living on campus. Check [reslife.umbc.edu](http://reslife.umbc.edu) for the most up-to-date information on what to bring/not to bring, move-in times, and residential community regulations.

**Resources for Commuters**

UMBC is a vibrant campus for residents and commuters alike. Off Campus Student Services (OCSS) offers programs, academic and social support, and educational opportunities to help off-campus students successfully navigate UMBC. For more information about OCSS and the First Year Commuter Retreat, designed to help commuter students take part in Welcome Week, please visit [ocss.umbc.edu](http://ocss.umbc.edu).

**Important Dates**

- **August 2, 21, 25** Transfer Orientation
- **August 21, 25** Freshman Orientation
- **August 26–September 3** Welcome Week
- **August 28** New Student Book Experience Discussions
- **August 29** Convocation
- **August 30** Classes Begin

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**TIP:** UMBC allows students the ability to share grades, class schedule information, and billing and financial information with others via myUMBC. To access information shared with you via Profile Sharing, you must have a Google or Facebook account. This feature allows the sharing of information such as grades with family members, and class schedules with study group members. To learn about profile sharing, please visit [umbc.edu/go/profilesharing](http://umbc.edu/go/profilesharing).
Coping with Homesickness

According to the American College Health Association’s National College Health Assessment, more than 25 percent of students have felt homesick. Experts offer a few tips to help parents cope with their student’s emotions during what, for many, is the first time away from home.

Don’t ask if your student is homesick. Keeping busy with adjusting to new surroundings, making new friends, and managing their time often keeps thoughts of homesickness away. Asking them if they’re homesick often introduces a thought they have not considered.

Be prepared for emotional phone calls home. Students will often turn to family first when they experience difficulties. Try not to view this as a problem to be fixed, but as a chance for your student to vent.

Trust your student. Your students will face many tough decisions on their own, maybe for the first time. Knowing that you fully trust and support them will help your student be confident in their ability to make the right decision.

Expect change. Your student will face many new challenges, and will learn things about themselves that they may want to change or keep the same. Remember that at their core, they are the same person they were when they went away for school.

Source - universityparent.com

TIP: Homecoming will be here before you know it! Homecoming is a great time for families to join their student for a wide range of activities. Make plans now to visit campus October 11-14, 2017.
**TIP:** Alternative Spring Break (ASB) trips are student-run, volunteer service trips designed to challenge students and address civic and social concerns such as homelessness, health care, animal welfare, and the environment. If you think this would be a better fit for your student than a trip to the shore, encourage them to attend an information session in the fall, as applications for ASB are due in November.

**Homecoming**

Do you have Retriever Fever? Join your student and make plans to visit campus October 11–14. Homecoming is an exciting event for students, families, and alumni to catch a big wave of UMBC school spirit.

By October your student will start to feel connected to campus and want to share some of their new experiences with you. Students love to show off their new room, friends, organizations, and college life to loved ones. A visit to campus for Homecoming is a great way to show you support your student!

Homecoming highlights in the past have included top-notch comedy shows, a packed soccer stadium, pep-rallies, a 5K Dawg Chase, a community picnic, and lots of activities for families and children. For a complete listing of events check [homecoming.umbc.edu](http://homecoming.umbc.edu).

**Important Dates**

- October 2018–2019 FAFSA Available
- October 11–14 Homecoming
- October 23 Spring 2018 Schedule of Classes Published Online
- October 31 Advanced Registration Begins for Spring 2018
### Academic Resources

Now that your student has settled into campus life, they will start to experience the reality of a challenging academic environment. Get to know some of our campus academic resources and suggest that your student make use of them. The Retriever Learning Center (RLC) is UMBC’s best place for lively group study, scholarly discussion, collaboration, and academic coaching. It provides a socially connected space for learning in the Albin O. Kuhn Library. The Learning Resources Center (LRC) is UMBC’s comprehensive academic support program. The LRC collaborates with faculty, administrators, students, and staff to offer programs that maximize academic success by offering tutoring, success courses, study skill materials, and other resources. Talk with your student to make sure they are acclimating to their work load, in touch with their professors and peers, and utilizing campus academic resources.

### Important Dates

- **November 1** New Student Book Experience Author Visit: Sheryl WuDunn, co-author of *Half the Sky*
- **November 8** Internship Success Conference
- **November 14** Last Day to Withdraw from Individual Courses with a Grade of “W”
- **November 23-26** Thanksgiving Break
- **November 23** Thanksgiving Residence Halls Closing 8 p.m.
- **November 26** Thanksgiving Break
- **November 27** Thanksgiving Residence Halls Re-Open 12 p.m.

### November 2017 Calendar

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**TIP:** Now is an especially good time to check in on your student’s academic progress and success. Ask about favorite study spots on campus, peer study groups they meet with, and favorite professors. Remind them to meet with their advisor, which is required for spring semester registration. If they missed taking an FYE class in the fall, encourage them to consider taking one in the spring.
### TIP:
Does your student know about the **Baltimore Collegetown Network**? The network is a partnership of the area colleges and universities (that’s more than 120,000 college students) and a resource to find things to do, transportation, internships, cross-registration for eligible students, and what’s hot in Baltimore. Tell your student to check out [baltimorecollegetown.org](http://baltimorecollegetown.org).

### Preparing for the End of the Semester
Although UMBC students typically excel in high school, they now find themselves in a period of adjustment and transition. They are being challenged in new ways emotionally and academically. December will include your student’s final exams, end-of-semester projects, and final presentations, so this time is often met with increased stress and apprehension.

To ensure a positive experience during this time, UMBC is committed to providing diverse and dedicated resources and events that help students cope with the end-of-the-semester stress and workload. The Learning Resources Center offers walk-in and appointment tutoring, and supplemental instruction for traditionally challenging courses. The Retriever Learning Center is open 24/7 for collaborative study.

Every exam season, The Commons becomes the Stress Free Zone—a way to ease the anxiety of final exam week. With free snacks, music, games, and giveaways, the Stress Free Zone provides an opportunity to blow off a little steam, hang out with friends, and commiserate about final exams, papers, and projects.

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#### Important Dates
- **December 12**: Last Day of Fall Classes
- **December 13**: Study Day
- **December 14–20**: Final Exams
- **December 20**: Residence Halls Close
- **December 21**: Winter Commencement

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#### TIP:
- **Does your student know about the Baltimore Collegetown Network?**
- **Visit [baltimorecollegetown.org](http://baltimorecollegetown.org) for more information.**

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### Calendar

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<td>New Year’s Eve</td>
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**TIP:** Winter break is a chance for your student to rest, think about their first semester at UMBC, and get excited for 2017! What opportunities would they like to explore during second semester that perhaps they didn’t know about or find time for during the first? Have they attended a UMBC Athletics event? Would they like to try a club sport? Join a service or social action group? There is a group or club at UMBC for nearly every interest or passion, and joining a student organization will deepen your student’s connection with campus. Visit osf.umbc.edu/orgs for a growing list of student organizations.

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**Planning for Next Year: Housing, Scholarships, and Financial Aid**

Although your student may not be on campus until the end of January, now is a good time to start thinking about next year. There are a couple of important dates in the next few weeks that you don’t want to miss!

- The 2018-2019 Free Application for Federal Student Aid became available October 1st. Apply online by February 14th to meet UMBC’s preferred deadline. fafsa.ed.gov

- Scholarship Retriever is an online database to help students identify additional scholarship opportunities. These scholarships are sponsored by UMBC departments and organizations as well as sources outside the university. Retriever is updated regularly so search often! financialaid.umbc.edu/scholarships/retriever

- Current students who want to live on campus during the 2018–2019 academic year should get ready to apply for housing. Check out umbc.edu/reslife/housing for housing selection, rates and important deadlines.

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<td>New Year’s Day</td>
<td>Parking Permits Available for New Spring Students</td>
<td>First Spring Bill Available</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King Day, Campus Closed</td>
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<td>Last Day to Enroll in Spring Payment Play 2 Play</td>
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<td>Last Day of Winter Session</td>
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<td>Welcome Day for Transfer Students</td>
<td>Winter Welcome Week</td>
<td>Residence Halls Open</td>
<td>Spring Classes Begin</td>
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**TIP:** UMBC is committed to building a student body with a global outlook and the cross-cultural skills necessary to excel in today’s world. If your student is interested in Study Abroad they should attend a Study Abroad 101 session held every Monday and Thursday. Check [studyabroad.umbc.edu](http://studyabroad.umbc.edu) for information.

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**Financial Smarts 101**

More than educated. SMART. UMBC’s [financialsmarts.umbc.edu](http://financialsmarts.umbc.edu) provides students with the tools necessary to make informed and effective financial decisions. Topics from budgeting, to credit cards, to investing provide information for students at varying levels of financial independence. Wondering how you can get your student to think about their finances? Consider encouraging these behaviors:

- Tracking money flow.
- Saving for an emergency fund.
- Paying bills on time.
- Strategic borrowing—borrow only what you need.

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### February 2018

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**Important Dates**

- February 9: Last Day to Add/Drop a Course Without a Grade of “W”
- February 14: UMBC’s Preferred Deadline for Current Student’s 2018-2019 FAFSA
- February 16: Spring Career and Internship Fair
TIP: The summer months provide countless opportunities for UMBC students. Taking summer courses is a great way for your student to get ahead, boost their GPA, or focus on a difficult course. Learn more at umbc.edu/summer. Students can also get an edge through summer research and internship opportunities.

Keeping on Track
UMBC seeks to support students in their studies and campus lives by encouraging success and retention through a variety of initiatives. Besides staying up-to-date on their academic requirements through regular communication with their advisor, UMBC suggests your student participate in the Faculty Mentor Program. This program is based on research that students who have contact with faculty outside of the classroom are more likely to graduate and generally are more satisfied with college. The Freshman Year Intervention Program connects students that are identified as struggling with the appropriate campus and academic support programs.

UMBC Extra Credit (my.umbc.edu/groups/credit) provides tips, checklists, ideas, and links to information that will keep students on track for graduation. Extra Credit communications encourage students to take full advantage of all that UMBC has to offer and be ready to move into a meaningful career after graduation. This is probably what you want, too!

MARCH 2018

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- Daylight Savings Begins

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- Residence Halls Close 8 p.m.

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- Residence Halls Reopen 12 p.m.

Important Dates
- March 18-25: Spring Break
After all the hard work and studying, your student will be ready to unwind at Quadmania! This weekend-long event is a time-honored tradition where students cut loose on campus to celebrate the semester. Quadmania is one of the many events where your student will be forming lifelong bonds with their fellow Retrievers.

**Spring Events at UMBC**

April brings warmer weather and big excitement to UMBC! Held annually on campus, Career Month offers an opportunity for current students to explore their professional options and get connected with employers through presentations, workshops, and one-on-one mentoring. In today’s economic climate it is important for students of all class rankings (even your new student) to understand graduation preparedness through internships, professional connections, and career development training.

The Career Center offers parents tips on how to effectively support your student through career development timelines, campus career-related support services, and resources available to job searching students. For more information, please visit careers.umbc.edu.

**Important Dates**

- April 1-30 Career Month
- April 13 Last Day to Drop a Class with a Grade of “W”
- April 20-22 Quadmania
- April 25 Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement Day

**APRIL 2018**

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TIP: Get Outside! Although May is full of exams, final projects, and other events, there is no better way to relieve stress than a deep breath of FRESH AIR! Remind your student that UMBC is adjacent to Patapsco State Park walking and bike trails. The waters of Baltimore’s Inner Harbor or the cherry blossoms of the D.C. Mall are only a short ride away.

Our UMBC

Graduation may seem like a lifetime away to a first-year student. But it’s not! Your student is already preparing for graduation (and what comes after) through their course work, research, internships, and professional relationships. Graduation will be here before you know it, so you’d better start practicing this song:

Hail alma mater! OUR UMBC,
Boldly bearing your colors, the whole world to see,
Striving together in true unity,
Black, gold forever we’re reminded of thee,
Proudly we hail to thee, OUR UMBC!

Throughout the ages, OUR UMBC,
Songs and memories still echo with true clarity,
Knowledge and wisdom and truth we found here,
Friendships we treasure that will last through the years,
Proudly we hail to thee, OUR UMBC!

Important Dates
- May 15 Last Day of Spring Classes
- May 16 Study Day
- May 17-23 Final Exams
- May 23 Residence Halls Close
- May 24 Spring Commencement

MAY 2018

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| Mother’s Day | | Last Day of Spring Classes | Study Day | | | Final Exams |
20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26
| Final Exams | | | | Spring Commencement | | |
27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |
Welcome to the UMBC Family: A Resource Guide from A to Z

A

Academic Advising
The Office for Academic and Pre-Professional Advising provides assistance in a wide variety of topics pertaining to academic life—such as course registration, choosing a major and identifying academic resources. Students will work with an advisor in this office or their major department beginning with course selection during Orientation and throughout each semester to support their progress and degree progress. For more information about Advising services, please visit advising.umbc.edu.

Academic Integrity
In pursuit of the highest standards of academic and campus integrity, the UMBC community is committed to fostering a learning environment free from misconduct. All members of the UMBC community, including your student, are expected to make a commitment to academic honesty in their own actions and with others.

For the complete Undergraduate Student Academic Conduct Policy, please visit umbc.edu/policies/pdfs/iii-1.10.03.pdf.

For more information on the topic of Academic Integrity, please visit oua.umbc.edu/home/academic-integrity/

Accessing Grades
UMBC allows students the ability to electronically share grades and class schedule information with others via my.umbc. For a student to share this information, you must have a Google or Facebook account. This feature allows you to share the sharing of information such as grades with family members, and class schedules with study group members. To learn about profile sharing, please visit umbc.edu/jp/gprofsharing.

Athletics
The Retrievers have 17 varsity sports programs that compete in the NCAA Division I and are members of the America East Conference. Sixty percent of UMBC’s student-athletes come from the East Coast, which includes our Division II teams. To find schedules and all other information about Retriever athletics, please visit umbcathletics.com.

B

Bookstore
Located in The Commons, the UMBC Bookstore is the official source of course materials for UMBC classes. Textbooks are available for rent and for purchase in digital, used, and new conditions. In addition to course materials, UMBC Bookstore carries study aids, reference materials, school, office, and art supplies, lab equipment, and UMBC apparel and gift items. True Blue Tech Shop is located on the first floor of the Bookstore. In full-service Apple Authorized Campus Store with a full line of educationally discounted computers, tablets, and software. The Bookstore has partnered with DSI Technology Specialists for all your computer repair needs, which offers convenient, fast turnaround for both warranty and out of warranty computer repairs. The Bookstore also operates a convenience store, The Yum Shoppe, located on the ground floor of The Commons. To learn more and shop online, please visit bookstore.umbc.edu.

Club Sports
Club Sports, which features 26 teams, is an exciting option for students who want to learn a new sport or continue to test themselves in a competitive environment. Participation in the UMBC Club Sports program is open to all UMBC students. Members will not only get to engage other students, but also interact with experienced staff and coaches in settings removed from the classroom. The objective of the Club Sports program is the development of successful and quality teams, which focus on enhancing the college experience through teamwork, leadership, sportsmanship, and diversity, while supporting a healthy lifestyle. For more information, please visit recreation.umbc.edu/club-sports.

Counseling Center
The UMBC Counseling Center is located in the Student Development and Success Center. The center provides free and confidential short-term individual and group counseling for personal, emotional, relationship, substance abuse and vocational concerns. Psychiatric services are available for students engaged in counseling at the Center. Referral assistance is provided for students who require services beyond those available at the Center. If your student is currently receiving mental health services and will need assistance arranging for ongoing mental health care, contact the Counseling Center prior to the start of school. In addition, the Center offers workshops on a variety of topics including: healthy relationships, how to help a friend you are concerned about, stress management, time management, procrastination, test anxiety, motivation, and preparing for finals.

Counseling Center staff recognize the impact of emotions and stress on academic performance and college adjustment. Download the mobile app for families that provides tips and resources to better support your student. For more information and online resources, please visit counseling.umbc.edu.

Activate Grades
UMBC allows students the ability to electronically share grades and class schedule information with others via my.umbc. For a student to share this information, you must have a Google or Facebook account. This feature allows you to share the sharing of information such as grades with family members, and class schedules with study group members. To learn about profile sharing, please visit umbc.edu/jp/gprofsharing.

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Campus Card
The Campus Card allows access to various services on campus such as the library, health services and the KAC, permitted residential buildings, participation in meal plans, and also serves to establish UMBC identity. In addition, the card can be used in debit application, through Retriever Dollars, a quick and easy way to pay for goods and services on campus without carrying cash. The Campus Card Center is also home to University Postal Services, which provides a full range of postal service offerings. The Campus Card Center is located in the University Center, on the first floor. For more information about getting a card and specific uses, please visit campuscard.umbc.edu.

Career Center
The Career Center offers valuable programs and resources to all students who are exploring potential career paths and preparing for their internship, job and/or graduate school search. Students can attend career focused workshops, meet one-on-one with career specialists, and participate in programs that connect them with employers and alumni. To learn more about how the Career Center helps students explore career options and prepares for a career, please visit careers.umbc.edu.

First-Year Experiences
First-Year Experience courses are seminar-style classes taught in an active-learning environment in which students connect with each other as they investigate thought-provoking topics. These opportunities are open to all students in their first year at UMBC, including new transfer students, as courses help to facilitate an understanding of UMBC’s academic expectations while supporting students in developing a connection to the University. The goal is to prepare students for an undergraduate experience characterized by academic, personal, and professional success. For more information about the breadth of these opportunities, please visit fyse.umbc.edu.

Giving
UMBC is fortunate to receive generous 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 Disability Services, The Shriver Center and the Learning Resources Center. Many parents also contribute to the department of their student’s major, athletics, and specific scholars programs. To make your gift or learn more about other giving opportunities, please visit giving.umbc.edu.

You can also support a variety of student organizations, athletic teams, and special projects by visiting the university’s crowdfunding site at: umbc.givesa.com.

Degree Audit
Detailed information about requirements associated with a student’s degree programs, degree progress and graduation requirements are available through UMBC’s online Degree Audit. The “What If” degree audit allows students to see how completed and planned coursework would fit into alternate majors and degree plans. To learn more about the degree audit, please visit registrar.umbc.edu/services/degree-audit.

Dining Services
Dining services at UMBC are provided by Chartwells with meal plans administered by the Campus Card Center. A wide variety of healthy options are offered at True Grit’s and eight retail venues located across campus. Various meal plans are available to satisfy individual student needs and preferences. Resident Hall students are required to select a mandatory meal plan; apartment and commuting students have additional voluntary plans available for selection. For more information about meal plan options and campus dining locations, please visit dinescenario.umbc.edu.

Extra Credit
Extra Credit is a campus wide communication to turn students on to all of the possible ways to enhance their academic experience, prepare for graduation, and stand out in their chosen profession or field of study. There are a lot of opportunities to enrich the college experience and Extra Credit is a resource for students to look beyond the classroom to internships, study abroad, and more. Students can join the Extra Credit Group at my.umbc.edu/groups/extra.

Family Connection Program
UMBC Family Connection is a resource for families to stay connected with their student and the UMBC campus community. The Family Connection Program sends a regular weekly newsletter that is packed with valuable information such as important dates, volunteer opportunities, invitations and special announcements. It also provides information about the family’s role in the student’s transition to college life through supportive readings and helpful tips. To sign up for the newsletter or learn more about the UMBC Family Connection Program please visit my.umbc.edu/groups/parents. Any questions or concerns can be directed to families@umbc.edu or call 410-455-2392.

FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
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 defines what information can be released without a student’s permission and what information requires a student’s written consent before it can be released. All students, regardless of age, who enroll in a U.S. college or university, are covered by the rights and protection of FERPA. For information about what is and is not covered by FERPA and how to release student records, please visit registrar.umbc.edu/services/records/privacy-and-the-release-of-education-records.

Financial Aid and Scholarships
The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships offers a variety of both need-based and merit-based awards to assist students with their educational expenses. Our financial aid counselors are available on an appointment basis to meet with students to explore the variety of options that best meet the student’s needs. For more information, important forms and deadlines, please visit financialaid.umbc.edu.

First-Year Experiences
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H

Health Services

University Health Services 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. University Health Services charges for its services. The office is a participating provider with most major health insurance providers. Please verify your insurance company’s coverage for your student away from home. For more information about services, required immunizations, and the health/immunization form, please visit student.umbc.edu/sds

Immunizations

See Health Services

M

Mind Spa

The Mind Spa is a resource with tools to help students relax, improve concentration and memory, and overall success as a student. The Mind Spa is located in the Counseling Center from Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. This is an important campus resource as it is a space equipped for practice of mindfulness, meditation, relaxation, and overall self-care. To visit, you can call the Counseling Center (410-455-2472) to reserve a resource or just walk in.

myUMBC

myUMBC is an electronic gateway to information, services, records, and online campus. Students and members of the campus community, including parents, can use myUMBC to find out what is happening on campus, degree audits, the hours of the library or the RAC, and so much more. These dynamic conversations are facilitated by UMBC faculty and staff representing a range of academic interests and disciplines from cultural anthropology, philosophy of science and economics, to biometrics, neuroscience, and mass-media theory. This year’s book, Not My Daughter’s Word by Ameia Praela, is available at a discount at the UMBC Bookstore. For more information about the book, discussions, and a visit from the author, please visit fy.s.umbc.edu/hlth.

New Student Book Experience

The New Student Book Experience provides all new students to UMBC with the opportunity to share in a common reading experience that culminates in small group discussions held during Welcome Week. These dynamic conversations are facilitated by UMBC faculty and staff representing a range of academic interests and disciplines from cultural anthropology, philosophy of science and economics, to biomechanics, neuroscience, and mass-media theory. This year’s book, The Mind Spa is a resource with tools to help students relax, improve concentration and memory, and overall success as a student. The Mind Spa is located in the Counseling Center from Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. This is an important campus resource as it is a space equipped for practice of mindfulness, meditation, relaxation, and overall self-care. To visit, you can call the Counseling Center (410-455-2472) to reserve a resource or just walk in.

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Office of the Registrar

The Office of the Registrar provides the UMBC community with high quality services related to academic programs, registration, records, and graduation. The registrar maintains student records, the undergraduate course catalog and is the final clear inghouse for graduation. For more information about campus and student records please visit registrar.umbc.edu

Residential Life

Enjoy student life beyond the classroom! Over 80% of our residents would recommend living on campus to new students and not only because of convenience to classes, late night dining, the library, and RAC. Living on campus means building a network of classmates who become lifelong friends. Safe and secure housing is connected to WiFi and cable. Living on campus also means access to 250 clubs and student organizations, with opportunities for leadership positions. Off campus housing is competitively priced to provide an economical choice for all, while or to the OAS and monthly payments plans makes housing on campus easy on the budget. For more information about on campus housing please call 410-455-2191 or visit oas.umbc.edu/srlife

Student Business Services

Student Business Services bills students for tuition and fees and other university-related charges, issues student refunds, administers the Monthly Payment Plan, monitors the Perkins Loan program, processes pre-paid tuition trust payments, and manages agency payments. To learn more about how students receive bills, how to pay bills, monthly payment plans, and more, please visit sbs.umbc.edu

Student Life Office

The Student Life Office is UMBC’s central resource for students hoping to get involved and try something new. Educational opportunities for undergraduates extend well beyond the classroom to encompass a wide variety of experiences. To learn more about how UMBC is committed to students receiving a holistic college experience please visit umbc.edu/studentlife

Student Organizations and Greek Life

Students have created more than 200 clubs and organizations to pursue interests encompassing service and social action, the arts, academics, cultural issues and celebrations, religion and spirituality, career preparation, fraternal and sororities, and much more. For a complete listing of student organizations and clubs, please visit ed.umbc.edu

Student Disability Services

Student Disability Services (SDS) is designed for students with documented disabilities, who are low-income, are first generation college students from rural and urban areas who have never been in high school or academic and other support services in order to successfully complete their college education. To learn more about these resources, please visit sds.umbc.edu

Student Financial Aid

See Financial Aid and Scholarships

Undergraduate Education

Undergraduate Education provides programs to serve students in all colleges at UMBC with first-year experiences, support for undergraduate research, programs for transfer students, and academic policy administration. To learn more about these programs, please visit uoe.umbc.edu

T

Transfer Student Services

UMBC recognizes the challenge that transfer students have in transitioning into a new institution, but also celebrate the unique experiences transfer students bring to the academic community. To help ease the transition UMBC has developed a webpage as a guide to the resources and support available throughout the academic year. To learn more about successful transitions for transfer students, please visit transfer.umbc.edu

Veterans

UMBC welcomes all veterans, active duty military, and dependents. We are committed to providing the best possible educational experience and service to assist you in achieving your academic and personal goals. To learn more about campus veteran services, please visit veterans.umbc.edu

Zipcar

Zipcar is sharing, an alternative to car ownership. Zipcar handles all the maintenance, insurance, and even the gas. Zipcars are located in reserved, premium parking spaces on campus that are easily accessible. To learn more about using the Zipcar service, please visit zipcar.com/umbc

R

Recreation and Fitness

The UMBC Recreation Program promotes participation in varied opportunities that foster healthy, active lifestyles through involvement in and/or use of recreational facilities, programs, and services. Our comprehensive program offerings include fitness & wellness, aquatic sports, open recreation, and club sports. UMBC Recreation provides students with seven-day-a-week access to indoor and outdoor facilities for open recreation. The facilities include the 120,000 sq. ft. Recreation Activities Center (RAC), with three indoor multipurpose rooms, a weight room, cardio-balcony and fitness studio. The Aquatic Center (indoor 25-yard pool and an Olympic sized 50-meter outdoor pool) and indoor track (1/10 mile) are also located in the RAC. Six lighted tennis courts are adjacent to the RAC for use by all. Recreation sponsors numerous intramural events throughout the year as well. Teams or individuals may sign up to compete in such events as soccer, flag football, full court basketball, SCV’s and many more. For additional information about schedules, programs, and events please visit recreation.umbc.edu

Office of the President

The Office of the President provides the UMBC community with high quality services related to academic programs, registration, records, and graduation. The registrar maintains student records, the undergraduate course catalog and is the final clear inghouse for graduation. For more information about campus and student records please visit registrar.umbc.edu

Residential Life

Enjoy student life beyond the classroom! Over 80% of our residents would recommend living on campus to new students and not only because of convenience to classes, late night dining, the library, and RAC. Living on campus means building a network of classmates who become lifelong friends. Safe and secure housing is connected to WiFi and cable. Living on campus also means access to 250 clubs and student organizations, with opportunities for leadership positions. Off campus housing is competitively priced to provide an economical choice for all, while or to the OAS and monthly payments plans makes housing on campus easy on the budget. For more information about on campus housing please call 410-455-2191 or visit oas.umbc.edu/srlife

Student Business Services

Student Business Services bills students for tuition and fees and other university-related charges, issues student refunds, administers the Monthly Payment Plan, monitors the Perkins Loan program, processes pre-paid tuition trust payments, and manages agency payments. To learn more about how students receive bills, how to pay bills, monthly payment plans, and more, please visit sbs.umbc.edu

Student Life Office

The Student Life Office is UMBC’s central resource for students hoping to get involved and try something new. Educational opportunities for undergraduates extend well beyond the classroom to encompass a wide variety of experiences. To learn more about how UMBC is committed to students receiving a holistic college experience please visit umbc.edu/studentlife

Student Organizations and Greek Life

Students have created more than 200 clubs and organizations to pursue interests encompassing service and social action, the arts, academics, cultural issues and celebrations, religion and spirituality, career preparation, fraternal and sororities, and much more. For a complete listing of student organizations and clubs, please visit ed.umbc.edu

Student Disability Services

Student Disability Services (SDS) is designed for students with documented disabilities, who are low-income, are first generation college students from rural and urban areas who have never been in high school or academic and other support services in order to successfully complete their college education. To learn more about these resources, please visit sds.umbc.edu

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W
### Academic Terms

#### Academic Honors
Any undergraduate student who earns a semester grade point average of 3.50 through 3.74 for a semester in which he or she has completed 12 or more academic credit hours will receive a “Semester Academic Honors” transcript notation. Any undergraduate student who earns a GPA of 3.75 through 3.99 will receive a “Dean’s List” notation, while students with a perfect 4.0 GPA receive the “President’s List” notation.

#### Advance Registration
Continuing UMBC students may register during each semester for the next semester’s courses. Advance registration eligibility dates are assigned based on the number of credits earned.

#### Advanced Placement (AP)
Students who take college-level courses while in high school and demonstrate their mastery of the material by earning high scores on AP exams may be awarded academic credit by UMBC. AP scores may also result in fulfillment of a requirement (such as the foreign language general education requirement) or a higher initial placement in a course sequence. Students must have an official score report sent to UMBC from the College Board. Similar credit may be awarded for high scores on International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations.

#### Audit
Students may register in a course as an auditor if they wish to show attendance at a course but do not seek academic credit. The notation “AU” is listed on the transcript. Audit courses are charged at the same rate as per credit course.

#### Class Status
Undergraduate students are classified based on total credits earned toward graduation, including credits earned at UMBC plus transfer credits awarded by UMBC. Any credits earned through Advanced Placement or similar tests are also included in the total. The classifications are: Freshmen, 0-29 credits completed; Sophomores, 30-59 credits completed; Juniors, 60-89 credits completed; Seniors, 90 or more credits completed.

#### Credit by Examination
Students who believe they have mastered a content area without taking a course can take exams offered by the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or, in some cases, examinations developed and administered by academic departments at UMBC. Qualifying scores will result in awarding of academic credit by UMBC or waiver of a requirement.

#### 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 of the departmental designation under which the course is taken.

#### Degree Audit
A summary of university requirements, general education requirements, and major and minor requirements that displays which courses completed and in progress fulfill each type of requirement and whether the requirement has been “satisfied.” Each UMBC student can access an individual degree audit through myUMBC under the topic “Advising and Student Support.”

#### 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 students to discuss any questions, as well as apply information learned in the lecture.

#### Electives
Electives are courses you choose to take that do not fulfill the basic requirements of your academic program. For many students, elective credits make up the difference between the number of courses required for your major and general education program and the 120 minimum credits required for graduation. Electives provide an opportunity to take classes for personal enrichment or to develop a new skill.

#### Excess Credit
In order to enroll in more than 19.5 credits during the fall or spring semester, you must submit a request to enroll in excess credits, signed by your major advisor, to the Office for Academic and Pre-Professional Advising. Only strong students with good reasons are approved for extraordinary course loads.

#### First Year Intervention Program (FYI)
FYI is designed to identify freshmen who are struggling with their courses, to alert them before the final drop date, and to direct them to resources which will help them succeed.

#### Full Time/Part Time
Full-time status for undergraduates is defined as 12 or more credits. Part-time status is fewer than 12 credits.

#### Good Academic Standing
All undergraduates with a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher are considered to be in good academic standing and are academically eligible to return for subsequent semesters.

#### Grade Point Average (GPA)
UMBC calculates GPA by assigning numerical values to letter grades (A=4 quality points; B=3 quality points; C=2 quality points; D=1 quality point; F=0 quality points). The semester GPA is determined by multiplying the credit value of each course by the quality point value and then summing the quality points. Then, divide total quality points by total credit hours attempted to produce the semester GPA. The same method is used to compute cumulative GPA.

#### 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.

#### Pass/Fail Grading
Students may choose this grading option for an academic course after they have earned 30 or more credits at UMBC if they are in good academic standing. One academic 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. Courses completed on a pass/fail basis are not applicable to requirements for majors or for general education courses.

#### 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 in the registration system.

#### Prerequisite (Prereq)
Course requirement that needs to be completed before enrolling in another course.

#### Registration Hold
A hold prohibits a student from registering. An advising hold may be placed on a student’s registration until the student has met with his or her advisor; it may also occur if immunizations are not current, or if the student has a financial obligation to UMBC or other administrative obstacles to future registration.

#### Repeat Policy
Students may attempt a course two times. The highest grade will be used in calculating the cumulative GPA. A third attempt requires special permission through a petition process.

#### 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 he or she is available to assist students.

#### Waitlist
When a class you are interested in taking is closed, you can add yourself to the waitlist through the UMBC registration system. If a seat in the course becomes available, the student who entered the waitlist first will be automatically enrolled in the course. Not all courses offer a waitlist.

#### Withdraw “W”
Classes dropped after the second week of classes will be recorded on the student’s transcript with a grade of “W.” A grade of “W” has no effect on the GPA, but may have other repercussions, particularly if you are receiving financial aid or scholarships. You may be responsible for a portion of the tuition and fees associated with the course. Please refer to sbs.umbc.edu/drop-and-withdrawal for more details.
Dear Families,

Whether this is your first child to go off to college or your fourth (or, as in one case at UMBC, your seventh), sending a student off to college is not only a change for the child but for the family. 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 guide 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 helps to make 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,

Yvette Mozie-Ross, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Planning
410-455-3799
mozie@umbc.edu